

About Faith And Cultural Exchange Inc / FACE Inc

'FACE Inc' or 'Faith And Cultural Exchange Inc' is an incorporated non-profit association, established November 2006. We are presently a small organisation of family and friends, formed initially with a view to potentially providing settlement programs to new immigrants and refugees. We found though that that service area was already well-covered and turned our hand to the educational needs of the poor in our President's country of birth, Chad, which is in the middle of North Africa.



The 'Care for Education Project: Chad', or CfE was established in June 2007, in Farm Belila, north of the capitol, sponsoring 12 children from an ex-nomadic extended family who had never before been to school and undertaking plans to eventually build an Islamic School in the area. In the ensuing months, an after-school Madrassa began, employing a live-in Sheikh to teach the children Qur'aan and Islamic studies, and a Masjid/Mosque building commenced construction on land donated for the purpose. In January and February 2008, an attempted coup gripped the capitol Ndjamenas.



Much of the population was displaced, though briefly, the coup failing. The unrest did unfortunately mean the Sheikh we had employed left the area not to
faithandculturalexchange@hotmail.com.....0423474807.....

return and we came to employ a highly-respected elder of the local community in his place. Since that time, the Masjid/Mosque building has neared completion with the women's area under construction in October 2008.

Corresponding with September 2008 came Ramadan 1429. Responding to the desperate poverty of much of the population in the area, CfE initiated 'Iftar Sa'im' programs (feeding the fasting at sunset at the break of fast) in Ndjamenas proper and Farm Belila, reaching approximately 50 people per day for three weeks of fasting.



We also provided many families with bags of food crop by way of the Zakat-ul-Fitra payments required before the end of Ramadan for this purpose.

InshaAllah when the Mosque building is complete, the local people will pray and meet there, and the Madrassa program will move-in. Planning has begun for the establishment of an accredited Arabic-based Islamic school with Quraan faculty. (Chad has two official languages; Arabic and French.)

In the short term we would like to sponsor many more children to attend the local French-language school and after-school Madrassa program. Presently, we are researching the requirements (human, logistical, financial) of setting-up the school and for its on-going maintenance. It is intended to also establish a business of some sort in addition to ongoing charitable donations from which to fund the school. Publicity and fundraising efforts undertaken include the 'Sisters Souq' on 24th May 2008 on the Gold Coast, info stall at Eidfest on 11 October 2008, and inshaAllah the 'Second-hand Souq' on Saturday 22nd November at Kuraby Community Centre, on the corner of Beenleigh Rd and Stiller Dr, Kuraby.

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