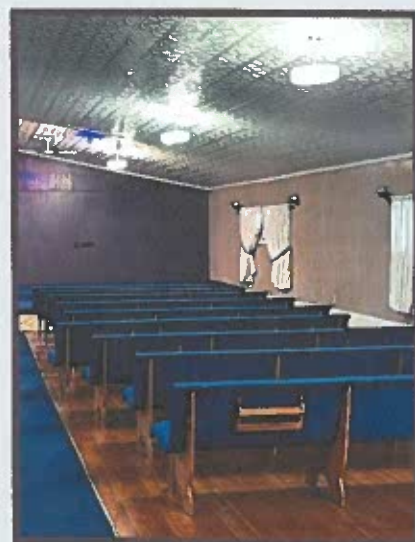


THE NEW MOSQUE



By the Glory and Will of Allah SWT, the Valley Muslim Community Foundation has been able to purchase a new masjid (mosque). The masjid, which was originally a church, is located in Harrisonburg, Virginia—and is significantly bigger than the previous Al Akram masjid. In fact, with several rooms and a widened prayer area, the new masjid is soon to serve as a multi-purpose center.

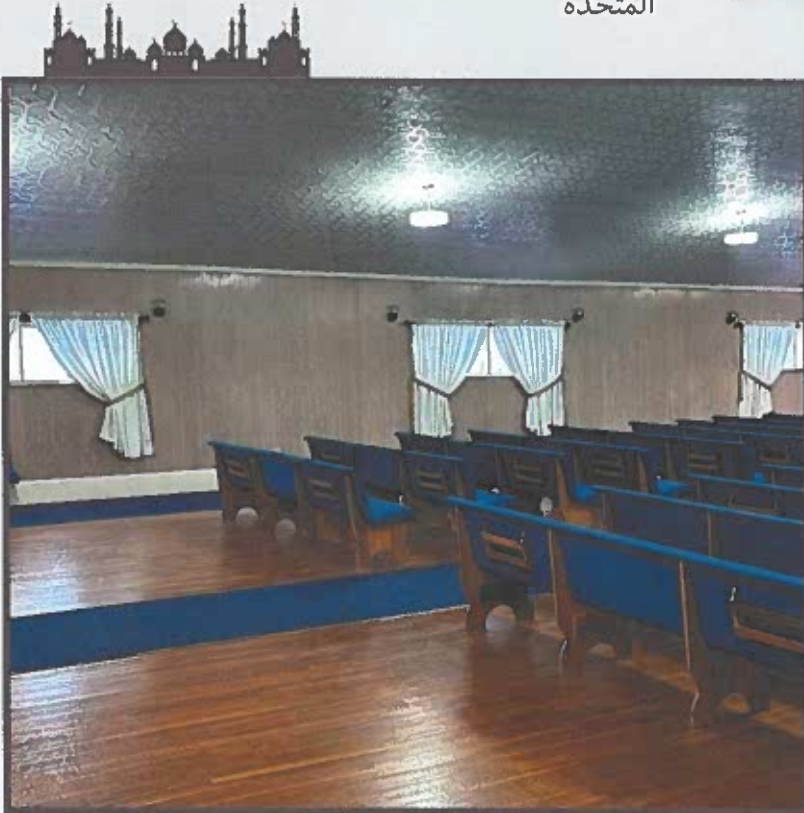
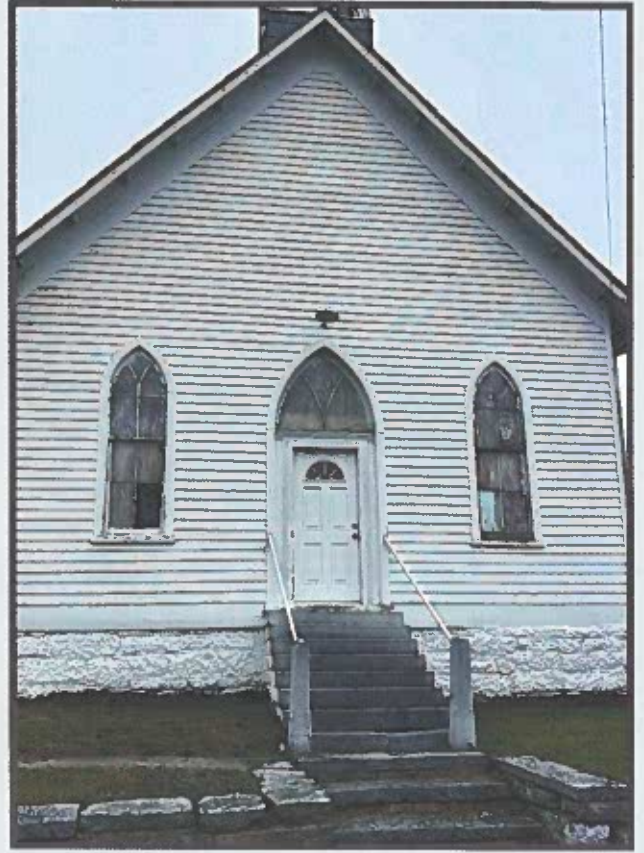
The variety of activities that will take place include Arabic and Islamic lessons for children, youth group meetings, and community-wide gatherings for celebrations. More importantly, parents hope to provide their children a sense of culture and to strengthen the ties of Islamic kinship through the shared space.



Buying the masjid certainly wasn't easy, a sentiment apparent after years of raising money for the down payment, navigating the grueling process of paperwork, and undergoing renovations. But, after the Grace and Mercy of Allah SWT, the VMCF community's cooperation collaboration and shared effort is the key that opened the door to this wonderful achievement. Alhamdulillah!

مسجد جديد

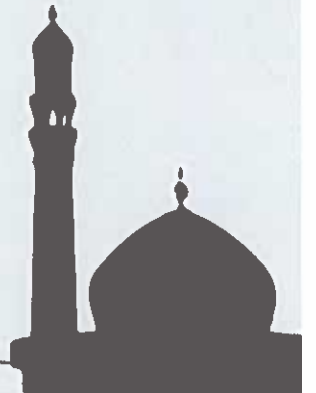
بفضل الله رب العالمين تمكنت الجالية المسلمة من شراء كنيسة وتحويلها إلى مسجد في مدينة هارسنبرغ حيث سيتم تجهيزه وتحويل مرافقه و تأهيلها لتصبح قابلة للاستعمال سواء أماكن الصلاة أو الوضوء أو القاعات الموجودة. وبالرغم من ضعف الإمكانيات المادية فقد تم جمع تبرعات لا بأس بها وسيتم انجاز تحويلات المبنى بأذن الله. ومن المقرر أن يتم افتتاح مدرسة تعليمية داخل المبنى خلال الأشهر القادمة لتدريس اللغة العربية وتقديم دروس في مادة التربية الإسلامية وكذلك تعليم القرآن الكريم لأبناء الجالية المسلمة إضافة إلى القيام بنشاطات اجتماعية تسعى إلى خلق ترابط بين أبناء الجالية المسلمة والعمل على تمكين ابنائهم من التعرف على الدين الإسلامي من أجل الحفاظ على هويتهم الدينية والثقافية في الولايات المتحدة



املين أن تنعكس أنشطة المسجد بشكل إيجابي على أبناء الجالية خصوصا في ما يرتبط بتعليم اللغة العربية ومبادئ الدين الإسلامي. هذا وقد تمّت أول صلاة في المسجد

الجديد يوم 16\11\24 بحضور جمع من أبناء الجالية المسلمة

Article by Aya Zuhour, edited by Israa Alhassani.



“PALESTINIAN CULTURE EVENT”

This event was hosted at JMU on 11/15/2024 by Students for Justice in Palestine, to educate the students about the Palestinian culture and to share a meal prepared by the Muslim community. A few people volunteered to speak about culture in Palestine. Muawia Dames read some chapters from “Living Through The Nakba: Tales of a Palestinian Youth” by Nina Bazouzi Cullers who is a Palestinian woman, recalling her life under the Israeli occupation. Three Palestinian sisters, daughters of Zaher Zuhour, talked about the Palestinian culture. Ayah Zuhour spoke about the resilience and the deep roots of the culture and the fight against Israel stealing major factors from the culture. Dima Zuhour talked about the mass destruction in Gaza and the heritage sites in Palestine. Finally, Sara Zuhour talked about the deep meaning of the olive tree, and its connection to the land and ancestors. After each speech the audience were allowed to discuss what had been said, to get a good understanding of what’s happening. The event concluded with Palestinian songs and people dancing the Palestinian dabke, uniting everyone beautifully.

Photo 1: Dima Zuhour speaking at the event

Photo 2: Sara Zuhour speaking about the importance of the Palestinian olive tree

“PALESTINE AND ME”

This event was hosted by the SJP (Students For Justice in Palestine) by JMU students on 11/12/2024. This event welcomed four faculty members to talk about Palestine’s history and their stories and experiences, to present to a crowd of over 60 people of students and community members. Professor Israa Alhassani talked about what happened in Palestine between 1900-1948, under the British Mandate. Dr. Tim Seidel spoke on the Nakba which happened in 1948 the day millions of Palestinians lives changed and the recent history of the conflict. Dr. Robert Bersson talked about his story of experiencing his personal journey to Palestine. Finally, Dr. Hasan Hamdan shared his family’s experiences and history under the occupation. Once the stories were shared, the event concluded with two JMU students joining the panel to answer and discuss questions from the audience.



Credits

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"Palestine and Me"

"Palestinian Culture Event"

"A New Mosque" (Arabic)

Hind Mousa:

"Preserving Heritage: VMCF Arabic School Opens Its Doors in Harrisonburg"

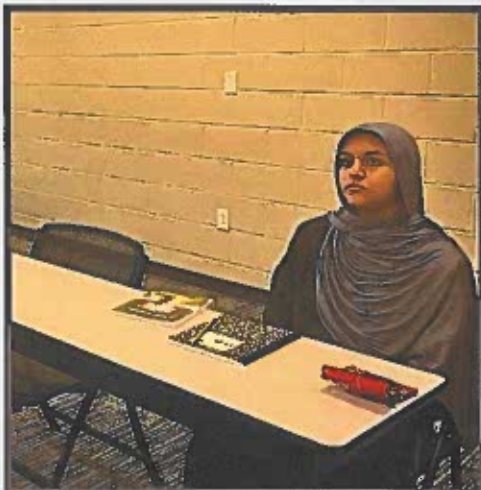
"A New Mosque" (English)

Photography:

Sabrina Hamdan



Students at arabic school break time, taken by Sabrina Hamdan.



Young girl focused in her class, Photo taken by Sabrina Hamdan.



Photos of the interior of the new mosque, taken by Sabrina Hamdan.