

Report on Ladies Classes and 8 Nikaahs that took place in Glencoe

Alhamdulillah 8 nikaahs were performed by Qari Idrees Amana of Newcastle Darul Uloom in Glencoe on the 21 May 2023.

I started an adult lady's class last year in June (2022) and alhamdulillah there has been a keen interest from the Malawian ladies and some of the Zulu ladies married to Malawian men. The two Zulu women accepted Islam last year after they began coming for the classes. I now have 15 ladies coming on a Wednesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. On a Tuesday some of them attend the classes in Dundee as well. The Ta'limi Board (KZN) has introduced a new series of Fiqh setbooks from Grade 3 to 7 and I find them to be very useful as they contain a variety of topics and simple explanations that I am using and expanding on in my adult class.

Whilst teaching from the new Fiqh kitaabs and we came to the section on nikaah. I asked them if they had made nikaah since they are living with the men and already have 2/3 children from them. Their response was in the negative

The reasons they gave were:

1. In Malawi they have to pay the moulana a great deal of money to perform the nikaah
2. A woman in Malawi can "charge" her soon to be husband any amount of money even 100 000 to get married to her and he has to come up with the money. The money then goes to the girls' parents
3. Only the gifts brought by people are given to the couple
4. The wedding is a huge event with everyone attending resulting in exorbitant costs

The men feel that if they make nikaah then they can never marry another woman and the women feel that if they make nikaah they are forced to live with the husband even if he is abusive to her. Because of the huge expenses involved they don't make nikaah.

Three other points that came up was that many people believe that;

- If you stay with a man but didn't make nikaah, then only in the month of Ramadhaan you cannot sleep with him or cook for him.
- On the day of Qiyaamah your children will have faces like monkeys or dogs if you didn't make nikaah
- And lastly, they feel it a great shame that they didn't make nikaah so they hide it

I told the ladies I will try and get a Malawian Moulana who understands their culture and who can speak their language to them to answer their questions about nikaah and any other questions about Islam they might have.

I contacted Mufti Bilal Cassim's wife of Dundee and the mufti organized Qari Idrees and the Darul Uloom muazzin who is also a Moulana to come and speak to them.

I had a week to sort things out like mahr and witnesses. I wanted to give a meal after nikaah and I organized a lady from Dundee to put some mendhi for the ladies on Saturday afternoon before the nikaahs on Sunday just to make it special for them.

Our muazzin, Ahmed Adini who is also from Malawi played a big part in speaking to the men and explaining the purpose of nikaah and explaining deferred mahr to them as these people are deserving of zakaat.

Ingredients for a meal was sponsored by a few ladies of the town that I contacted and our local cook who was kind enough to sponsor the cooking and spices.

Our muazzin and two others stood as witnesses and Waali for all the hanafi nikaahs and Qari Idrees spoke to the male relatives of the 2 Shafi ladies for permission for the nikaah to take place.

One of the shafi Malawian ladies was living with a Christian man. He accepted Islam 3 days before the nikaahs took place.

Qari Idrees and 4 other moulana's arrived on Sunday at 10 a.m. *Alhamdulillah* the talks given first which was very well received.

My husband and son played a big part here in getting everything organized and the nikaah register filled in properly.

Everything went well and 4 men from the Malawian people listening in at the masjid also accepted Islam.

All the ladies were dressed very respectfully and beautifully, the men wore kurtas and hats and some even had waistcoats.

All came up with R500 mahr and no one deferred.

The Glencoe madressa was used to feed the guests and a few of the ladies even helped us to clean and wash up and put everything in order for madressa the next day.

The Moulana's from Darul Uloom really made an impact and I think the people were proud and encouraged to see that people from their own country had become aalims.

The ladies were extremely happy.

Alhamdulillah most of them are coming towards the end of Part 1. Three have started part 2. All read with hijjeh system as that is the way I teach and they understand how the words are formed like this.

All know how to make wudhu and ghusl and perform salaah. Already some know their surahs, duas and kalimas and they make an effort to get together in the weekend, a few at a time and different houses to practice salaah and learn their sabak.

My helper, Fazila has really helped here with making them understand in Malawian if they didn't understand what I was trying to explain in English. She is in the first para of Qur-aan and can read all of her salaah properly and knows almost all the basic surahs and all the duas in salaah.

I started teaching her daily 3 years back. Unfortunately, her husband has got a job in the Cape and yesterday was her last day with me. All the ladies understand about Islam and why it's the only religion.

They are however worried about what their families will insist on doing if they pass away although I have given them forms to sign regarding this but they know it's going to be a huge issue.

The audio lessons for Yassarnal Quran from the Ta'limi Board website is a huge help as well as all the surahs and duas. I have a watsapp group and send them lessons to revise so that they are doing madressa work at home daily. Last year I showed them how to use a compass to find Qibla and managed to get musallas, tasbeehs and burkas sponsored for all.

It is only Allah Ta'ala who gives hidayat and only through Him that all this was possible. Alhamdulillah.

May Allah Ta'ala accept from us all our efforts and sacrifices for His Deen. Ameen

Apa K Ismail

Glencoe

Madrasatu Atfaalil Ummah