

## NL 11 - Reflections Of Our Journey Through Gujarat 2020

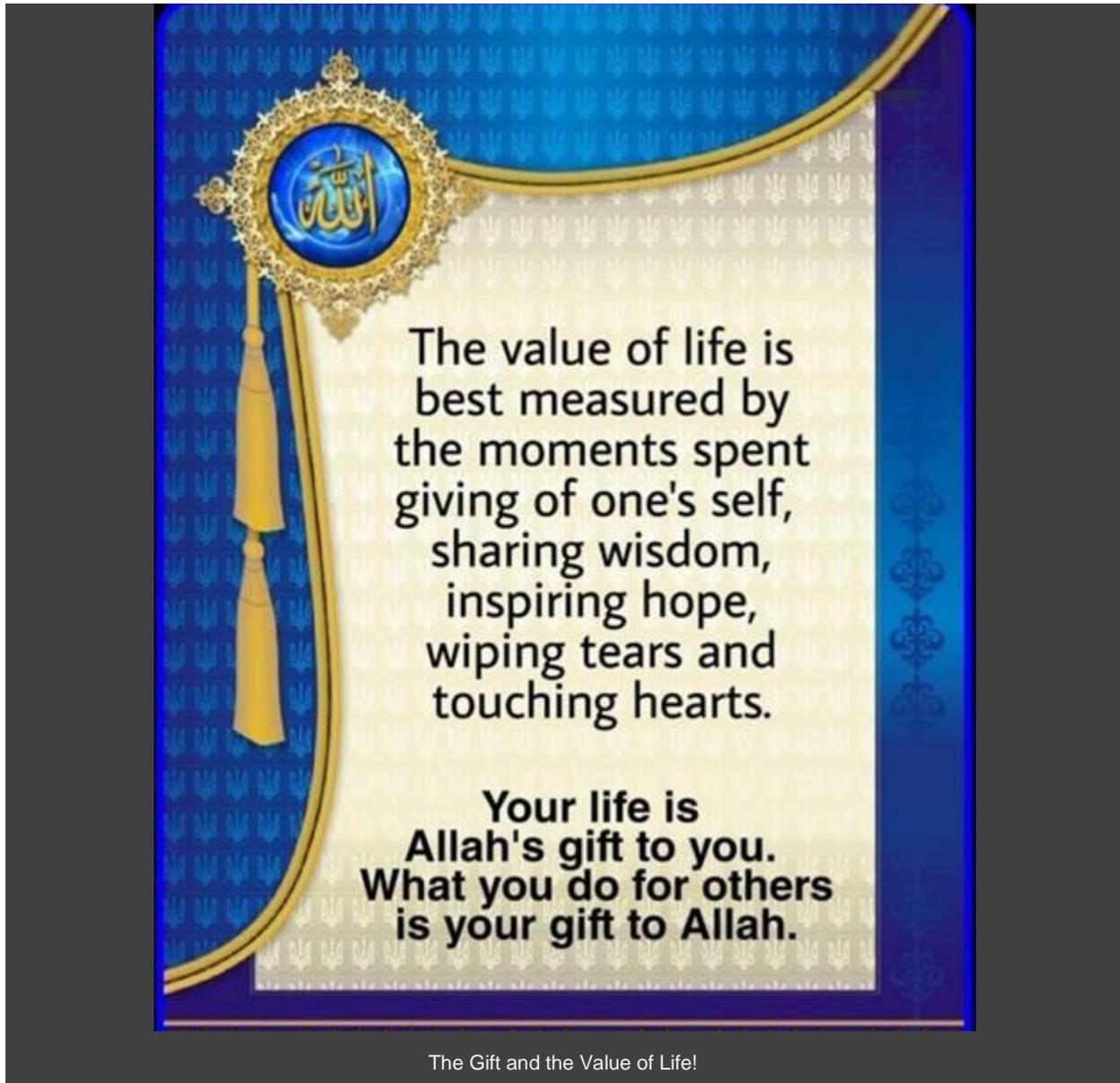
With utmost humility and gratitude, we are happy to report that we have completed our 2020 Journey in Ahmedabad on February 29th.

This three- weeks long, 4000 kilometres Journey took us to many villages, towns and cities where we have our sponsored welfare families and students. During Our Journey, we met many of the 160 students and many of the 35 welfare families in our program. We also met with principals of the schools that our students attend, teachers, hostel management, leaders and decision-makers of many Jamati and private institutions, and Jamatkhana leadership.



This Journey allowed us to see first-hand the progress we have made, challenges we face and strategies that need to be instituted for continued growth and success.

Our mission is sometimes misunderstood in the sense that some feel that our tasks and ambitions are too enormous to realize and therefore best left for big, well-funded NGOs to tackle. Our philosophy is like the popular Starfish story. Once there was an individual who was seen picking up washed-up Starfish and throwing them back into the ocean, one Starfish at a time. When he was told that there are too many Starfish on the shore, and he can't possibly make a difference. He picked up a Starfish and threw it back into the ocean and said, "It made a difference for that one."



Every family that we help live more comfortably with dignity and feel empowered. Every child that we can help get educated and every sick brother and sister we can help get medical treatment surely has to be a source of personal contentment and satisfaction for the numerous sponsors, workers on the ground and the team members.

***Some of the trends we have identified are:***

1. Poverty is deeply rooted and generational.
2. Though the standard of living and the percentage of the middle class in Gujarat has increased, poor people have not experienced any appreciable improvement in the quality of their lives.
3. Many low-income families have realized that the only way to break the cycle of poverty, is to seek

the best possible education for their children. This is the most welcome and heartening observation. Many approach us for help in educating their children.

4. Request for emergency medical funding is on the rise. We have already established two such funds, one in Bhavnagar and the other in Mahuva.
5. Elderly singles or couples with no children or close relatives are a growing group of poor people seeking our help.



Porbandar Jamatkhana.

Our Newsletters go to more than 700 subscribers. Based on the number of comments and questions we receive, it makes us happy to know that many read them closely and are keenly interested in our project. Please help us spread the word and feel free to forward these Newsletters to whoever you feel may be interested in knowing about our work in Gujarat and those who may want to know the challenges and hardships faced by our poor brothers and sisters in Gujarat.

Finally, we want to thank many people who help us, support, and inspire us in our work, which though very rewarding, has many moments of sadness and a sense of overwhelmingly difficult endeavour.

First, we offer our heartfelt appreciation to our very generous sponsors and donors. Our program has grown and blossomed entirely due to your donations, trust and faith in what we do. Please accept our sincere prayers for good health and happiness for you and your families. Please stay tuned for updates on

your sponsored child or welfare family.

We are also very indebted to our staff and team of volunteers in Gujarat. They work diligently in identifying and conducting background checks on everyone that they recommend to us for help and support. They are well known and well respected in their local communities. We acknowledge and appreciate what they contribute to this program and pray for their wellbeing and happiness.



***Our Team at Work!***



Our team members in Canada and the USA, under the leadership of our founder, Razia Suleman, are the backbone and driver of this project. Our reward is your ongoing support and good wishes for the success of this program.

Stay tuned for more.

## The Gujarat Team