

## Starting Masjid Jafar Bin Abi Talib

Asalam Alikum brothers and sisters,

It has been a while since I wrote something as I have been traveling a lot. Insha Allah my travels will go down a little and I will go back to writing. I miss that too.

It has been a dream of mine that I have talked about for years to have a masjid in Atlanta called Jafar Bin Abi Talib. Here is why:

- 1- Jafar (RAA) represents the spirit of giving (he was nicknamed the father of needy)
- 2- He represent interfaith work and his impact on Najashi in Habashah
- 3- He sacrificed his life and body for Islam
- 4- And on a personal note I was alarmed by the cartoon movie Aladdin where the bad character was named Jafar. When I mentioned that name to my kids they had a negative reaction. This will be an educational opportunity.

As a matter of fact I am a big proponent of naming the masjid by the Sahabah names to use that as a tool to educate our children about our glorious Islamic history and the sacrifices made by those who preceded us. Allah SWT says (in translation):

“And those who say O, our Lord, forgive us and [forgive] those who preceded us in Ayman”.

### Why we need more masjid?

I have said this many, many times that there should be a masjid or a mussallah with a 10 minute drive of every Muslim so that one will be motivated to attend daily prayers.

We do not need big places but adequate to hold Friday prayers. Right now many masjid hold two Jumaa prayers due to lack of space. This is accepted due to need but is not generally an accepted practice without overriding need. By having more masjid, we alleviate this condition.

### Where will masjid Jafar be?

Alhamdulillah we rented a 2,500 SQ FT place in a business building with plenty of parking. We are working with the city of Johns Creek to get the occupancy permit Insha Allah. So this may take time. The place is right behind Kroger on the intersection of Jones Bridge and State Bridge roads. The address is:

11030 Jones Bridge Rd

Suite 310 A

Alpharetta, GA 30022

### **Why having two names?**

Our incorporation has been named Al-Rahmah Islamic Center so that our work in Turkey and other places for the shelter will have a meaning others relate to from a giving point of view. Al-Rahmah meaning mercy is a suitable name.

The masjid is called masjid Jafar for the reasons I explained.

### **What do we need and how can you support us?**

Starting a masjid is obviously an expensive endeavor but the rewards are immense Insha Allah. We simply need startup money and we are hoping to raise a modest \$20,000 for this start. You can help us by writing a check in the name of “Al-Rahmah Islamic Center” and give it to either myself or brother Naeem Mullah.

### **Who is leading this effort?**

Few generous brothers led by Naeem, Shahir, Yusuf, Dr. Saqib among others are leading this effort with the bulk of the leg work done by brother Naeem.

### **What is my role both in masjid Hamzah and masjid Jafar?**

The conversation about masjid Jafar started years ago as I mentioned so there is no relationship between my past or current role at masjid Hamzah with masjid Jafar. I will continue to serve masjid Hamzah Insha Allah in the same way I have the past few months in whatever capacity the current management asks me to.

### **Dinner this Sunday**

We plan to have a small gathering this Sunday Insha Allah at a restaurant (to be named) around 6:30. Please email me back if you are interested in joining us.

Jazakum Allah Khairan