

IN PREPARATION OF PRAYER OR TO BE BEFORE GOD

In preparation for prayer or to be before God, one has to make ablution. The basic ablution is to wash the face, hands, passing wet fingers over the head, ears and the nape of the neck and washing of the feet.

AT THE TIME OF ENTERING THE MOSQUE AND

Before entering the mosque remove shoes, first the left foot then the right foot. Enter the mosque with the right foot and while entering pray or supplicate seeking Almighty Allah's mercy by saying "*Oh Allah open the doors of your mercy for me.*" Leave the mosque with the left foot and while leaving pray or supplicate seeking Almighty Allah's bounties by saying "*Oh Allah I ask for Your bounties.*"

The mosques are usually carpeted with a

LAYOUT AND SEATING

design demarcating rows and direction for prayer. The congregation faces the *Qibla* (the direction of the great mosque of Makkah).

During the congregational prayers the Imam (the one who leads the prayer) is in the front of the congregation and the congregation stand in rows shoulder to shoulder.

Praying in such a manner is tantamount to unity, equality and believing in The Oneness of God. Visitors who are not taking part in the prayer should be at the rear from where they may observe the prayer in progress, standing or sitting on the floor or seated on the chairs provided.

DRESS CODE

The dress code must be modest at all times. The male attire must not be tight as to show the outline of the body especially the segment between the navel and below the knee. Females must cover all the hair, the arms to the wrist and the legs until the ankles and the clothing must be loose and not see-through.

DRESS CODE FOR VISITORS

Males: It is preferable not to wear tight fitting clothing. Shirts and long trousers are acceptable.

Females: The hair should be covered with a scarf. Clothing should be loose and not see-through. Long sleeved blouses, long skirt or pants are acceptable.

PRAYERS

Prayers are conducted on the floor beginning with standing erect before God facing the Makkah (the holy mosque). Congregational prayer is led by the Imam and the congregation stands behind the imam in rows. A person performing individually will stand anywhere in the mosque area facing Makkah.

POSTURE OF PRAYER

- a) **STANDING:** Standing position is the first posture of prayer. A person praying should stand erect facing the *Qibla* (Makkah). The feet should be straight and about fifteen centimetres apart. The eyes should be focused on the floor where the forehead will touch during prostration. In this position verses of the *Quraan* (Koran) are recited.
- b) **BOWING:** While bowing the head should be in line with the back. The fingers gripping the knees and the eyes focused between the toes. In this position Allah is Glorified. "*Glory be to Allah The Great.*"

c) PROSTRATING: The act of prostration is done in pairs on the floor. While going for prostration the knees touch the ground followed by the hands, forehead and then the nose. The palms will be directed toward the Qibla. In this position Allah is Glorified. **"Glory be to Allah The Most High."**

d) SITTING: The legs are folded in such a way that the toes of the right foot face the **Qibla**. The hands rest on the thighs and the index finger of the right hand will be raised when the word "no" is read in the testimonial. "There is no one worthy of worship besides Allah." In this position salutations on **Prophet Muhammed** and **Prophet Abraham** are read together with supplications asking for the best of this world and the hereafter.

e) GREETING: The prayers are ended with greetings. A person praying turns his head to the right, greeting those on his right and then to the left, greeting those on his left.

Many mosques have donation boxes for the congregation to contribute voluntarily for the running expenses of the mosque.

STRUCTURE OF THE SERVICE

The five compulsory daily prayers are:

1. **Fajar:** The dawn prayer.
2. **Zohar:** The noon prayer.
3. **Asar:** The late afternoon prayer.
4. **Maghrib;** The sunset prayer.
5. **Esha:** The night prayer

Fridays: The sermon is only delivered on a Friday at noon prayers and it is an important prayer of the week.

Ramadaan: Extra prayers at night are performed after **Esha** (the night prayer)

LANGUAGE OF THE SERVICE

The language of prayer in all mosques is Arabic. The Friday sermon is delivered in Arabic and translated into the local language. The reciting of the Quraan in The Revealed Arabic language is compulsory in all prayers. It is a commendable act and the rewards are great to recite the Quraan, therefore copies of the Quraan are easily found in every mosque.

QUEENSLAND FORUM OF
CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND
MUSLIMS.

Entering A MOSQUE

