



## Report of the Da'wah Activities Presented By IAS to General Community of Saskatoon

### *The Aftermath of the Paris Shooting*

*Organized and Supervised by Imam Ilyas and Team Of Talented Volunteers*

#### *Objectives:*

Our aim for these Da'wah Activities is to:

- Improve the relationship between the Muslims and Non-Muslims
- Increase the knowledge of true Islam within the Non-Muslim Community
- Counter the negative images of Islam that is currently portrayed by the media
- Identify individuals/groups whom we can help
- To invite people to accept Islam (if the opportunity arises)

- This project was undertaken by Imam Ilyas, as well as the event organizing team made up of volunteers. After the Paris shooting of Charlie Hebdo, immediate action by following steps were organized to defend the honour of our Beloved Prophet (pbuh).
1. Three consecutive Jummah Khutbahs pertaining to this issue.
  2. A Produced YouTube Clip “Our Role As Muslims In The Light Of Current Events”
  3. Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNqiACBok9c>
  4. Short Session Twice a week on the topic of Seerah to create awareness of the noble life of Muhammad (SAW) within the Muslim Community.
  5. A Panel Discussion on "*World Peace, Terrorism, and Religious Traditions*"
  6. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, A Full Day Symposium on "*Countering Extremism*" was held at The Saskatoon Police Station.
  7. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, we held a presentation on Islam at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel.
  8. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, we had a Meeting with a group of 30 people, at the United Church of Canada
  9. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, we held an evening at the Sheraton Cavalier, where many faith leaders joined us.
  10. We held a day conference themed "*A UNITED APPROACH TO GLOBAL PEACE*"
  11. We Pre-Launched a Book Titled, "Prophet Mohammed (S.A.W) A Perfect Role Model For Humanity" which was distributed amongst the Non Muslims present at the Conference.
  12. We planned the “Open Mosque Day and Exhibition” of Islam, which will be taking place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2015, on a Saturday.

***Participating Individuals, Agencies of Saskatchewan, and Faith Groups That Attended Our Programs:***

- Mrs. Margaret Thomas- Saskatoon Misbah School Teacher
- Mrs. Cindy Dean Morrison- Saskatoon Misbah School Teacher
- Honourable Christine Tell- Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing
- Jaime Valentine- Superintendent of Human Resources
- Deborah Tanasiecuk- Regional Headquarters, Prairies
- Gwen Cerkowniak- *RN BSN CIC*, Provincial Infection Control Coordinator (Central)
- Kirsten Hamm-Epp- Church Co-Minister
- Wendy Walter- Senior Administrative Assistant to the Honorable Christine Tell & Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing
- Sadeq Rahimi, *PhD*- Assistant Professor of Medical Anthropology  
Associate Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan
- Rozanne Tennent- Executive Administrator to the President's Office at the University of Regina
- Laurie McInnes- Admin Assistant at the Mental Health & Addiction Services
- Avon Whittles SPC- Director of Education
- Terry Wotherspoon- Head and Professor of the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan
- President of the Hindu Temple of Saskatoon
- President of the Sikh Society of Saskatoon
- President of the IAS
- Vice President of the IAS
- Religious Chair of the IAS
- General Secretary of the IAS
- Treasurer of the IAS
- Br. Khalil Rehman
- Dr. Ali Rajput
- Dr. Shakeel Akhtar
- Police Chief Of Saskatoon.

### *Outcome/Feedback:*

All of the activities/events that took place turned out to be a great successes, in which we received great appreciation from the public. (All Praise Belong To Allah SWT). I along with many of the organizing team felt and discovered that these ideas were much more engaging with the public, compared to the common method of setting up Da'wah tables, with leaflets about Islam. Many positive comments were received from our non-Muslims. Here are a few listed below:

- ❖ "It is really good that you are doing this!"
- ❖ "I know Islam is not like what they say on TV. It is nice to see Muslims out."
- ❖ "More Muslims should do this!"
- ❖ "It is good to show that we are all against extremism."
- ❖ "Thank you! What you are doing is really nice."
- ❖ "We should discuss these things openly. They affect us all, Muslims or non-Muslim."
- ❖ "You need to organize these programs on a large scale in order to educate general communities about Muslims."

The general opinion of the majority was that Muslims are not extremists, and that the media simply focusses on the negativity imposed by a few individuals who follow the religion incorrectly.

One of the comments from a Christian individual was extremely notable: "I really feel sorry for you, because of what the Media are doing. It could easily happen to us if they decided to pick on Christians."

Many members of the public said that they would welcome the opportunity to sit down and discuss these issues, and learn more about the true Islam. Their contact information were taken, in order to proceed with their interest.

Another noteworthy fact was that we met multiple Christians who had openly admitted that they were quite disillusioned with Christianity, and had an interest to understand the religion of Islam better.

During one of our events, the topic of Jihad came up. This is a topic which causes many misunderstandings between our communities. This issue was addressed and explained thoroughly, and left a large amount of Non Muslims Present to express their appreciation for clearing their misunderstandings pertaining to this issue. Their gratitude was to the extent that they insisted on having this put out on a larger scale so that everyone could benefit from it.

## Expenditure & Costs

EVENTS		SPONSORS	
Food Day Conference- April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015		Br. Ibrahim Dalal ,Br. Mateen, Br. Ejaz, Br. Saeed Iqbal, and Br. Kamaluddin  Hall and Kitchen Renting, Banners/Posters funds is yet to be raised in upcoming Dawah Fundraising.	
Sheraton Luncheon- March 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2015		12 individuals sponsored by Omair Jamil	
Sheraton Evening With the 27 Faith Leaders- March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2015		Dr. Nabeel, Br. Ibrahim Dalal, and Hafiz Ilyas	
The Renting of the Canadian Legion Auditorium + Banners, posters AD in newspaper,		The Islamic Association of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Inc.	

refreshments			
Book Launch on the Prophet (pbuh) that was distributed at the conference		Has not been paid yet. Will need to be collected in Da'wah fundraising.	
Tickets for the speakers at the April 1 <sup>st</sup> conference + one night accommodations		Paid by visiting speakers on their own.	
Open Mosque Day and Exhibition being held on May 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015		Banner posters and few more items and one speaker might would be included {not yet decided}	

### **Future Plans :**

- Inviting our non-Muslims for Ramadan Iftars, at least 4 times during the holy month. We plan on targeting specific individuals. ⑦ 15 x 4 + 30
- Eid prayer invitation ⑦ Maximum of 20 individuals
- Inviting our neighbors for a special Eid Dinner, as well as 15 specially targeted individuals
- Designing our library in an attracting manner good (permanent) ⑦ {plans to receive groups of visitors}
- Distribution of the Holy Quran
- A Da'wah table at the Farmers Market downtown (with permission from the city)
- Preparation or update of the PowerPoint on the introduction of Islam and Muslims (or regularly visiting groups to our Masjid)

**\*\*We would like to thank everyone for their support towards these Events. We pray that Allah (SWT) accepts this from every one of us. Ameen. \*\***



**Pictures**















