

BILAL MUSLIM MISSION

MOSHI BRANCH

SHIA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT

SYDP Launched...

Bilal Muslim Mission (Moshi Branch) embarked on a new and ambitious project in December 2004. The goal of this project is to spiritually and economically uplift the African Shia community, which is currently in shambles. To achieve this goal, the Shia Youth Development Project (SYDP) was launched in early December 2004. This launch was attended by Sh. Hassan Mwalupa (Chief Advisor, Religious Training), Sh. Hassan Mwarizo (Guardian and Chief Instructor, Religious Training), Al-Hajj Mohamed Ladak (Chairman, Bilal Muslim Mission, Moshi Branch), Br Mazaher Jaffer (Chairman, SYDP) and members of his team, shuyookh from Bilal Muslim Mission Moshi, and some members from the K.S.I. Jamaat Moshi.



Elders of the K.S.I. community being briefed on the SYDP at Bilal Muslim Mission Moshi.

L to R: Al-Hajj Mohamed Ladak (Chairman - Bilal Muslim Mission, Moshi), Al-Hajj Asghar Moledina (Vice Chairman, Africa Federation), Al-Hajj Ahmed Daya (Chairman, Moshi Jamat), Al-Hajj Hussein Daya (Chairman, Board of Trustees Moshi Jamat).

Al-Hajj Barkat rajani (Hon. Sec. AFED) and Al-Hajj Mustafa Sheriff in background

Crash Course...

Scholarships for religious and vocational training had been advertised earlier, and over 80 applications were received from African Shia students all over Tanzania, reflecting a great demand for such scholarships. Due to scarce resources, only 12 students could be accepted. A total of 20 students were shortlisted and invited to attend a one-month crash course. The 5-week crash course was conducted from December 2004 to January 2005, and the students were taught Islamic Studies, English and Math. At the end of the course, all students were assessed, and 12 students were awarded the scholarships. One student had performed very well in O-Levels and aspired to go to university to major in Media, but had applied for vocational training due to lack of funds for A-Levels and university. The SYDP team therefore decided to sponsor him as well for A-Levels.

Vocational Training...

The students were initially enrolled at Kilimanjaro Technical Training Centre (KTTC) where they undertook courses in Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Autoelectrics and Domestic Electrical Installations. They were also taught Math and English. All students performed very well. In April 2005, the students got admission in VETA (Moshi), one of the leading vocational training centers in Tanzania, where they are now undertaking courses in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Household Electrical Installations and Motor Vehicle Mechanics. The courses are approximately of one year duration.

Islamic Studies...

An intensive and practical Islamics course is also being conducted through the SYDP - Madrasah Ameerul Mu'mineen (Matuga) partnership. This collaboration has facilitated competent teachers in Islamic Studies to come to Moshi specially for this project. Sh. Hassan Mwarizo teaches Islamics and acts as a guardian for the students, who have been provided with boarding and lodging facilities in Moshi. Sh. Hassan Mwalupa, the principal of Madrasah Ameerul Mu'mineen is the Chief Advisor (religious training) and visiting lecturer. The students are taught Qur'an, Arabic, Tareekh, Akhlaqiat, Fiqh and Aqaid. Congregational Prayers are held everyday. Students also participate in Dua sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and attend Friday prayers as well.

Muharram Program...

Through the SYDP - Madrasah Ameerul Mu'mineen partnership, Sh. Mussa was invited to give a series of 12 lectures on the tragedy of Kerbala over the first 12 days of Muharram 1426 A.H. The students also attended the Ashura Juloos in Arusha, and donated blood on Ashura day before participating in Amal-e-Ashura. The SYDP Team is very grateful to all the donors who sponsored the Muharram Majlises.

Sheikh Dr. Murtadha Alidina....

During his short visit to Moshi, Sheikh Dr. Murtadha Alidina, an eminent and world renowned scholar from Qum, kindly accepted our invitation to address the students. He gave a very informative and comprehensive talk on implementing the Holy Qur'an in daily life. This talk was followed by a Question-Answer Session, and then a short meeting with the shuyookh where he discussed methods of performing tabligh. This short visit was very fruitful and the SYDP team is indeed very grateful to Sheikh for accepting our invitation and spending time with us in spite of his very tight schedule.



Sheikh Dr Murtadha Alidina talking to students on the importance and implementation of the Holy Qur'an in everyday life. On his left is Sh. Ammar, translating the talk from Arabic to Kiswahili.

Prize Giving Day...

A presentation ceremony was held on Thursday 14th April 2005, where the highfliers were awarded for their achievement and hard work. Sh. Hassan Mwalupa was the chief guest at this ceremony. Yasin Tawakkal (student from Dodoma) scooped the first prize in Motor Vehicle Mechanics. Maulid Jumaa (student from Namanga) was awarded first prize in Autoelectrics. Baqir Khatib (from Moshi) stood first in Electrical Installations. The ranking criteria included 50% from Islamic Studies and 50% from Vocational Training. The students were also assessed on discipline, teamwork, attendance and participation in activities, and the overall Best Student Award went to Baqir Khatib.

Eid-e-Zehra...

A special program was organized on the occasion of Eid-e-Zahra (a.s.) where Professor Karim Manji was the chief guest. The students recited Qasidas in praise of the Holy Ahlul Bayt (a.s.). Professor then addressed the students whereby he advised them on pertinent life issues. This was followed by a BBQ dinner.

Future Plans...

- Computer literacy is very essential in today's times and we would like to provide at least basic computing skills to all the students. To achieve this, we need at least 2 computers for the students.
- It would also be very useful to have good audio and video facilities so that the students can benefit from the vast and rich collection of audio and video lectures available.
- Through the SYDP-Madrasah Ameerul Mu'mineen (a.s) partnership, the students have been invited to attend an Islamic camp at Matuga (Kenya) during their holidays, where carefully chosen topics relevant to the youth will be discussed. The students, most of whom have never traveled outside Tanzania, will also get the opportunity to make new friends and contacts in this camp. Madrasah Ameerul Mu'mineen (a.s) has kindly offered to sponsor this camp, and SYDP will have to pay for the return bus fare and travel documents.

Appreciation...

With the grace of the Almighty, we have successfully completed the first quarter. This is only the beginning, and a lot more needs to be done to achieve the ambitious and noble goal of economically uplifting our African Shia brothers, and in the process preparing them to be good practicing Muslims who can portray the true image of Islam and assist in the propagation of Madh-hab of Ahlul Bayt (a.s.). To achieve this goal, many more African students need to be assisted to pursue higher education. It is our hope that other centers will emulate this pilot project and start similar projects in their own localities.

Dr Asghar Moledina,
Vice Chairman of Africa Federation,
addressing students at
Bilal Muslim Mission, Moshi.



The SYDP Team is very grateful to the Almighty (s.w.t.) for His blessings and guidance through the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Ahlul Bayt (a.s.). Our special thanks to Sheikh Muslim Bhanji of Dodoma for his assistance in the admission and application process, and continued advice and guidance. Our sincere appreciation is also extended to all those who have contributed materially or otherwise. Without your support and prayers, this project would not have been possible. Persons wishing to sponsor a khushali or wafat majlis for the Ithale Thawab of their marhumeen are requested to contact the undersigned or Al-Hajj Mohamed Ladak (Chairman of BMM, Moshi Branch).

We would love to hear from you. Please do write to us to let us know your thoughts and suggestions. We would also be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Dr. Kazim Dhalla

Shia Youth Development Project

CONTACTS:

Dr Kazim Dhalla: kazimdhalla@hotmail.com, kdhalla@kcmc.ac.tz, cell: +255 748 525 533

Al-Hajj Mohamed Ladak: mlk@eoltz.com, cell: +255 748 811 786