



TAM 2009: Sessions Descriptions:

General Session 1: MAS: A Society of Brethren

Format: Lecture

Audience: All attendants

Description: A lecture style session where the speaker talks about the value of brotherhood in our mission. An emphasis that such a mission cannot be achieved except with a high quality team(s). We should emphasize the "Team Players" objective of MAS Tarbiya Department. We should talk about the qualities of this objective and what can damage it. We should also talk about the fact that there may be others in the movement who aren't necessarily part of MAS and they deserve a certain level of brotherhood as individuals and as organizations. We should also emphasize some practical items to initiate, nurture, and maintain such a precious quality which is an obligation upon us.

Objectives:

- Foster a spirit of brotherhood entering the meeting
- Understand the importance of being team players
- Understanding the importance of brotherhood in our mission
- Motivate and excite the attendants. Inspire them to serve Allah with there fellow brothers and sisters.

Time: 60 minutes

Speakers: Mazen Mokhtar (East), Dr. Imad Bayoun (South), Dr. Imad Bayoun (West), Imam Ahmed Elkhaldy (Midwest)

General Session 2: The Mission and Vision of MAS

Format: General presentation and lecture

Audience: All attendants

Description: This is a general session about the Mission and Vision. It's origin, the need for its current articulation and briefly how MAS leadership is planning to implement it nationally. MAS leaders will briefly discuss the origin of the mission and how the mission came to be as it is currently stated. The majority of the session should be used to show a current and general road map of what the plans of the Executive Council are, moving forward to implement this mission.

Objectives:

- To establish a foundation of understanding of the Mission and Vision
- To show the process of its articulation.
- To excite and motivate the attendants for the upcoming TAM and MAS National's projects.

Time: 45 minutes

Speaker(s): Dr. Ahmed Elbendary and Ayman Hammous

General Session 3: Achieving the Mission – The Role of MAS Tarbiya

Format: Lecture

Audience: All attendants

Description: This session brings to life what the essence of Tarbiya is and how it not only impacts our personal lives, but how it also affects our Mission serving Allah. This session will simplify the term “tarbiya”. It will clarify its purpose in our work and how it is a core value of our efforts. The lecture should specifically address any misnomers or misuses of the word “tarbiya”. This session will also go over the value of tarbiya. Following the inspiring talk from MAS leadership, the Tarbiya department leadership will address the audience on what the Tarbiya department will do to implement this Mission. It will also clearly define what the role of the Tarbiya department is in fulfilling this Mission.

Objectives:

- Clarify tarbiya and develop the attendant’s shared understanding of it as a core value of Islamic work
- Develop the understanding of how tarbiya is integrated in the Mission.
- Convey how the Tarbiya Department will implement the Mission.

Time: 40 Minutes

Speaker: Dr. Wael Hamza

General Session 4 & 5: MAS: A Society to Fulfill an Obligation Part I & II

Format: Workshop

Audience: All members

Description: This session is important for all MAS members especially those who are new to MAS. The session goes through a systematic discussion arriving at MAS mission starting from the foundations of Islam. It should walk the audience, using an intellectual and sharia-based discussion, through their obligations as Muslims. The audience will understand their obligation to shoulder the message of Islam and work to serve it. They will also be able to defeat many misunderstandings around this issue. The discussion will move towards the necessity of doing this work collectively creating a movement of workers and organizations defeating many misunderstandings around this issue as well. The session will present MAS as a platform to fulfill this obligation and help the audience understand its mission and its unique methodology to achieve such a mission.

Objectives:

- Help the audience to understand the sharia foundation our mission is based on
- Help defeat many misunderstandings and misconceptions regarding working for Islam and working for Islam collectively
- Develop the understanding and the conviction that MAS is a very effective platform to fulfilling such an obligation
- Help the members discover some of the core values of MAS and MAS methodology

- Let the audience leave with the conviction that MAS is society to fulfill an obligation, a very important collective obligation. This obligation is: the Mission of MAS

Time: 180 minutes (2 90 minute Sessions)

Speakers: Dr. Hisham Abdullah and Mazen Mokhtar (East), Dr. Wael Hamza and Mazen Mokhtar (South), Dr. Hisham Abdullah and Mazen Mokhtar (West) and Dr. Wael Hamza and Mazen Mokhtar (Midwest)

General Session 6 & 7: Tarbiya for Outreach Part I & II

Format: Workshop

Audience: All attendants

Description: In this session, the instructor and the audience will analyze the outreach component in our mission and translate it into a set of projects and departments. The audience should be able to know the major categories of the outreach work required to accomplish our mission (interfaith, civic and political engagement, relief efforts, coalition building, etc.). The instructor will move to the required tarbiya effort to prepare the workers and volunteers who can lead/participate in such effort. The quality of these teams will be discussed, the tools and the programs to prepare them will be examined and suggested, and the necessary culture and the environment within MAS will be described. Last, but not least, the tarbiya benefit of such programs on the society in general, since this is a strong tool to influence the society) will be discovered. Also, the tarbiya impact on those who work for those causes will be discussed and analyzed. Going through the workshop, the audience will be able to understand the outreach work and the tarbiya crew should be able to design, implement, and follow up with tarbiya effort that helps furthering MAS outreach causes.

Objectives:

- Develop a clear understanding of the outreach effort in MAS and its relationship to the Mission
- Bring to the members' attention and the tarbiya crew in particular the importance of outreach work
- Understand the tarbiya qualities and the skills needed by an outreach worker and leader
- Help develop tarbiya programs and the necessary culture within MAS to further this effort
- Understand the positive (and the negative) consequences of outreach work on MAS members who participate in such effort

Time: 180 minutes (2 sessions, 90 minutes each)

Speakers: Hossam Aljabri

General Session 8: The Usra: Examining a Tool to Achieve the Mission

Format: Moderated Interactive Discussion

Audience: All members

Description: An in-depth analysis of the current usra system in MAS. The usra system is one of the major tools for tarbiya in MAS. This interactive session will cover and analyze

the current usra model in MAS. It will cover questions such as how effective and relevant is the usra as a tool for tarbiya? This session is meant to, not only analyze the usra system, but more generally to understand how to evaluate any of the tools we use for tarbiya. This session should help us further develop our understanding of tarbiya and how to implement it into all of our work.

Objectives:

- Make members think critically and analyze a tool for tarbiya
- Help members develop a deep understanding of tarbiya and how to implement it into all of their projects
- Measure the tool of the usra against the yardstick of our mission and the 5 objectives
- Gain valuable information from members about important topics
- Use TAM to allow feedback and discussion
- Create excitement among members and a team spirit

Time: 90 Minutes

Speakers: Wael Hamza

General Session 9: Connecting to Our Creator - The Spirit of a Muslim Activist

Format: Lecture

Audience: All attendants

Description: Taqwa, God-consciousness, is at the heart of everything we are discussing throughout TAM and everything we do in MAS, and it is one of the five tarbiya objectives outlined in the MAS Tarbiya plan. MAS members should strive for the highest standards of God-consciousness and spirituality, because the mission we carry is one that requires the purest heart and the strongest connection with Allah (swt). This session will emphasize the criticalness of being deeply connected with Allah (swt) and maintaining the highest level of taqwa. It will identify some common challenges and pitfalls that we face as MAS members, and also outline some of the specific things we must be doing as MAS members in our worship and spirituality.

Objectives:

- To understand that God-consciousness is the foundation for everything we do in MAS; from the understanding to the activism, the planning, the implementation, the interactions
- To set the standard for MAS members to strive for the highest level of God-consciousness in themselves
- To explain and contextualize the God – conscious tarbiya objective through practical examples and contextualizing it in the life of the activist
- To give practical prescriptions for building God-consciousness in ourselves and to communicate what each individual MAS members should be doing in their spiritual development

Time: 30 minutes

Speakers: Dr. Mohamed Sadiea (East), Dr. Imad Bayoun (South), Sheik Abdeljalil Mezgouri (West), Dr. Sameera Ahmed, (Midwest)

General Session 10: MAS Meeting with the President

Format: Prewritten questions from audience answered, follow up questions from audience and follow up to clarify answers

Audience: All attendants

Description: MAS President will provide an opportunity for the attendants to learn about the work and progress of MAS National in fulfilling the Mission and moving to achieve the Vision of MAS. The questions will be regarding the specific strategies, projects and initiatives that MAS is implementing in furtherance of this mission. The focus of the questions should remain in the tarbiya value of the national implementation of the MAS Mission and Vision.

Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity for attendants to learn more about the progress of MAS National
- To learn more about the leadership's implementation of the Mission. How they perceive the Mission and hope to fulfill it.
- To learn more about the leaders of MAS

Time: 60 minutes

Speakers: Dr. Ahmed Elbendary

Multiple Clinics

Format: Brief talk introducing the topic and an interactive discussion among the expert and the attendants

Audience: All attendants will register for two 45 minute clinics

Time: 90 minutes – Two 45 minute clinics

Description of Clinics:

1. Usra Troubleshooting

Instructors: Eman Atef (East), Mohamed Shalaby (South), Imad Bayoun (West), Imam Ahmed Elkhaldy (Midwest)

Description: What are the goals of the Usra? I've attended an Usra for years but am not really benefiting from it, what should I do? How do I effectively lead an Usra with the Tarbiya objectives in mind? How should I deal with my Usra members lack of motivation and commitment? If you have questions like these or others and just feel like you're a little confused about the Usra, then this clinic is for you! This clinic aims to help tackle common Usra issues. Attend, be ready to ask question, share your experiences, and discuss with your fellow members!

2. How to Give a Tarbiya Oriented Camp

Instructors: Sharif Aly (East), Muhammad Esam Abdullah (South), Bhwana Kamil (West), Nadeem Siddiqi (Midwest)

Description: So you love attending MAS camps? Got the skills to plan the logistics? But what about the Tarbiya goals/component of the camp? How do

you ensure camp attendees actually better and develop themselves? How do you make sure tarbiya is actually the central theme and goal for the camp? Whether it is a MAS Youth Tarbiya and 'Ilm Camp, MAS Family Camps, or any other type of MAS Camp, tarbiya is our bread and butter and it must be a central goal for the camp. This clinic is not about the logistical component of planning a camp. Instead, it will address how to effectively incorporate tarbiya objectives into the organization and planning of your camp and allow for discussion. So if you're thinking about getting involved in planning a MAS camp for your city... then this clinic is for you!

3. How to Organize MY Revive/Monthly Meeting from a Tarbiya Perspective

Instructors: Abdel Rahman Hamed (East), Marwan Marouf (South), Allaedin Ezzedine (West), Tazeen Ayub (Midwest)

Description: Involved in your chapters MAS Youth Revive programs or the Monthly Meetings for all members, or some other similar events? Not sure how to make the program really successful from a tarbiya perspective? Want to learn how to inject your program with a dose of MAS Tarbiya? Then make sure to attend this clinic! This clinic does not cover the logistical aspect of planning these programs, but it will address and allow for discussion on how to develop these programs from a tarbiya perspective. So bring your experiences, questions, and pen and paper ready to learn and discuss!

4. One – on – One Tarbiya Skills

Instructor: Ayman Hammous

Description: Do you deal with people on daily basis, at work, in the masjid, in your committee? Do you want to learn how to leave a positive influence on everyone you interact with? Do you know that you have to plan for every individual you deal with in order to help them? Do you know that you can personally benefit a lot from interacting with people through a tarbiya effort? Do you know that one on one tarbiya is more effective than public and large group tarbiya efforts? Do you realize that every one of us is a murabbi and has a role to play? Do you have challenges dealing with people and have no clue how to solve them? Many questions, some answers and plenty of discussion are found here. Come and meet Ayman Hammous

5. Tarbiya's Role in the Mission

Instructors: Wael Hamza

Description: Do you have questions regarding the strategy of MAS Tarbiya Department? Do you want to know how to implement these strategies locally? Are you running low in tarbiya crew and you do not know how to get them? Are you challenged organizing local tarbiya effort? Do you have a project you want to promote nationally? Have you ever heard of the Lighthouse Project of MAS Tarbiya National? Do you want to learn how to utilize it? Do you want to contribute to it? Do you have ideas of how to realize and achieve the 5 tarbiya objectives? Come and meet Wael Hamza for more discussions

6. Youth Psychology and Counseling Skills

Instructors: Marwa Aly (East) Najeeb Kamil (West), Muhammed Aftab Diwan (South), Duaa Haggag (Midwest)

Description: Do you have youth who are having trouble committing? Do they have issues going on personally that they are keeping from you? Or do they want to share their concerns with you, but you are unable to advise them or to assist them? Our youth today are facing many different challenges and in order to support them and move them towards developing their connection to Allah (swt), we need to understand them. These local experts, will not only help you understand your local youth but also help you advise them, assist them or support them. This clinic is a must for the youth worker trying to build trust and love amongst the youth!

7. Intellectual Obstacles in Achieving the Mission

Instructor: Hisham Abdullah (East and West), Mazen Mokhtar (South and Midwest)

Description: Do you really understand the sharia aspect of the mission? Do you have any misunderstandings around it? Are you challenged with many questions from people who shy away from joining hands with us? Do you get tough questions about MAS and MAS methodology? Do you fail to convince people that what we do in MAS is an obligation and someone has to do it? Do you ever fail to convince them to join and help? Do you have follow up intellectual questions and discussions from "MAS: A Society to Fulfill an Obligation" workshop? If so, this is a clinic you should plan to attend!

8. Overcoming Challenges in Staying Committed to the Mission

Instructor: Hossam Aljabri

Description: Were you really excited and so committed in your early stages in MAS and now you do not feel the same excitement? Don't you wonder why people who were committed aren't committed anymore? Do you know how to renew this commitment in you and in people around you? Have you ever thought that the solution may be much easier than you think? Do you know that staying committed for a long time is one of the toughest challenges that can face a Muslims? Have you ever wondered why some people do not ever stop working? Don't you want to be like them? Do you want to know how to bring back some people who are no longer active? Do you miss the good early days? Do you feel that MAS needs a new spirit? Don't you think you should contribute to this new spirit? You do not know how? This clinic is what you are looking for.

9. Understanding and Addressing Islamophobia

Instructor: Bilal Kaleem (East)

Description: Do you know that Muslims in America, especially Muslim organizations, face well-funded, well-organized opposition dedicated to preventing mainstream Muslim organizations from getting any traction in the public sphere, and MAS gets perhaps more than its share? Come join a discussion on what is this organized Islamophobia, what drives it, who are the

key players, how does it play out, what are ways to address it, and how does tarbiya fit into all of this. This is perhaps the largest external challenge to the work that we do. If you have aspirations to be effective on a scale larger than your local masjid, then you must sign up for this clinic.

10. Charity: Tarbiya & Outreach in Practice

Instructor: Imam Ahmed Elkhaldy (South)

Description: Don't you think charity in Islam presents an effective way of promoting justice? Are you aware of the tarbiya implications on the poor and on the rich when they interact in a charitable cause? Do you know that this cause is an inherent part of Islam and accordingly of our mission? Have you ever thought of practical projects to do so? Did you ever think how can this be a platform of conveying Islam by conveying its values? Have you ever wondered what projects that MAS does to give people a platform to engage in such an effort? If you have any of these questions, come and meet with Imam Ahmed Elkhaldy, MAS Service Corps. Director.

Special Saturday Parallel Workshops:

The Position and Role of Chapters & Regions in MAS

Format: Workshop

Audience: Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents or chapters representatives

Description: MAS Chapters play key role in the execution of MAS plan at the grassroots level. This session discusses practical and realistic suggestions to help MAS chapter heads. Some new tools will be introduced which will help in regional networking, sharing and development. The session will also be a floor for chapter heads to identify issues that are facing them in their work as chapter heads and will discuss openly with MAS leadership how to address it. Session is only open for Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents or chapters representatives.

Time: 90 minutes

Moderator: Imran Rafiq

New Financial, ERP & CRM System for Chapters

Format: Workshop

Audience: Chapter Financial Officers, Chapter Presidents, VPs

Description: This session will introduce the following:

- * Finance Department Initiatives and road ahead
- * Finance Department as a resource to the chapters
- * Finance Department general guidelines
- * Introduction to the new upcoming MAS Financial, ERP & CRM System

The workshop will aim to clarify Finance Dept. structure as well as its relationship with Chapters. Some of the key initiatives will be shared which are geared towards establishing a solid foundation nationally thereby becoming a resource for all Chapters. The Financial ERP & CRM System will be introduced, which will help MAS Chapters in

making better decisions. This is a powerful solution that's quick to deploy, easy to use, and flexible enough to support all chapter processes. It will increase collaboration and improve relationships with members, MAS National, other chapters, partners, customers and vendors. Session is only open for Chapter Financial Officers, Chapter Presidents, VPs.

Time: 90 minutes

Moderators: Nauman Khan and Almas Shodan

Khawater: Reflections

Format: Short talks after prayer

Audience: All attendants

Topics:

1. **Proactive Spirit at MAS events**
 2. **Lessons on Islamic Activism from the Digging of the Trench**
 3. **Lessons from Dar Al-Arqam**
 4. **The Worship of Staying Healthy**
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