

RENDITION

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1 | FEBRUARY 2018
MCI (P) 118/11/2017

FIRST



POCKET NEWSLETTER OF MCAS

EDITION

WWW.MCAS.SG/RENDITION

The meanings of **RENDITION** are defined as
(a) **surrender** (b) **translation** (c) **interpretation**.
INSPIRED BY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE THREE MEANINGS,
THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SERVES AS A REMINDER OF
(A) **the Islamic submission to Allah (SWT)**,
(B) **the translation of good intentions into
good deeds**, and (C) **the interpretation
of Islam as taught by Prophet Muhammed
(SAW)**, who is a mercy for all mankind.

RENDITION

SURRENDER

Islamic submission to Allah

TRANSLATION

good intentions to deeds

INTERPRETATION

teachings of Muhammed
the mercy for all mankind

READ ONLINE

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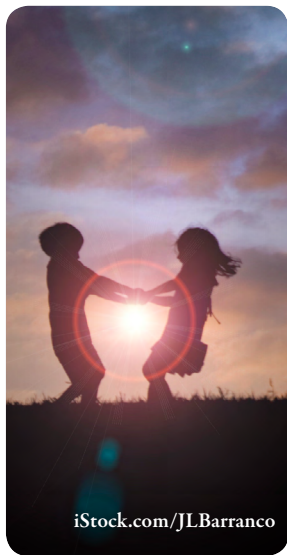
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Spending For *Family* And *Children*

Extracted from
Gardens of the Righteous
(Riyahd As-Salihin) by
Imam Nawawi



iStock.com/JLBarranco

Abu Hurayrah (RA)
relates that Prophet
Muhammed (SAW) said:

Of the dinar you spend in
the cause of Allah; the dinar
you spend in procuring
the freedom of a slave,
the dinar you give away in
charity to the poor, and
the dinar you spend on
your wife and children; the
highest in respect of reward
is the one you spend on
your wife and children. 📖

KNOW YOUR SCHOLAR

IMAM NAWAWI'S FULL NAME IS MUHYI AD-DIN ABU ZAKARIYYA
YAHYA IBN SHARAF AN-NAWAWI.

RENDITION

FIRST EDITION

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EDITOR'S NOTE

IN THE NAME OF GOD
THE MOST BENEFICENT
THE MOST MERCIFUL

MAY PEACE BE UPON YOU

ALHAMDULILLAH, THE PUBLICATION OF MCAS'S NEW POCKET NEWSLETTER MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE ASSOCIATION'S EFFORTS TO REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY.

RENDITION IS INSPIRED BY THE IDEA TO SPREAD THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM IN PRACTICE, ESPECIALLY BY SHARING THE NEWS ON AND AROUND MCAS REGULARLY WITH OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS.

WITH THIS NEW INITIATIVE DEBUTING IN 2018, MCAS STARTS THE NEW YEAR ON A BRIGHT NOTE AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILD MORE BRIDGES TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING ISLAM SO AS TO CONNECT WITH YOU, AS WELL AS SPREAD THE GOOD WORD OF PEACE TO EVERYONE.

WE SEEK YOUR KIND DOA SO THAT ALLAH (SWT) BLESS THESE EFFORTS. THANK YOU.

A GIFT FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Your opinions matter to us. Email your thoughts and suggestions to RENDITION@mcas.sg and we would email you an exclusive HD wallpaper with a specially featured Quranic verse or Hadith.

Ramadhan Zakat Disbursement

Event Date
3 June 2017

Guest-of-Honour
Madam Halimah Yacob
(then Speaker of Parliament,
current President of Singapore)



The festive spirit of Ramadhan thrived at Muslim Converts' Association of Singapore (MCAS) as 575 underprivileged families received financial assistance and sponsored goodie bags totalling more than \$225,000 in value.

The Guest-of-Honour for the Ramadhan Zakat Disbursement 2017, Madam Halimah Yacob, graced the ceremony by presenting the financial aid to several beneficiaries at MCAS.

>>>>>>>



Over more than two decades, this annual drive by MCAS has been helping the poor and needy during the fasting month and for their upcoming Eid (Hari Raya) celebration.

Every beneficiary on that day received \$255 from Zakat and NTUC FairPrice vouchers of \$110 from Fidyah. These families have been selected to receive this assistance due to reasons that include low income, chronic illness, and old age.

Ramadhan

ZAKAT

disbursement





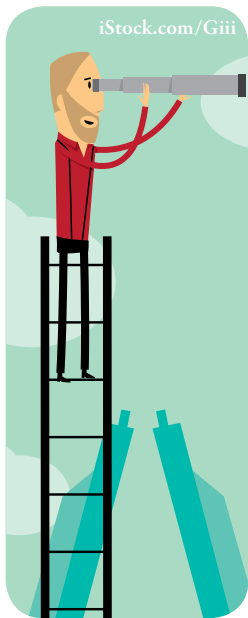
This year, for the first time, the beneficiaries also received sponsored products such as meat from Zac Butchery, as well as foods and beverages from other sponsors such as Al-Wadi Restaurant, Suhaimi Yusof, Asia Farm F&B Pte Ltd, and Hjh Maimunah Restaurant. The total value of products in each goodie bag was about \$30.

MCAS's financial assistance programme extends to other months of the year, and includes short-term monthly assistance to selected families with financial difficulties, as well as organising motivational talks and budgeting workshops for them. 📌



Jewels of the *Praiseworthy* Muslim (1) - *Knowledge* ('Ilm)

An exclusive series
by Bani Md Ali



We can be successful human beings only by being humans – purely. The key to success in humanity begins with the human's need to embrace and enjoin humanitarian values.

For instance, this is when the powerful protects the weak, the wealthy rescues the poor, and the intelligent guides and educates. We are in a state of least humanness when the powerful oppresses the weak, the wealthy exploits or ignores the poor, and the intelligent deceives or manipulates.

>>>>>>>



Being human, first of all, requires that we have the knowledge about what humanity is, and then work on it upon our human meaning.

Knowledge (‘Ilm) is issued from the Creator for humans to gather and benefit from, which is vital for life. In its essential nature, knowledge is goodness and the true seeker of knowledge must strive for goodness in his human nature.

“And by the soul and by Him Who perfectly proportioned it and imbued it with (the consciousness of) its evil and its piety. He who purifies it (soul) will prosper and he who suppresses (soul) it will be ruined.” (Ash-Shams, Q91:07-10)

>>>>>>

Muslims are taught to inculcate sincerity to such an extent that our innermost intention (niyat) to seek knowledge must be pure. This means seeking knowledge solely for the sake of obedience to Allah's command and His



Messenger's advice. This obedience thus manifests Faith (Iman) and makes us be true to our nature as humans. We then need to maintain the goodness in our nature through our character (akhlaq) and excel in being human.

Knowledge is essential to humans in living life, and it must be pursued constantly and consistently.

“Allah will raise to high ranks those of you who believe and are endowed with knowledge.” (Al-Mujadalah, Q58:11)

Furthermore, Prophet Muhammed (SAW) said, “The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim.” (At-Tirmidhi). 📖



Tips To *Heal* Your *Soul*

Advice shared by
Md Syazwan El Rani Md

HAVE A QUERY FOR OUR PANEL IN THIS
COLUMN? EMAIL TO RENDITION@MCAS.SG

IS THERE A GUIDE FROM THE
QURAN ON HOW WE SHOULD
INTERACT ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



The widespread use of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, has enabled us to be connected to larger audiences quicker and easier. Information is highly accessible and can be published anonymously. This surely has implications on the way we interact as Muslims, and as social media users.

The Islamic Tradition has undoubtedly shed light in detail on the etiquette of interaction as revealed in **Surah Al-Hujurat (Q49)**. In verse 6, Allah (SWT) commands: “O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful”.

Acting responsibly with the information in hand is extremely vital to prevent people from being misled - now especially, judging by the amount of fake news being shared and retweeted.

Facebook comments sections have also transformed into battlefields. We find hurtful jibes and vicious name-calling between users.

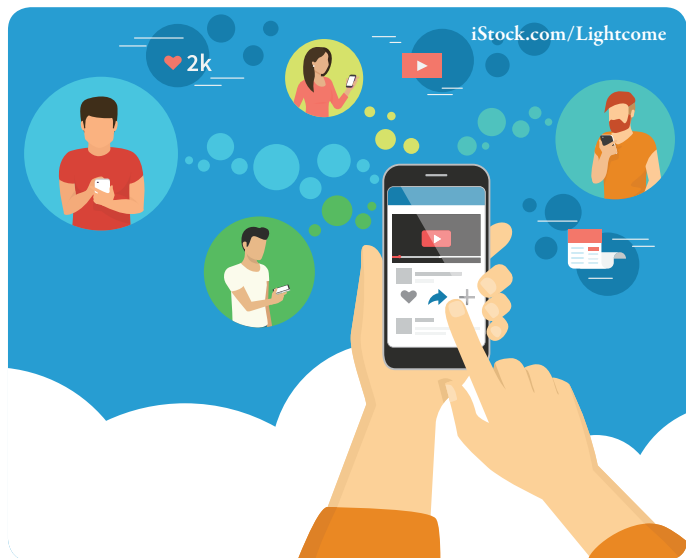
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Allah (SWT) reveals in verse 11:

“O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers”.

>>>>>>



Picture postings on social media could also be interpreted in the wrong light by some users. These unverified perceptions may end up as fodder for gossip.

Regarding this, Allah (SWT) instructs in verse 12: “O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful”.

These Quranic verses - a guidance relevant for all times and places - when applied would greatly improve the quality of interaction between users and create a positive environment for all. May we continue to be merciful netizens who spread peace and love. 🌟

MD SYAZWAN EL RANI MD IS EXECUTIVE OFFICER AT MCAS, WITH A DEGREE IN ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE AND HERITAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA, MAJORING IN PRINCIPLES OF FIQH AND MINORING IN COMPARATIVE RELIGION.

Meals On Wheels

Event Date
14 May 2017

Guest-of-Honour
Ms Tin Pei Ling
(MP for MacPherson SMC)



MCAS collaborated with Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC) to gather 150 volunteers to pack and send charity packages, worth a total of \$39,192 in groceries and vouchers, to 160 underprivileged families.

Known as Meals on Wheels (MOW), this annual event was graced by Member of Parliament for MacPherson SMC, Ms Tin Pei Ling.

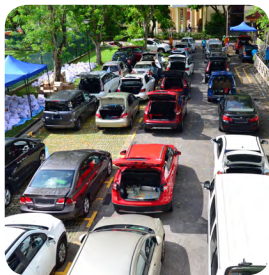
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It is an honour for the MCAS team to have Ms Tin Pei Ling join the list of official guests who have kindly graced the events held by MCAS and hearteningly motivated the volunteers and staff to keep up the efforts in uplifting the spirit of the community.

For MCAS, building the bridges of peace and harmony especially with friends and guests of other faiths is a significant effort that fosters better understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims, as well as portrays one of the many forms of kindness taught by Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The MOW charity package, including cash and kind from corporate sponsorships and personal donations, was worth about \$245 each.





For seven years, MOW has been MCAS's annual community service project, managed by DACCnDAYS students and volunteers. MOW seeks to lighten the financial burden of the underprivileged in our community through the distribution of groceries in the spirit of the blessed month of Ramadhan, which was a month away.

This year, with the exciting new collaboration with CDAC, MOW has reached out to a record-breaking 160 families, both Muslims and non-Muslims. ➡



Seafaring *Explorer* Admiral *Zheng He*

Written by
Nur Izzati Soonaan



Muhammad Cheng Hoo Mosque in Pasuruan, Indonesia

China's greatest seafaring explorer, Admiral Zheng He, was born in 1371, in Hedai Village, in Yunnan. He was the second son of Ma Haji, a prominent Muslim leader of his local southwestern Chinese community.

Growing up, Zheng He studied Islam and was very much influenced by his father's strong character, great military mind and altruistic nature. Originally named "Ma He", his Arabic name was recorded as Haji Mahmud Shams.

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In 1402, Zheng He was appointed as Admiral of the Treasure Fleet, commanding 317 ships and 27,870 men – among them were sailors, clerks, interpreters, soldiers, artisans, medicine men and meteorologists. Zheng He's fleet was self-sufficient as it included command ships, warships, treasure ships, horse ships, grain ships and even water tankers.

Zheng He's invincible fleet visited about 37 countries during the 7 voyages in 28 years. Advanced Chinese know-how and technology in ceramics-making, metallurgy, weaving, shipbuilding, construction, fishery, agriculture, tea-planting and medicine were

>>>>>>>

Chinese Fishing Nets at sunset, Fort Kochin, India



iStock.com/1970s



Zheng He's Tomb, Nanjing, China

also passed on to the native hosts. Today, fishermen in Kochin and Calicut in Kerala, India, are still using Chinese fishing nets which they call “cheenavala” (China net).

During his last voyage, Zheng He took the opportunity to send several Muslim crew members to Mecca to perform the Hajj (Major Pilgrimage). In 1433, Zheng He fell ill and passed away off Calicut, India. A tomb was built in his honour in Nanjing, the Ming capital of China. In modern-day China, 11 July is 'Maritime Day', devoted to the memory of Zheng He's first voyage. 🇨🇳

BUILT MOSQUES FOR MUSLIMS IN JAVA

THE MALAY ANNALS STATE THAT ZHENG HE HAD BUILT MOSQUES IN SEMARANG, ANCOL, TUBAN, GRESIK, CEREBOON FOR THE BURGEONING MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN JAVA.

Nature Walk to Coney Island

Event Date
20 August 2017

Photographs by
Aishah Hussein






Mark Of Knowledge

A poem by
Dr Yamin Cheng

A person of knowledge
Asks only when he knows
Not when he does
not know
For how can one ask
for a direction
When he doesn't
even know
Where he wants to go

A person of knowledge
Sees difficulty as easy
But not that easy
is simplicity
To think that easy
is simplicity
Is to make one's
judgment a difficulty

A person of knowledge
Sees the many
things before him
As a family of
one another
Where differences
have commonalities
And oppositions
have agreements

A person of knowledge
The more he
seeks to know
The less he thinks
he knows
He sees things as
what they are
And not his own ego 

Sending *Good* for the *Morrow*

Written by
Dr Waffie Mohammed



"O you who believe! Fear Allah, and let every soul look to what (provision) he has sent forth for the morrow. Indeed, fear Allah for Allah is well-acquainted with (all) that you do." (Al-Hashr, Q59:18)

All believers are commanded to develop righteousness and take stock of the type of deeds we are sending for the morrow i.e. the hereafter.

Our deeds depend on:

- 1) Intention: Am I trying to live for the sake of Allah
- 2) Allah's Grace and Mercy: If I am living for His sake, Insha'Allah, He will overlook my shortcomings

>>>>>>>

Our intention is one of the two most important things. Muhammed (SAW) said that all actions are judged on its intention. Allah (SWT) warns us against worshipping Him with ulterior motives:

"Those who do good deeds only to be seen (of men)."
(Al-Ma'un, Q107:6)

One needs to be cautious and keep a constant look over the ego. It is good to be ambitious but be mindful because it can lead us down the wrong path as Allah (SWT) says in Surah Al-Zukhruf:

"If anyone withdraws himself from remembrance of (Allah) Most Gracious, We appoint for him an evil one, to be an intimate companion to him. Such (evil ones) really hinder them from the Path, but they think that they are being guided aright!"
(Q43:36-37)

Always try to adopt two things throughout your life: increase the amount of good that you are sending before you and try to wipe out the blemishes from your Book. It is a simple recipe but it has an everlasting effect. 🌟

Sparkle of *youth* in *SMYD* 2017

Event Date
14 October 2017

Guest-of-Honour
Ms Rahayu Mahzam
(MP for Jurong GRC)

A message from MCAS
President Faiz Edwin Ignatious



Congratulations to the Champions from Ngee Ann Polytechnic Cendekiawan

In the past year, Muslim Converts' Association of Singapore's Youths of Darul Arqam (YODA) revitalised their activism through various platforms that have seen our youths actuating their potential, passion, and perseverance to tailor uplifting and character-building programmes.

>>>>>>>

Md Waliyuddin won Overall Best Speaker, Individual Champion, and Group Champion with Ngee Ann Polytechnic Cendekiawan



Ms Rahayu Mahzam, Guest-of-Honour for the Grand Finals SMYD 2017

The runner-ups from Darul Makmur Mosque



The Singapore Muslim Youth Debate (SMYD), one of YODA's annual highlights, was in its eighth year and from the preliminary rounds to the grand finals, we again observed a familiar sparkle amidst our youths. At the climax of the SMYD competition, all the youths - from the participants to the YODA sub-committee - shined with brilliance through their efforts in planning, execution, research, delivery, and several more aspects that influence the culmination and success of this series thus far.

MCAS recognises our shared responsibility in cladding the youth with Islamic inspiration as taught by Prophet Muhammed (SAW). Our focus, especially through the energies of YODA, is consistent on nurturing our youths to become confident ambassadors of Islam, who at the same time, strengthen the Muslim community with their activism.

With the conclusion of SMYD 2017, MCAS would like to express our heartiest gratitude to the YODA sub-committee and its members for their relentless work and efforts on this year's competition and their other projects for 2017.



Adjudicators for the Grand Finals (from left): Dr Elmie Nekmat, Sim Khadijah (Chief Adjudicator), Dr Shamsuri Juhari, Nadia Yeo, Ust Ridhwan Basor

The SMYD 2017 Organising Sub-Committee





MCAS warmly extends our thanks to the 15 teams and 8 individuals, who have spent their precious time and efforts to be a part SMYD in 2017.

We are also deeply grateful to the SMYD organising sub-committee and all the Adjudicators for their help and advice that brought the shine out of the youths in SMYD 2017. MCAS also appreciates Hajjah Maimunah Restaurant's continued support and belief in the youth, as well as their kind sponsorship of the bento meals throughout the SMYD competition.

Insha'Allah, MCAS looks forward to see the sparkle amidst our youth continue to brighten up our community, inspiring more positivity in building greater resilience and confidence in meeting the challenges of the future. 🌟

THE NEXT RENDITION

- ☑ JEWELS OF THE PRAISEWORTHY MUSLIM (2)
- ☑ KHADIJAH (RA) - A MODERN WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIMES

EMAIL US
RENDITION@MCAS.SG

“So bring to _____ the benefits (you have received) from Allah, and refrain from ____ and _____ on the earth.”

Surah Number: ____ Verse Number: ____

FIRST 10 CORRECT ENTRIES WILL RECEIVE AN EXCLUSIVE 'HAND CARRY DIGITAL SCALE' FROM MCAS (COLLECTION IN SINGAPORE ONLY)

IN THIS EDITION



- ☑ JEWELS OF THE PRAISEWORTHY MUSLIM (1) - KNOWLEDGE
- ☑ CHINA'S GREATEST SEAFARING EXPLORER ADMIRAL ZHENG HE