

All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds and peace and blessings be upon all His Prophets and Messengers, their families and followers.

Brothers and sisters in Islam.....We are at a critical time in our history in the United States where our faith, our civilization/or communities, and knowledge of our social responsibilities as Muslims has decreased greatly.

Today...when we look around us...many are struggling with the corona issue...between fears and doubts...and this may only be the first rung on the ladder...*others with unemployment due to corona ... and other issues as well.* However, as people of reflection....and when reflecting a little more deeply into our situations, we find that the vast majority of the civilization we live in and specifically the community we live here in Hagerstown is without faith....and as time progresses and pandemics, riots, demonstrations, natural disasters increase...we will find more and more people are losing faith in civilization and their communities.....

Yes... people are losing faith in humanity... because of their lack of morals...their being quiet upon oppression, tyranny, discrimination...people are losing faith in humanity because the majority of them are just sitting back observing society and our communities go downhill without actively doing anything to positively change it...the spread of corruption everywhere you look...LGBTQ agenda being indoctrinated into the youth, people constantly resorting to alcohol and drugs to fill the emptiness they feel inside their minds,

hearts and souls...They have no knowledge of their creator, nor any idea as to why they are here on this earth...so when their hearts and minds are not filled with the love and devotion of the creator and worshipping him....they fill their hearts, minds, souls and bodies with temporary enjoyment and physical fulfillment with drugs, fornication, alcohol and crime...brothers and sisters...people are looking for a change...but unfortunately they don't find too many good examples in their communities to guide them to the right path...to be patient with them..to hold and their hands and lead them step by step....

Dearly beloved Muslims.... many of us know that we have responsibilities....our Lord, our families, spouses, children, and parents...but we need to remember that we also have a social responsibility, towards our neighbors and our greater communities.....

أَلَا تَكُنُّم رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ فَالْأَمِيرُ الَّذِي عَلَى النَّاسِ رَاعٍ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ "
 وَالرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ عَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْهُمْ وَالْمَرْأَةُ رَاعِيَةٌ عَلَى بَيْتِ بَعْلِهَا وَوَالِدِهِ وَهِيَ مَسْئُولَةٌ
 عَنْهُمْ وَالْعَبْدُ رَاعٍ عَلَى مَالِ سَيِّدِهِ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْهُ أَلَا فَكُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ " .

It has been narrated on the authority of Ibn 'Umar that the Prophet (May be upon him) said:

Be reminded that every one of you is a shepherd and every one is responsible and will be held accountable with regard to his flock. The Imam/Muslim scholar/Ameer is a shepherd over the people and shall be questioned about his subjects (as to how he conducted their affairs). A man is a guardian over the members of his family and shall be questioned

about them (as to how he looked after their physical and moral well-being). A woman is a guardian over the household of her husband and his children and shall be questioned about them (as to how she managed the household and brought up the children). A servant is a guardian over the property of his master and shall be questioned about it (as to how he safeguarded his trust). Beware, every one of you is a guardian and every one of you shall be questioned with regard to his trust.

So what are some of our responsibilities my dearly beloved brothers and sisters?...

Our most important responsibility that we have is towards our Lord...and mastering this fundamental part takes years of sincere study, devotion, practice, purification and dedication....knowing how to worship Him and please Him based upon knowledge and understanding....not upon personal whims and desires....

A Muslim is someone who accepts the responsibilities that Allah has given him/her and constantly reflects over those responsibilities....such as what are the responsibilities towards rectifying our selves first and foremost...rectifying our hearts...to only love and dislike what Allah likes and dislikes...rectifying our tongues...to only speak in a manner and with the words that Allah loves and is pleased with...rectifying our limbs....to do the good actions that get us closer to Allah and earning his satisfaction...^{providing guidance to help} rectifying our families...our neighbors....our relatives....our colleagues at

work....our classmates in school..the people we see on the street..our employees...our patients...and so forth.

In order to understand what is responsibility brothers and sisters.... and how we as Muslims need to fulfill those responsibilities... We need to understand what is true Islamic faith? Which is the foundation of Islam and understanding responsibilities...

So What is Faith?

Faith in Islam is a much broader concept than just the six pillars that we believe in our hearts. True faith of the believer is belief, coupled with righteous actions and statements. Is faith just a statement of the tongue without actions? Is faith just some warm feeling in the heart we get when we come to the masjid?...What is it? Where is the storehouse of faith?

The Prophet Muhammad said: 'Faith is sixty or seventy odd branches, the highest of faith is saying 'La ilaha illa Allah', the lowest of faith is removing something harmful from the road, and modesty is a branch of faith as well...'. So faith consists of belief in the heart, actions upon the limbs and statements upon the tongue.

One day someone came to the Prophet -peace be upon him- and asked him about faith, so The Prophet recited to him Allah's statement in the Quran:

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ
وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ وَآتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ
وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ
وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ - 2:177

"It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards East or West; but it is righteousness to believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels, and the Book, and the

Messengers; to spend of your substance, out of love for Him, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask, and for the ransom of slaves; to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity, to fulfil the contracts which you have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the God-fearing."(al-Baqarah 2:177)

This verse is known as ayatul Birr, and was revealed to the Prophet while he was in Al Madinah....on one occasion some of the hypocrites and non-believers wanted to engage the Muslims in a dispute over the direction of the Qiblah. They said to the Muslims: Why are you facing Makkah now while you were facing Jerusalem before? Why did you change the direction of your prayers? They tried to create doubts and cause differing amongst the believers.

However, Allah protected the Prophet and his followers from falling into such useless debates...As Allah told us about those individuals in the Quran and called them 'Sufahaa', fools, ignoramuses, those who don't use their intellects or are intellectually and spiritually deficient....

سَيَقُولُ السُّفَهَاءُ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَا وَلَّاهُمْ عَن قِبَلَتِهِمُ الَّتِي كَانُوا عَلَيْهَا قُلْ لِلَّهِ الْمَشْرِقُ وَالْمَغْرِبُ يَهْدِي
مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ - 2:142

"The Fools among the people will say: "What has turned them from the Qibla to which they were used?" Say: To Allah belong East and West: He guides whom He will to a Way that is straight." (al-Baqarah 2:142)

So in ayatul Birr, Allah told the Muslims not to be disturbed about what people say about you....Don't pay attention to the foolish comments people may make about your practices.... Don't care about what the the intellectually and spiritually deficient people think about you. Keep moving forward to develop your souls, your families, and your communities and don't let people distract you from what is

our main goal...to make the religion of Allah spread throughout the lands and to be the most superior...

Brothers and sisters we must realize that the real practice of the religion of Islam is not strictly limited to only appearances, outward, forms and rituals. Rather, it is much greater and much more deeper. Actually, true faith and righteousness consist of some important qualities and actions, such as:

1. Iman: Strong faith in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Prophets, The Pre-Decree and the Day of Resurrection.
2. Charity: Helping the parents, relatives, orphans, poor people, travelers, needy, people who are deprived of freedom in order to enable them gain freedom.
3. Devotion and worship: Performing regular prayer, Hajj, Fasting, remembering Allah and reading his Book.
4. Fulfilling the promises, contracts and commitments, being fair and good to all people with strong commitment to justice and standing up for what is right, and speaking out against oppression and transgression.
5. Patience and perseverance: inner strength, steadfastness, and discipline.

As well as many other parts and branches....

As Muslims

-We should be constantly grateful to Allah, Who has blessed us with Islam, blessed us with true submission to the creator of the universe. Allah chose us... because he wants to use us to build individuals, re-civilize people and their mentalities...break them from the shackles of materialistic and mental enslavement...He wants us to build societies and communities based on Islamic principles, morals and teachings.

So in order for these principles to manifest in our neighborhoods and communities...we must first internalize Islam in our hearts...by being sincere...and we must integrate Islamic behavior into our personality...inside our homes, inside our mosques, in our cities and towns... and we must

build the social order in our communities based on these principles, in order to fulfill our social responsibilities with others-Muslims as well as non-Muslims, while striving first and foremost to fulfill our obligations to our creator.

So when we look around us in our communities....what is the criteria that determines what a wholesome and righteous Community or Civilization is?

What are the signs that a country, nation or group of people are truly civilized and fulfill their social responsibilities as Muslims, as those who truly submit to Allah...the creator of all mankind?

Are the signs of a country or nation being truly civilized... a lot of high rise office and apartment buildings?

Are the signs of a prosperous civilization wide paved roads and highways?

Are the signs of a prosperous civilization extremely large factories and shopping malls?

Are the signs of a civilized nation big sports stadium, entertainment centers, casinos, and music halls?

Are the signs of a civilized nation and people 'Complete freedom to say and do whatever you want without consequences'? Or freedom to destroy public property thru rioting, looting, and harming innocent people...Are these the signs of a civilized and advanced nation?

So what are the true signs that prove whether or not a people or nation are civilized...?

Brothers and sisters in Islam.....The criteria to determine whether a people or nation are civilized or not... is not restricted to only material progress, economical influence, technological developments, and a large weapons of defense budget and infrastructure.

The true sign of a developed Civilization and civilized people...is when human beings fulfill the purpose that they

were created for...it is when human beings act like human beings....When human beings realize their purpose here on earth...when human beings witness the signs of the creator in the creation and submit to Him and follow his commandments...when human beings come to realize they they were created to worship their creator and abandon all devotion, awe, fear, and absolute, unconditional love towards all things other than Allah...the creator of all life...

The true sign of a developed civilized people and nation are Human beings united together and submitting together upon the worship of their creator alone...Human beings unite together based upon their faith...and aid one another based upon their faith.....A developed Civilization contains people that have upright morals, values, ethics, beliefs and practices to live their lives by....there will never be true unity if it is not first and foremost based upon correct and true Islamic faith...

A Truly developed civilization and community is filled with love, kindness, charity, politeness, good behavior, generosity, peace, justice and fairness. A truly developed civilization is free of racism, discrimination and racial bigotry and hatred... When all of these things are present in a civilization and community...then and only then will relief to people's problems, hardship and difficulties be realized. And this will only come about through implementing the teachings of Islam...

Similarly, Every truly developed civilization and community requires faith. Without faith the civilization becomes shallow, lop sided, self-destructive, oppressive, and harmful. This is why Islam is the only complete, balanced way of life. It takes into consideration all aspects of the human being...the spiritual, physical and mental... It encourages us to be strong spiritually, physically and mentally. Not like other practices or religions or civilizations that only focus on being strong physically and economically while neglecting the spiritual aspect as we see in many atheistic societies....So

feel blessed my brothers and sisters that Allah has chosen us to be muslims....

We also must understand that Without faith, communities become confused, misguided, and are guided by their intellectual ideas and physical desires alone and only focus on attaining and acquiring the physical adornments of this world, nourishing their minds and bodies only, while neglecting the nourishment of their souls....Look around us...look at many of our neighbors here in Hagerstown....

Brothers and sisters.... Islam is a faith and complete way of life that inspires building of righteous and developed civilizations and building communities with individuals who fulfill their social responsibilities that eventually bring about social solidarity.

When the Prophet Muhammad emerged ^{over} 1442 years ago with reviving the Message of Islam upon earth, the world was in deep darkness. Religions had lost their authentic message. People were worshipping trees, stones, sculptures and statues... Morality was at its lowest level...women were mistreated, oppressed, raped and pimped like prostitutes.... The whole world was in the grips of social, economic and political disorder. Tribes were fighting each other and only the strong and unified could survive... There was no one who could save humanity... But Allah had a plan....and a wise and knowledgeable plan it was...He looked into the hearts of all human beings living on the face of the earth at that time, and found that the Prophet Muhammad was the most righteous, trustworthy and best of all to carry the heavy weight of reviving the teachings of old... and to re-civilize the uncivilized.... and to fulfill his social responsibility as being the impetus to change the world... and revitalize his community and re-educate his people ...So Allah selected him as a prophet, and sent the angel Jibreel to him with a special message...a message that was going to change the course of humanity until the day of resurrection.... The responsibility of being a prophet was upon his shoulders...He

was ordered to convey Allah's religion to everyone he came into contact with, as we are ordered to do as well... The Prophet Muhammad inspired and motivated his companions...who were also selected by Allah because of the purity and sincerity within their hearts and souls as well as their commitment and dedication to following and emulating the prophet Muhammad...as well as their understanding of their social responsibility to be the beacons of light to extract the people out of the darkness into the light and enlightenment of Islam In a short period of time we find that those noble companions of the Prophet Muhammad, because of their believe in him, their love for him, their honor for him, their respect for him, their commitment and dedication to him and his message... eventually became the leaders and beacons of light for humanity... and for more than one thousand years you find because of their initial commitment and dedication and understanding of their social responsibility... their followers and descendants were leading the world in culture and civilization and fulfilling their social responsibilities. From every direction people came to learn from them, from their knowledge, manners, etiquettes, experience and expertise in all fields...people would travel months and weeks to listen to them speak...watch them do business....watch them practice medicine...watch them build cities and masajid with the most precise and unique engineering techniques....this was the time in the past that Muslims and Islamic civilizations flourished...solely because many of them truly understood how to build communities based upon tawheed, emulation of the prophet Muhammad...and really loving for one's brother what one loves for oneself...which is the basis for fulfilling one's social responsibility.

However, the world we live in today is much different. The world we live in today is universally connected....If something happens in Africa, we hear about it in a matter of seconds...If something happens in Turkey or China we hear

about it in a matter of minutes...When we observe our world and the current events taking place...we can see that much of the whole world is in what many would consider....crisis. There are numerous crisis occurring throughout the world as we speak...some physical...such as loss of life, a lack of food and drinking water, a lack of shelter...others are experiencing spiritual crisis and are struggling with the Islamic faith and the practice of it....others are experiencing intellectual, moral and ethical crisis and don't know how to think or judge things correctly, and they see the good and wholesome to be corrupt and see the corrupt and despicable to be good and wholesome...

Brothers and sisters....one of the manifestations of this...in 2020.....is that liars will be called truthful and the truthful will be called liars... Hypocrisy is called diplomacy and politics. Lying and cheating when buying or selling are falsely labeled as business techniques. Adultery and fornication are called private relations and personal orientation. Pornography is called art and free expression. There is violence, injustice, and double standard in politics. 'Human rights' is a slogan and it is applied selectively. Globalization has become global exploitation. Families are falling apart. Drugs and narcotics are on an increase and are even being legalized. Crimes are abundant. Human beings are afraid of other human beings because they are of a different skin color, ethnicity, or speak a different language. There is a pollution of morals and pollution of environment. We have local dangers and global dangers as well.

In the past if there was a problem in one part of the world the other parts would not even know and would not be affected, but now we are totally inter-dependant. We are linked with each other. We are now facing global challenges and global dangers.

Brother and sisters in Islam....Material prosperity, having wealth and striving to be wealthy is good and ok within the guidelines of the Shariah.... but more important is spiritual prosperity and moral goodness and ethical richness.

The Qur'an has severely criticized the civilizations and communities that became very materially prosperous only.....and they ignored true faith and morality. Allah says:

أَوَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَيَنْظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ ؕ كَانُوا أَشَدَّ مِنْهُمْ قُوَّةً وَأَثَارُوا الْأَرْضَ وَعَمَرُوهَا أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا عَمَرُوهَا وَجَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ ۖ فَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ

ثُمَّ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا السُّوْأَىٰ أَن كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا بِهَا يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ - 30:10

"Have they not traveled through the earth and observed what was the end result of those before them? They were greater than them in power, and they plowed the earth and built it up more than they have built it up, and their messengers came to them with clear evidences. And Allah would not ever have wronged them, but they were wronging themselves. Then the end of those who did evil was the worst [consequence] because they denied the signs of Allah and used to ridicule them."

And Allah says:

أَلَمْ يَأْتِهِم نَبَأُ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ قَوْمِ نُوحٍ وَعَادٍ وَثَمُودَ وَقَوْمِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَأَصْحَابِ مَدْيَنَ وَالْمُؤْتَفِكَاتِ ۚ أَتَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ ۖ فَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ - 9:70

"Has not the story reached them of those before them? The people of Noah, 'Ad, Thamud; the people of Abraham, the men of Madyan, and the Cities overthrown. To them came their Messengers with Clear Signs. It is not Allah Who

wronged them, but they wronged their own souls." (al-Tawbah 9:70)

Ad, Thamud, Madyan, People of Lut, People of Saba', People of Pharaoh and others, they were great builders and lived very prosperous and sophisticated life, but they lost the balance and equilibrium and so they suffered the consequence.

Brothers and Sisters in Islam.....We have a great responsibility upon our shoulders....not only one responsibility but many responsibilities...responsibilities to our Lord, to our families as well as to our communities and our societies that we live in.

Muslims must lead our Muslim communities...as well as our non-Muslim communities that we live in here in America.. towards a new way of life filled with faith, morals, and social service.

Muslims must step up and lead our communities. We must take our role seriously. We must strive to be the leaders and those who are setting the good examples for those who have lost their direction..... We...as Muslims have been honored to have the only authentic message and communication of Allah sent to the creation contained in the Quran. We have the most beautiful example of Prophet Muhammad contained in the Sunnah. But we ourselves first must live by those teachings and principles in Islam to re-build those great civilizations of the past...here in America....based upon faith, morals and social service and fulfilling the responsibilities of Allah and fulfilling the responsibilities of others.

Brothers and sisters...what are we waiting for... we do not lack numbers. We do not lack the financial resources. We are more than 2 billion Muslims in the world and close to 5 million here in America...

Some important factors to help us fulfill our social responsibility:

1. Our faith should be strong and sincere. Our practices should become more meaningful, not just ritualistic.
2. We must emphasize learning and education. At home, at the masjid, at school. The first word revealed to the Prophet was 'read'...we need to educate ourselves Islamically and re-educate our communities about Islam and the Muslims.
3. We must constantly promote Islamic unity, brotherhood, and sisterhood based upon the Book of Allah and the Sunnah and the criteria Allah has set...not any other man made superficial criterias such as race, political affiliation, ethnicity, or nationality...

إن أكرمكم عند الله اتقاكم

4. We must practice justice and fair dealings with all. We must be able to trust our own selves, our brothers and sisters, and our leaders before we ask others to trust us.
5. Our morals and manners should reflect the true teachings of Islam.
6. The objective and purpose of our life should be to establish Islam in our own lives and share this message with all people wherever we may be. We must inculcate in us the true spirit of Iman, Taqwa and Islah.

We have threats and real dangers to our own civil rights here in this land. We have much propaganda and stereotypes against Islam and the Muslims, ~~and those trying to ban our brothers and sisters from entering this country.~~ We have racism even within our masjid and favoritism of certain ethnicities based upon foreign ideas, ideologies and beliefs that have nothing to do with Islam.

Brothers and sisters, unless we take our role and our social responsibility seriously in the USA, we will continue to suffer and never make progress....O Allah guide our souls, hearts, minds and limbs to do what pleases you on your earth...ya rabbil alaameen...

Second khutbah

Brothers and sisters in Islam....

The responsibility to change our communities lies in the hands of each and every one of us...Hagerstown needs us...Maryland needs us... New Jersey needs us...New York needs us...America needs us, even if they don't want to accept the fact that they need Islam and the Muslims...You and me and all of us have to play our roles and fulfill our social responsibilities... When Muslims have strong and unified faith and practices...they succeed and the world succeeds as well.... and when Muslims lose the world loses. When Muslims are the righteous just leaders... all people live in peace and harmony, as we know from reading and studying Islamic history....We...brothers and sisters....are the people who must support justice and mercy in the world. We must stand for our rights and for the rights of those who are victimized and oppressed.

So what is our Role in society, in our communities, in the world... at our jobs, in our neighborhoods, in our colleges, in our masjids? What is our social responsibility?

Allah tells us in the Quran:

فَلَوْلَا كَانَ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ أُولُو بَقِيَّةٍ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْفُسَادِ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِمَّنْ أَنْجَيْنَا مِنْهُمْ ۗ
وَاتَّبَعَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مَا أُتْرِفُوا فِيهِ وَكَانُوا مُجْرِمِينَ -

وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ لِيُهْلِكَ الْقُرَىٰ بِظُلْمٍ وَأَهْلِهَا مُصْلِحُونَ - 11:117

"So why were there not among the generations before you those of enduring discrimination forbidding corruption on earth - except a few of those We saved from among them? But those who wronged pursued what luxury they were given therein, and they were criminals. And your Lord would not have destroyed the cities unjustly while their people were reformers." (Hud 116-117)

Brothers and sisters:

We have to play that role, the role of "Ulu Baqiyah" the people of good sense, the people of good morals, good behavior, the people forbidding corruption, transgression

and oppression on earth, social reformers, and social leaders... These are the people who save themselves and save others. Let us take that leading role in our societies and communities.

The reform of society-spiritually, physically, and mentally... was one of the main targets of Islam and the sending of the prophet Muhammad. Him and his companions, because of their commitment to Islam...reformed a society filled with alcoholism, prostitution, highway robberies, tribal wars, oppression of women, orphans, usurping the money of the weak...Much worse than the society that we're living in today, but very similar in some cases.....so what is stopping us from trying to reform the society that we live in here in the USA

Brothers and sisters...when we look around us we find that many individuals are living at or below the poverty level. Many of the cities we live in are ridden with drugs, crime and recidivism. There are people who cannot afford a doctor, people who are our neighbors but they are starving and have nothing to eat while we are filling our stomachs with steaks and biryani and kabsa...Our Prophet Muhammad said:

لَيْسَ الْمُؤْمِنُ الَّذِي يَشْبَعُ وَجَارُهُ جَائِعٌ

'A man is not a true believer who fills his stomach while his neighbour is hungry.'

So what is our responsibility towards our neighbors? Why did Allah decree for us to live in the places that we live in? How can we help the spiritually and physically poor? How can we help those without a place to sleep?

We need to start reaching out to our neighbors and sharing the light and practice of Islam with everyone we come into contact with.

We need to invite others to Islam by distributing information materials about Islam via email, text messages, dawah tables, inside colleges and universities and on the street,

and also on signs and billboards on the main streets. We also need to feed the poor in shelters and areas where the homeless are as well as providing other social services programs for all individuals in need in the communities that we live in.

You are a reflection of your brother or sister...so hold fast to the rope of Allah, work together as Muslims regardless of ethnicity, race, or color. Work together to fulfill our individual and social responsibilities here in our local communities. Be strong, have self-confidence, work hard, be good and do good to all people, remove the misunderstandings, doubts and misconceptions about Islam by being visible and active in your community as a Muslim, and never do anything that can create misunderstanding about Islam in the minds of others.

Learn more about social solidarity in Islam and how to build communities and how to be leaders and good examples for our neighbors. Take pride in your faith and values, live by them and spread the good news of Islam to all people so as to fulfill one of the greatest social responsibilities that is upon our shoulders.

May Allah grant us success to tread upon the straight path until we meet him and may he grant you all abundant reward for being such a wonderful audience this evening.