

Br. Inayat Nasim and Sr. Ashi Nasim

By: Br. Abdulaziz Mian

Both Br. Nasim and Sr. Ashi were born in Pakistan. They got married in Pakistan in 1975. The family migrated to Winnipeg, because Sr. Ashi's brother was living in Winnipeg. They liked the Muslim community in Winnipeg. They were greeted and welcomed by many families such as Br. Asghar Shah, Dr. Riaz Usmani, Br. Nasim Doghar, Br. Javed Bukhari, Br. Rana Akram and Br. Bashir Rajput's family.

Br. Nasim had a Masters Degree in Chemistry and Sr. Ashi had a Masters Degree in Education. Br. Nasim changed his field and studied electronics, computer technology and micro processing. He worked for Unisys for 21 years. Initially, Sr. Ashi took on a more difficult career called, "motherhood in Winnipeg". They have three children named: Omar, Saima and Marrium. They are also proud grandparents of Abdullah.

Their first year in Winnipeg was very busy; trying to go back to school while getting established. They were delighted when the new Masjid (current Masjid on Hazelwood) was built in 1976. Br. Nasim can remember the agony of not having a place for Jummah prayer. Words cannot describe his appreciation for those people who helped build the Masjid. He wants to take this opportunity to say special thanks to those people who made the Masjid a reality.

Both Br. Nasim and Sr. Ashi have been involved in the community activities since 1976. He was involved in arranging weekly and monthly seminars. Br. Nasim also served as an executive member for one term in the late eighties. As a result, he has a better appreciation for the executive members. He knows what it takes to do the job. This is why he appreciates and supports various committee members who are making a difference. He believes that each one of us should serve on a committee for at least one term.

Br. Nasim enjoyed doing the work in the background. He has been looking after the Public Address system since 1980. He was advocating for a bigger Masjid before the land was purchased. He helped start the MIA newsletter in 1995/96 which was renamed to Al-Nasar. He has also served on maintenance committees throughout the years. He also takes great pride in solving electrical problems at the Masjid. He had been part of the An-nur Weekend Islamic School Committee for a number of years. In addition, he teaches at the school on an ad hoc basis. He has been offering Sunday get together at the Masjid with refreshments. The purpose of the gathering is to create friendship and religious awareness. He served as President for the Pakistani Association for one term. He also served on the city's race relations committee for one term.

Sr. Ashi also has a keen interest in helping the community. Over the past 23 years, she has been involved in many MIA committees including bake sales, Ramadan iftar committee, and ladies halaqas. She also taught Urdu classes under the Pakistani Association. She has served as a board member for Al-Hijra Islamic school for three years.

They know that the MIA executive is overburdened with many issues. They have seen many positive changes over the years and are hopeful that this momentum will continue. They believe that after the new centre, the community will need to focus on other issues such as:

- Shelter for needy/abused women
- Graveyard for the community
- A place for senior citizens
- As the Muslim community is growing, the constitution needs revision
- MIA-endorsed policy on dealing with deceased Muslims at the hospitals. Some great work was done by Br. Wali al-Rehman but it needs to be endorsed and enforced by MIA
- Have a get-together (i.e. barbeque) every summer for our neighbors close to the Masjid

They feel our biggest challenge in coming years will be to deal with the rapidly growing community, their needs and our unity. This is one of the reasons for their Sunday get-together initiative. They want to take this opportunity to say Eid Mubarak to everyone, encourage Muslims to get involved in the community and be/stay united.

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