



In His Name The Most High  
February News box.

Salam un alaikum, Dear readers,

The gathering started at around 10.30am. Sister Fadiya gave an opening speech and started by welcoming all the members and thanked them for taking their time to attend and reminded them that we were commemorating Lady Zainab (a.s) and the fortieth of Imam Hussein (a.s).



After the opening speech, there was a Qur'an recitation by Sister Hadija Yusuf (Surah Baqarah: verses 153 – 163) and she gave a translation.

Sister Nazneen welcomed all the members and gave her sincere condolences during this month of Safar. She urged the members to seek knowledge through books and listening to lecturers and never to shun away from asking questions where they do not understand.



Any question that removes misunderstanding from your heart is good for you. She stressed the importance of the difference between information and knowledge, the knowledge that remains in your heart will protect you whereas information by itself will only test your memory and not your faith. She was very glad that many questions were raised in the last gathering. And so she urged the members to make maximum use of the guest speakers today.

This was then followed by a Matam recitation by the children from Madressatul Zahra and their teachers.



Our honorable guest Sayyid Mourtada Mourtada gave a talk on Arbaeen (40<sup>th</sup>) of Imam Hussein (a.s). The title of his topic was “What was Arbaeen and its importance?”



Members were briefed about the history of Kербala and the events leading up to Ashura. He reminded the members of the tragedy of Kербala and how Imam

Hussein (a) together with his family members, relatives and friends were martyred for the cause of Islam. After the martyrdom, Lady Zainab (a) together with the others went around the cities of Sham, Kufa and Karbala spreading the message of true Islam and condemning what Yazid had done. It took about forty days to do this and that is why we commemorate this occasion. Some scholars do argue that the journey took them one year and forty days but that is not true as the journey was not a very long one and forty days were enough for them to spread the message.



The need for religious leaders came when the era for Prophethood ended and there would be no other Prophet after the last messenger of Allah (swt), Prophet Muhammad (saw). It is due to this fact that Allah (swt) bestowed upon us the Imams. Some of the leaders due to their greed wanted to take over teaching the religion which they did not understand. As a result Imam Hussein (s) had accepted to go to Karbala to teach the people the true religion, this was something which Yazid the son of Muaziya did not like hence leading to martyrdom.

Sister Zubeida very kindly translated the talk for us in Swahili for the members.





Members asked some questions;



1. Does it mean that it took forty days for the captives to reach Karbala and that is why we commemorate it or is there any other significance?

**Forty days is believed to be the number of days used by the captives to reach Karbala and we commemorate it because it was used to spread the message which we now know as the true Islam.**

2. Why do some people cry for Imam Hussein (a.s) and others that were martyred?

**When you hear or read about the tragedy of Karbala, it saddens. But this is not a must (wajib), some people find it better to relieve them or to show that anger by crying.**

3. Some people do cut and whip themselves in commemoration of the occasion is it recommended?

**When you cut and injure yourself then it becomes Haram. But if you will not injure yourself then you can just do it. It is not recommended anywhere.**

4. After the death of Imam Hussein (a.s), who took over the leadership of Muslims?

**After the death of Imam Hussein, his son Imam Zainul al Abideen (a.s) took over the leadership.**

We went around seeing exhibition area to see what the members had prepared.



There after Sheikh Mahdi Kassim gave a talk on Lady Zainab (a.s) the daughter of Fatima Az – Zahra. She is the best role model for women. Women play a very role in the society and their role goes beyond just housekeepers. They can do other types of work/job like being nurses, book writers, or even lawyers and help bring justice to society. In Karbala, Lady Zainab (a.s) showed patience and also acted like a nurse; she encouraged the warriors and sympathized with the injured ones. She changed the minds and the thinking of Kufa and Damascus people.



Though she didn't live long after the tragedy of Kerbala, she planted a seed of awareness in the entire Islamic society. She was a brave woman who stood firm before tyrannical persons and called for justice and completed the holy mission for her holy brother. This heroic struggle towards conveying the true image of the tragedy of Karbala would have vanished if it wasn't for her. Every woman who desires to be rated among the truthful should emulate her holiness lady Zainab (a.s). Lady Zainab (a.s) made great effort in training women of her time, she taught them knowledge and wisdom



After the talk, sister Batoul gave a closing speech and thanked the members for attending the program. She also asked members to contribute and give their views like what they would like to learn/listen to in later meetings, if they have any questions, they can write in papers and bring to us then they will be answered.

Members stood up to recite Dua Al-Wahda which was led by Sister Masuma Habib. Children were presented with Mujtaba magazines donated by well wishers.



Sis Batul asked those who had brought their crafts to stay behind and have a little conversation with them. She went around and interviewed all those who brought the items and advised others to bring next time.

#### **Khadija Abdalla – Kirinyaga Road**

- She is a business lady, sells perfumes, hats,
- Tasbih, prayer mats etc
- Buys goods from Eastleigh or Tanzania and sells them outside Jamia Mosque.
- Asking for assistance in getting a customers and a place to sell since city council officers harass her.
- Nobody helps her.
- Advance her a soft loan of 20,000/-



### **Firdausi Ogye**

- She is a hairdresser, works in a salon near Kenyatta University
- She is willing to teach others how to plait hair
- Needs a loan of 20,000/- to start her own salon.

### **Farida Wairimu**

- She does crochet work and operates from home and hawks them around.
- She makes sweaters, skirts, socks with wool.
- She works with her mother.
- Help her find a market for her products.



## Halima Muthoni

- She cuts and puts together pieces of clothes for sewing by a tailor.
- She operates from home/patch work
- Doesn't know how to operate a machine but is willing to learn.
- Assist her to get a soft loan to buy sewing machine and materials(no idea how much)
- Assist her get a market for her products.



## Mwanaisha Ibrahim – Pumwani

- She does embroidery and works from home
- Willing to teach others
- She hires a machine to do her work, would like to buy her own machine.
- Advance her a loan of 20,000/-



- **Habiba Ali – Kiambu**

- She is a dressmaker and works from a rented place
- She is still a student in dressmaking but willing to teach others
- Help her acquire a sewing machine



**Fatuma Matovu**

- She is shoe maker, works from Kariobangi/Duruma Road
- Willing to teach others if she gets a place to work from
- Lost her machines during post election violence and so she uses somebody else's machine and is charged 50/- per every pair.
- Help her to get her own machine and market for her products.



## Shariat Salim – Muthuruwa



She is disabled  
She does crocheting and works from home  
No help from any body  
Has a design book and willing to teach others.  
Advance her with a soft loan of 10,000/-

## Batoul Ibrahim – Pumwani.

- She is a business lady; she sells body creams and lotions
- Hawks the products in the neighborhood
- She is also a community health worker (volunteer)
- Advance her with any amount of money to boost her business and help her market her products.



**Christine Mumbo**

- does embroidery and crochet for leisure/hobby
- used to sell in ABSN functions before
- is willing to teach others if there is proper equipment.



After the exhibition members went for prayers and Lunch was served.

*Thought of the month:*

*There is only one way to come into this world, but so many ways to leave it, it's our choice how and what we leave behind .....N.Karim, Sis Fadiya, Sis Zubeida.*

Our next special gathering will be on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010, God Willing to celebrate the Birth Anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (saw).

