

Dawah at Borders Books During Ramadan...

The Muslim American Dream is Deeply Rooted in the American Dream

"The Muslim American Society, in association with the leadership of Imam W. Deen Mohammed, stands as a bright light of hope for all of the Muslim World because we have the Qur'an, the Example of the Prophet, our Mu'alim, and the power of independent thinking in an atmosphere of political stability and religious freedom.

"We are also a hope for America, destined to contribute as others have to the American Dream."

—From Mukhtar Muhammad, *Genesis of New American Leadership*, 2000

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — National book retailer, Borders Books, at its Jacksonville site, recently became a powerful venue for the message of Al-Islam and the clear commentary of Imam W. Deen Mohammed.

On Sat., Dec. 15, 2001, Al-Hajji Mukhtar Muhammad delivered a resounding presentation to a diverse audience, on "The Muslim American Dream is Deeply Rooted in the American Dream."

The theme comes from a national book tour for the title, *Genesis of New American Leadership*, referred to as one of the most powerful books from the *Muslim American perspective*.

Mukhtar began his presentation with a reference to September 11 and how the world has changed in its aftermath. "Now more than ever, this is a time to search within our faith and religion for guidance with the hope that

tomorrow will bring a more peaceful situation globally, he stated. "I'm in the field of leadership, management and organization ... and have been trained to focus on operations and effectiveness, results, outcomes, consequences and effects. As a student of management and religion, I have come to the conclusion that what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, is a result of a failure of leadership.

"We are going to talk about that today, but more important is that we should know how to be part of the solution and not simply be content with diagnosing the problem. While our military is addressing the short term solutions to terrorism, the long term solutions lie in the realm of ideas and communication of a proper vision of what G-d expects of us (individually), as a society and as a global community.

"The framework for micro or

macro interpersonal relations begins with a respect for the human soul that G-d has placed in all of us. It is my hope that this afternoon, each one of us can be a catalyst for positive change and understanding; it is a goal that demands the Genesis of a New American Leadership across the boundaries of faith, ethnicity and gender," explained Mukhtar.

It was a powerful message that resonated upon all ears, as the growing crowd gathered around to hear what was being said. Mukhtar, using graphic models, touched first on the fields of psychology and sociology, to introduce the common needs of all human beings as individuals who, therefore, must be created by the same Creator.

He addressed how religion, more than anything else is responsible for the progress of

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(L-R) Jamillah Abdullah, Linda Elmore, author Mukhtar Muhammad (C), Sandara Shabazz and Swiyah Mateen at the Borders Bookstore, a plus for Bro. Mukhtar and Islam.



Part of the audience at Borders Books and Music in Jacksonville who heard a powerful message of hope in the oneness of humanity and the Oneness of God.

Muslim American Dream is Deeply Rooted in American Dream

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man in his individual and societal life. He gave a clear explanation of Islamic beliefs in "six primary areas" of religion that shape beliefs, thinking, actions and faith; they are the Reality of G-d; Nature of Man; Man's Relationship with G-d; Man's Relationship with Man; Man's Relationship with Society; and Life after Death (and the Day of Judgement).

Then he introduced a model concept of establishing a just order for society through leadership, government and legislation. He explained how man's intellect (alone) is not big enough to manage the complexity of his own life, much less the life of society involving a multitude of citizens.

"Man needs Revelation and when G-d gives him the Revelation, he needs further guidance (from G-d) for applying it. The application of law and legislation cannot simply be orderly and regulated, but it also must be just. And justice can

only occur when rights, responsibilities and respect flow from the individual to society and vice versa.

"When the type of society comes into existence that respects the Word of G-d and the intellect of the people through their participation in decision making for their affairs and the safeguarding of rights to education is of paramount concern to leadership, then a just order emerges.

"America recognizes the rights of the individual and the society and respects the inherent worth that G-d gave every person. America says it's self-evident, meaning we are not going to waste time debating about it; every human being (male and female) is endowed by his Creator with certain inalienable rights, rights that can't be taken away by the slave master, by Communism, Zionism, by the KKK or the Taliban.

"These rights for the strongest or the weakest are also

protected in Islam and from the cornerstone of Islamic leadership and government, and that's why the Muslim American Dream is Deeply Rooted in the American Dream," concluded Bro. Mukhtar.

During his talk, Mukhtar encouraged the audience not to lose hope in the face of risk and uncertainty and to remember that G-d is always in control. He shared the good news of how Muslim American Society leader, Imam W. Deen Mohammed, is (and has been) in the forefront of American and world leadership to bring about respect, cooperation and brotherhood among the various religious communities.

"We hope that our media recognizes a responsibility to bring legitimate voices of Al-Islam before the American people and the world. I believe that such responsibility is in the interest of global peace and security," Bro Mukhtar explained.

A brief overview of the

Imam's accomplishments and the Focolare and MAS relationship were given. At the book signing, information pamphlets were distributed from the commentary of Imam W. Deen Mohammed and *Muslim Journals* were distrib-

uted and an invitation issued to hear Imam W. Deen Mohammed in Hinesville, Ga., on Feb. 10, 2001.

(*Genesis of New American Leadership* is available from WDM Publications; see advertisement in *Muslim Journal*.)

