

Ramadan Newsletter

Ramadan 1431

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Zakat - Frequently Asked Questions Answered

Dr. Ahmad Sakr

Sound Vision consulted Br. Ahmad Sakr to find out about some of the frequently asked questions about Zakah and their answers. Ahmad Sakr studied Islam in Lebanon for 12 years with 20 different scholars from all parts of the Middle East. He learned Quran, Hadith, Fiqh, Seerah and Dawa from them.

Sakr is also director of the Islamic Education Center in Walnut, California.

These are the questions and answers he has given. (Please note that Imams differ in detail of some of the answers):

Question #1: What is Zakat-ul-Fitr?

Zakat -ul-Fitr is for fasting Muslims to give food or money on behalf of fasting people. The food or money is equal to one day's meals for one person. The head of the family pays this amount on behalf of each person in the family. If he is responsible for his mother and father,

then he has to pay Zakat ul Fitr for them too.

If a person cannot fast permanently in the month of Ramadan (for instance, because of illness) they have to pay Fitra for each fasting day.

Question #2: How much Zakah do we give?

The amounts are the following: 2.5 percent-on annual savings that are Zakatable

5 percent-on agriculture being taken care of by a farmer who is planting and irrigating from his own money. During harvest time, he pays five percent from the total crop.

10 percent-on a farmer's product if it is being irrigated by rain

20 percent-on resources like oil or precious metals (i.e. gold, silver) which you find on a piece of land that you own. Sakr notes that this is "your property, no one has the right to nationalize it". You would pay 20 percent on what you produced in one year.

Question #3: Do I pay Zakah on my house and car?

(continued on page 3)

No, as long as you have one house, whether you have paid it off or not. If you have a second house for investment purposes, this is Zakatable. You would pay 2.5 percent on the total saved from the house. This excludes what is spent on maintenance or property taxes and insurance.

It's the same thing for a car. If you are renting a car to someone, this is consid-

Iftar Sponsorship

Whoever feeds a fasting person will have a reward like that of the fasting person, without any reduction in his own reward.

Your sponsorship of \$1,500 will provide iftar and dinner to 375 of your brothers and sisters. Stop by the Office and sponsor a night today!

Zakat

The ICC will be accepting your Zakatul Maal and Zakatul Fitr donations throughout the month.

100% of the money we receive will go to needy Muslim brothers and sisters across the valley

Inside this issue:

ICC Qiyam Guidelines	2
Zakatul Fitr Information	2
ICC Upcoming Events	3
Community Events	4

The first ten days are of mercy, second ten days are of forgiveness and the last ten days are of being freed from Hell.

Answers to Common Questions about Zakat (continued from page 1)

ered a business entity, therefore, it is also Zakatable at 2.5 percent.

Question 4: Are businesses Zakatable?

First of all, the business should be Halal. There are three opinions amongst the scholar:

1. If a businessman earns a certain amount from his business, whatever he saves after taking care of his family's needs and his business expenses, he pays Zakat of 2.5 percent on what he has saved.
2. A businessman has to pay Zakah on the commodities in his store. This would require evaluating the purchasing power of the commodity and then paying 2.5 percent on this amount.
3. Everything is from Allah and everything goes back to Allah. The more you give on your commodities, the better, and it does not have to be 2.5 percent.

Question #5: Should Zakah be paid only once a year?

The early Muslims actually paid Zakah everyday instead of paying in a large bulk once a year.

Some scholars have advised that we plan in advance for our Zakah because we might die and our inheritors may not pay the Zakah we owe.

Another group of scholars say for businesses, you should pay in advance. The way you would do this is by estimating how much business you will make and pay 2.5 percent.

If you decide to pay Zakah daily, give a specific amount to one of the eight categories, but nobody but you and Allah should know that you are giving, since some will feel it demeaning and insulting.

Question #6: Should Zakah be paid in Ramadan

Most Muslims prefer to give their Zakah in Ramadan be-

cause there are more rewards for doing so, but it is not necessary to pay Zakah in this blessed month.

Sakr noted that Muslims are in need throughout the year, not just in Ramadan, so we can benefit Muslims by paying other times of the year as well.

This newsletter was prepared by the Islamic Community Center of Tempe (ICC). If you are interested in submitting an article or have any questions, please contact the ICC.



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Ramadan Word Search

MONTH	L D W H E X L A N D A B F Y J
DATES	V A A Q W J S P A B M M J Q P
EID-UL-FITR	H T Y P R A G T D O A J C Q N
FASTING	Q A N L M Y E I N L F O B Z L
IFTAR	T R I R A S B T S G B B F Q M
ISLAM	F A N M O T H I Q I R W L E Z
LAYLAT-AL-QADR	A W T T F O - R M P T A G O P
MOSQUE	S E H I O G H A A H T S T S M
MUSLIM	T E M N K E K U L M Y U I F U
NINTH	I H I S J U I H S - A S M E I
RAMADAN	N L L P J Q V D Y Y Q D F I I
SUHOOR	G X S C I S O X J E K A A G R
TARAWEEH	N E U P W O T U L U P G D N K
	L S M Q K M G C H W B V C R D
	S Y T F R T I F - L U - D I E

Making Ramadan Special for Your Children This Year

The nature of Ramadan is to arrive suddenly and to leave just as quickly. Between work, preparing Iftar, coming for Tarweeh many of us often spend less time with our children during this month.

Raising good Muslim children in the West is a challenge. Ramadan is an excellent training ground for us to teach our children Islamic values.

Here are a few simple ideas to spend more quality time with our families this month.

1. Hold a family meeting to explain what Ramadan is, what Muslims do and how the family's schedule will change. Also ask for suggestions of what everyone would like to do during the month. For instance, would they like to take a trip somewhere, eat a specific type of food, etc.
2. Welcome the month with balloons, banners and more.
3. Tell a Ramadan story during bedtime every night every night.
4. Let them fast even a quarter of the day and celebrate.
5. Make Ramadan loot bags for their class.
6. Make a presentation about Ramadan in their class.
7. Make Ramadan arts and crafts at home.
8. Make a family rip out of sighting the moon.
9. Invite their friends over for a kids-only Iftar.
10. Invite grandparents or elder community members over for Ifar.
11. Make a Ramadan 2009 scrapbook.
12. Remember the poor.
13. Make and send homemade Ramadan cards.
14. Play Ramadan songs.
15. Take them to Tarwih prayers so they feel like they are part of the community.