

Future of Islam

35 Years Ago:

No Masjid in this Area. Stanford hall.

Muslim children did not know much about Islam

Americans around me had no clue about Islam, it was a mystical religion that relates to the Middle East.

Today:

Masjid in almost every city

Islamic schools

People know Islam as a name but the majority still doesn't know what Islam is really about.

A lot of negative publicity a minority of vocal bigots and extremists are spreading a message of hate about Islam for political gain and personal agendas. Islamophobia spreading. The majority of the people continue to have no clue about Islam. We as a community failed in that regard.

Future:

O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other. (Not stay away from each other or look down at one another people)

Stop being a closed Muslim community and extend the hand of help to non Muslim. Masjids in the bay area give their talk in native language which means people who don't speak the language are not welcome here. We need to be visible in a positive way, become the person people can depend on in your street, in your company.

The Pew Research Center, 30 percent of Americans say they know "not very much" about Islam and 25 percent say they know "nothing at all." Failing grade.

The American people are getting their "information" about Islam & Muslims and the Quran from Pastor Terry Jones, Rev. Franklin Graham or Newt Gingrich? All they hear Messages of hate we are not there. On TV

American all they hear is Islam is a religion of war of terrorist, we need to change that image and make people see True Islam, the religion of peace.

People in general are afraid of what they do not know. We need to communicate with America, with our neighbors, our co-workers, with everybody that we get in touch with. I don't mean do Dawah (invite them to Islam which would be great) but I mean like what the companions of the Prophet did, when non believer interacted with them they admired their character and morals. Each one of us is an ambassador of Islam. Positive experience vs. negative experience. Don't be afraid to say you are a Muslim. We can change the public opinion, don't underestimate your power. One person is 7MM American who has a positive opinion of Islam and Muslims.

Importance of Media, not only television and radio, but also, internet, facebook, twitter and everything else. And we have to master them.

The Prophet knew the power of media. Hassan Ibn Thabit the poet. Poetry was a media of the time.

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) as saying: O (hassan), give a reply on my behalf (write poetry); Allah will help you with Ruh-ul-Qudus.

In the media, where are the Muslims commentators, news reporters, analysts that can represent the true majority of Muslims in this country. Make America feel good not only about American Muslims but about Islam in general.

Invest more in people than in buildings. Fancy carpet and fancy walls are not going to get us closer to Allah or helps us invite people to Islam. The Majsid of the Prophet (pbuh) was very modest. The Prophet (pbuh) was investing people that will lead the world and not buildings.

We need to direct our children to other careers; we need more lawyers, more people with political science degrees more people with communications, public relations and advertising degrees.

We should establish Islamic scholarships to encourage our youth to get into those fields.

We must have a positive **political** role in America, this is our country.
Vote.

We are 7 MM Muslims in this country 2.27% of the American population. Congress 535 members only 2 are Muslims; we should have at least 12 members in congress that would care about Americans interest in general and Muslims interest in particular.

Young Muslims who were born in this country and American who converted to Islam we must give them a major role and a leadership role in the development of our community.

They understand the culture; they think the same way that other Americans do. But first we have to make sure that they have a good balance of Islamic knowledge, political knowledge and ability to communicate clearly.

We as older people will be behind them to guide them so they can benefit from our experience and knowledge.

When choosing a spokesperson/representative we must choose the right person for the job. Not because he is from my country, tribe, or because he is older or richer.

The Prophet (pbuh) chose Ossama Ibn Zayd, 17-18 years old as head of the Army. Older people were in his army, Abu Bakr, Omar, etc., because he was the right person for the job.

Learn from other groups in America. How are they successfully communicating with America? It does not matter if they are non Muslim

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "Wisdom is the lost property of the believer; wherever he finds it he has the right to take it."

We have to have a solid unity. Bringing with differences and mistrust from back home. Stop fighting with each other. It definitely does not help Islam.

The Prophet said, "A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other." The Prophet then clasped his hands.

I strongly believe that in the 21st century, Muslims living in the west will play a major role in the revival of true Islam. So each one of us should ask himself or herself not only what I can do for myself and family but what I can do for my community and for Islam. On the Day of Judgment Allah (SWT) will ask each one of us what have done for Islam; are we prepared with an answer?