

Transcript for Br. Shan and Dr. Khandekar

July 7, 2014

Irem Khan: (Speaking Arabic) on behalf of Rhodes College, Aspire 2014 and Crossroads to Freedom thank you for being with us today. Alright were going to go ahead and start can you tell us a little bit about yourself and start with your name.

Shan Khan: My name is Shan Khan, I was born and raised here in Memphis, I went to school at White Station and here at Rhodes College, and currently a Medical student 4th year and I'm working here at Methodist Hospitals in town.

Irem Khan: Ok and how was it growing Muslim here in Memphis? Were you born and raised here?

Shan Khan: As I said before I was born and raised here in Memphis; lived here almost all my life and I did obviously grow up here and

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you know you have different experiences grow up mostly Muslim Islam south side of Memphis (speaking Arabic) Pleasant View school when it was built we use to play in the parking lot of Muslim Islam, We used to play at Sunday school and had some really nice at Sunday school and we'd learn about our Dean and they had a very good youth group too and history (speaking Arabic) and this stuff about our Religion, we played sports there. We played football, we played Cricket as a matter of fact we started playing Cricket and then uncles joined us we made the Cricket team some Cricket teams there; there are some existing Cricket teams here in Memphis.

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Where we played in Sunday school and we had a youth group a Muslim youth group in Memphis, This youth group was established in the 80's and it was run by high school age youth Adelson's ran that and had different events throughout the year for the youth and also had a seminar entirely by the youth and they brought in speaker from outside and local speakers and it was a weekend long and this effort continued for many, many years up until 2007 and we'd go to (speaking Arabic) and play ping pong there. (speaking Arabic) and our friends would be there and it would be the vocal point where we would like to gather and do things.

Irem Khan: And speaking of the (speaking Arabic) what do you specifically about (speaking Arabic). You specifically spoke about how others specifically do you remember?

Shan Khan: So

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(speaking Arabic) used to be a lot smaller than what it is today. The building on the inside was just the main prayer hall and the sisters' areas were classrooms and the hall had a main little barrier where the sisters' prayed behind it and then there was a classroom then there was a dining area and a multiple used

area where we had classrooms and did Sunday school and then outside there was gravel, there was a tree, there was a little house, there was playground and Jungle Jim we used to play there, then later on they purchased the property next door which is currently were the clinic is and so they were able to use the land there to kinda expand the facility and the parking lot and that were the Down center is now the Youth and Down center and there were able to build the expansion leaving two 1999 or 2000 was one the current

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dining hall expansion was built so it change and the mission a lot of the houses around the area and so you know that's a lot of Muslims live in the area now the demographics had change a little bit at the mission now but you know its change and its improve over the years

Irem Khan: What's part of activity and events did ??? Solomon had and did people do have ??? Solomon

Shan Khan: So ??? Solomon for the past since the (speaking Arabic) setting for Memphis was founded in the late 1960s or 1970s doing this (speaking Arabic) every Sunday or do the tax seed and that's been going on every Sunday around about the hard time and that's been continuously going on that's one thing they do they used to have an adult education classes where different people like Dr. ??? Dr. ??? Dr. ??? And others would teach different

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Things at different times like either or ??? something like that and then Dr. ??? Cereal session for about 2 year's cereal session and then the history of (speaking Arabic) and we did those programs and of course and again we had Muslim youth in Memphis we did youth activity there we did retreats we stayed at the mission than (speaking Arabic) a lot of different things.

Irem Khan: And did you mention having Solomon school kid task or a little bit of history that you might know about Sunday school in general?

Shan Khan: So Sunday school guess I say used to be at the (speaking Arabic) where they multi-purpose areas and every Sunday they have the kids

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come over and they have structure classes about ??? (Speaking Arabic) Islamic history and then I think it as some classes on maybe particular matters and ??? Class and just to go and research basically and then that was every Sunday that had test quizzes and it was kinda formal they have prizes at the end we have pizza and what nut and when Pleasant schools was built in 1997 I believe they shifted them every there have different grade levels for different ages and the same process continue (speaking Arabic) as well pizza you know kids are not there it was just really fun it was very good good educational environment good place to learn about Islam and it continue for a while

Irem Khan: Do you remember some of your classmates and some of the teachers from Pleasant?

Shan Khan: I remember one teacher

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Dr.??? He from south Arabian he a really nice guy very humble man he was pharmacist student teach at Sunday school he was the (speaking Arabic) Islam while he was doing all of this I believe he work to at the sometime a really really nice guy very humble and he was or (speaking Arabic) teacher we remember our Quran with him the brother ??? As well he was also our ??? Teacher brother ??? I remember him he was our history teacher really nice guy moved to Houston I believe history teacher very good Dr. ??? was our teacher at some point about the meaning of the Quran Dr. (speaking Arabic) was our teacher with about the Quran brother ??? Was our P.E. teacher played football and I always wear my Green Bay

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Packers so I was called Green Bay that was the main teachers and Dr. (speaking Arabic) He was our I believe (speaking Arabic)

Irem Khan: Do you remember any of your classmates?

Shan Khan: Everybody all of our friends now a days classmates (speaking Arabic) you know (speaking Arabic) and (speaking Arabic) a lots (speaking Arabic) and you know all these guys they were there mostly know money (speaking Arabic) yea

Irem Khan: You also mention (speaking Arabic)

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Memphis can you tell us a little bit more I guess it was called M.Y.M

Shan Khan: So Muslim youth in Memphis was the youth organization that was started in the 80s as part of the society of Memphis M.S.M and it continue until 2007 where basically infilled it with (speaking Arabic) American which is a program of the Islamic America it's now and it was basically youth lead basically high school students who ran the program they fundraise and did events for the youth like bowling laser tag etc. they had an annual conference where they invite speakers come out of town and had speakers locally they ran it themselves very successful mainly on Sunday school and at ??? Project and it was ran very successful until 2007 where basically a series of unfortunate

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Events happen and leadership crisis and it kinda dismayed

Irem Khan: Do you remember who began?

Shan Khan: I don't know who started it

Irem Khan: Do you know anything about M.YM before Sunday school because a lot of people I guess have ??? M.Y.M to Sunday school it was actually before?

Shan Khan: It was there before the ??? it was sociality with ??? They had it at Sunday school ??? They used to do in events they had contests like the rock contest they had I think Islamic history quizzes and you know I think they had camping and retreats as well

Irem Khan: You also talked about serener that they did every year can you tell us a little bit more serene why it was and who was the audience?

Irem Khan: The serener was for the Muslim community in general and Memphis for Muslim for all ages mainly really high

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schools and above and adults and the serener would talk about topics relevant to the youth of America one was to relevant to American Muslim one topic for example was about loving your neighbor and one was about being a good citizen and a Muslim in America and they were center around these theme and bring different speakers (speaking Arabic) I think in one year they even had (speaking Arabic) come (speaking Arabic) we even of course had local speakers like brother (speaking Arabic) all of these guys and again youth lead the committee organizing committee events committee set-up committee fundraising committee advertising committee and different high school students would be in charge of those committees they take care of it we planned a year an advance

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and we have t-shirts for it we have catering we have programs different workshops schedules prayers most of this would be done at Pleasant View School and it was a very successful we have a very good turn-out it was a very successful event we have actually had people coming from out of towns from Nashville Little Rock Jackson attendance it was kind of a regional summit

Irem Khan: And then I think that you mention a little later after that you mention Memphis Muslim youth and we know that it was an organization that you help found can you tell us little bit M.M.Y

Shan Khan: Right it lead up the lead up to Memphis Muslim can you pause to this please?

Irem Khan: Can you please tell us a little bit about M.M.Y?

Shan Khan: So currently the background to the start of Muslim youth in Memphis after 2007 after the leadership

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failure with Muslim youth in Memphis there was number different ??? To revive the youth program in Memphis notable was one by Muslim (speaking Arabic) they tried but it didn't lasted and then Matthew came in they tried to do things that was brother ??? (speaking Arabic) so they kinda did that they started the boy scouts of America adventuring U.S.A. then they had truth adventuring crew but anyway lead up to that was a group of us went to New York City the group was me (speaking Arabic) I believe that was it oh (speaking Arabic) and

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so we attend a leadership conference in New York it was for youth leaders ??? Then we came back to Memphis and we sat down and chalk out a plan to start restart the youth group and this was in 2009 we went to the conference we to the conference at the end of 2008 and start the ??? in 2009 January than we

got a number of people on board (speaking Arabic) and (speaking Arabic) and so we kinda restarted the youth group and we didn't we made the youth group so that it would be focus on high school students mostly high school and some college students and we wanted young professionals to be their mentors and so we

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set-up the youth group we had an executive committee we had people who had who in charge of events advertising finance community service and I was the director and so we basically sit up we had the Youth in down center ??? Brother ??? He played a significant role in 2008 provide the youth program as well he was the ??? director at ??? At the time he renovated the facility and kinda the hang out place so we adopted that place and we used it and so we had different events we had kickoff events we had a big retreat in spring where we had leadership retreat we learned about leadership community service organizing we did different type of showing positives movies we did a career event called M.Y.M career focus

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were you had different Muslims professionals came in talk the youth about what their job are and go out to their jobs and explore things like (speaking Arabic) restaurants and saw what it does to restaurants and we also did the sports tournaments we had I believe a soccer tournament basketball tournament we did a video game tournaments we did brother game night where we lock ourselves in at the Youth Down center had pizza had food just played video games all night and have a little (speaking Arabic) and then prayed (speaking Arabic) and then go home next day you know eat donuts whatever played soccer outside we did we organized a trip to go to Washington D.C. for the ??? Conference in D.C. so we went there for the 4th of July got to go around the capital the mall go to the capital building take the tour of the capital building ??? We rose for that ourselves fundraise for that we did our own

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fundraising we had our own finances we even renovated the Down center put a laminate flooring in it, repainted it, brought in computers from Rhodes College actually, set up a computer lounge study area, tutoring program did lots of community serve activities, soup kitchens, worked with MIFA, worked with St. Jude, we did an annual talent show at Rhodes College as part of the Muslims in Memphis citywide and countywide program. We raised over 700 dollars for St. Jude in 2010 – 2011 through that talent show. We had weekly event different (speaks Arabic), talked about youth issues and we had different seminars it was continual every weekend there was something there youth at the ????? every weekend; The Youth and Down Center would be open every weekend it was a very very good program (speaks Arabic) by the grace of ?????? we were able to have over 100

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to 150 youth participant in this program and it lasted until about 2011 from were by that time M.I.C. had already started up and a lot of the youth had moved to M.I.C. and they might say that M.I.C. youth started up with the (speaking Arabic) and a lot of other people helping out with that (speaking Arabic) all these guys.

Irem Khan: So with so many different transitions of the youth does the same youth just go to everything or does the youth change?

Shan Khan: So of course over

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a giving period in time you have the same youth coming because you know when there that age they'll come, but as they rotate out go to college and what not they turn into being more mentors and help mentor the younger people that are coming up and you see usually the first people to come are the people who usually go to the ???? or whose parents usually go to the ???? and who bring them. Then overtime when they start coming and permanently established you get people who are not as regular and tendons at the ???? to come because there friends bring them and tell about all the fun things like hey look we saw this food or a ???? who went bowling one playing paintball or went to DC or went to Huntsville, Alabama, or Chicago or wherever we went and its fun. So they start coming and they start coming and they start coming to the fun events and they start learning about the dean as well and then you know we'd always go and pray whenever there was time for prayer we'd stop 5 minutes before prayer and pray. So some of the people that came didn't know how to pray

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didn't know how to do ????, but they saw their friends doing it and they learned from their friends and they learned in the process and then they started praying regularly and they got closer to the dean by the grace of ????? and now you see a lot of those people coming to M.I.C. regularly. As young people and then as part of youth program at M.I.C. helping mentor other youth and now some of them are the leaders at M.I.C. so it's definably a positive effect and it's a chain effect.

Irem Khan: Before you motioned that you fundraised your own funds with M.L. Moore can you tell us how you did that?

Shan Khan: So basically what we would do is we would go, we would sell our own ???? and our own grilled meat. We would go to the Muslim shops in town get chicken, get bread go to other places to get ingredients we had some help from the local restaurateurs and getting some recipes and

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we'd go to one of our friends' houses and ????? house and prepare the chicken ourselves and we'd use a message grill sometimes grills and we'd prepare the ??????? and make about 70 to 80 ?????? and we'd sole them and a drink for *Shan Khan:* 5.00 dollars and we'd raise a lot of money with that, we were able to finance our local programs and we were able to finance partially the renovation of the Down Center and then when we had the Down Center in place we'd have a ???? we'd sell snacks, ????, candy bars, soda, juices and people would buy that. Occasionally we'd sell popcorn like at different eve carnivals we'd sell popcorn we made in a popcorn machine that we had and we'd sell ice creams, snow cones and it very self-sufficient run by the funs committedly that ???? ran.

Irem Khan: And can also talk about the renovation that u did

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at the Down Center?

Shan Khan: So we had this idea to renovate the Youth and Down Center because it became flooded one time and the carpet was moldy so we'd decided we'd take it out repaint it make it look really nice kinda make it like a lounge area for the young people to come after work, after school, college so they can just chill study; So got help from the ?????, we got help from some of the brothers in construction partially ????? and we got a bunch of the youth, we've got laminate flooring vs which is kinda like hardwood flooring and we fixed it ourselves he helped us prepare it and showed us how to do it and then we did it ourselves. Before we did that we painted the walls and the roof with different murals and designs and we put the flooring in we had 2 TV's on the walls, we had an Xbox and a Wii and we had computers hooked up to the TV's, we had our computer lounge

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on the other side and our desks and our cafeteria, café were we sold our snacks and we had some sofas and tables and chairs and a board so that's what we did it took us about a day to do.

Irem Khan: And you also before that you mentioned a little bit about boy scouts intervention can you talk a little bit about that?

Shan Khan: So boy scouts in at the end of 2006 beginning of 2007 by Brother ????? ????? ????? and ????? ????? we also had Brother ????? Khandekar helped out his part of that and basically they started a boy scout started with Cub scouts and ????? and once we graduated them kinda in the summer

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of 2007 were we had a boy scout troop and we'd participate and we'd go camping to event at the ???? do local events for the boy scouts go to the local camps like camp ???? in Arkansas, camp ???? in Mississippi we participate in community service it was a very organized thing that continue at M.I.C the boy scout troops it M.I.C believe it is two-twenty was our troop number and they had to go to different size in town and do things like the different size of Islam M.I.C and the adventuring crew was kind of an extension of that it is a little bit older as high school about twenty-one and its more luscious structure more of like a youth five thing but it was for boy scouts of America as well

Irem Khan: Alright know is it anything else you would like to tell us about (speaking Arabic) when you said community service activities by

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M.L.Y

Shan Khan: Right so M.L.Y the goal for Muslim youth in Muslim youth was to bring it was a very community service ???? renovation that goes with exposed a youth the parents take community service in Memphis and make Muslims ???? part of the community in Memphis and to make our youth good people and good citizens of this city and this country as well because we are American Muslims so we always do community service activities we do soup kitchen at Grace St. Luke church and we do soup kitchen ??? ????church it was called ?????? we did we volunteer at the St. Jude marathon do ads station there drink stations we raise

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Money for St. Jude we do massive clean-up at the ??? instead we volunteer at Shelby Farms to do clean-ups on earth day just we volunteer at different ??? events like fundraisers help out of refugees we also did habitat for humanity one day as part of Muslims in Memphis in 2011 we help put a roof on a building some housing for needy families in south Memphis we also help ??? repaint part of their complexes ?????? we was very community service oriented

Irem Khan: Alright anything else about ??? Islam now we are going to transition you to your time in college (speaking Arabic) can you tell us a little bit about Muslim community at Rhodes

Shan Khan: Ok so

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When I started here in Rhodes in 2006 we had an active ??? ????? was the president and we had different people like ????? and a number of people we got ??? and there we had fair size we had about 10 to 15 Muslims here on campus I was one as while and behind the ??? we do a annual fast a thon we had a little dog with the Rodger commit at byer road community we do different events for different speakers that talk about Islam than ??? Muslim in America we did fundraisers we had a winner projects and the first two hours the director for public relations so we treasure that advertising second and third year I was the vice president and my senior year I was surprised that I stay here and we did a lot of again outreach programs

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here talk about slime talk about some position of terrorism talk about ????? we did our annual fast a thon where we had people fasting ????? here it was very popular always very crowd we had little local speaker come here ?????? like talent show when we were we did we got an award in 2008 for the most outstanding ??? for our community service and for our outreach programs out here on campus we do something called T.G.I.J Thank God Its Jamal we would go a hang out every Jamal we go bowling or go watch a movie or go eat at a restaurant all the Muslims it was a very activity I must say everybody would know that we on campus the Muslims are on campus we even manage to established ?????? have an agreement with the chaplain the chaplain office ?????? we

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have a room on campus called the pray room and we were able to have that as our pray room we even did the Jamal prayer here occasionally we had at least the ??? sometimes (speaking Arabic) we have ??? together and ??? very activism must I say

Irem Khan: Now we are going to transition to after that to M.I.C how have you been involve in M.I.C?

Shan Khan: So I been helping M.I.C since 2009 fundraiser I help out a lot and I volunteer that was the main fundraiser in which in one minute it varies all close to 4 million dollars in plagues and money given at that time and I hope volunteers during that time help guide people and people hope tally the

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Donations and keep track of the finances at that time and help with the ??? setup at that time and then the other thing was during the process going to take a picture of the building while it was getting built and once it was built I did photographer for M.I.C I help for the youth program and I help I was on the A.V. team as well I help with the ??? sessions that will broadcast that will record for YouTube and then eventually broadcast live until I went to medical school and then when I came back from medical school here to be my rotation last year I been helping with the youth program occasionally with A.V mostly with to photographer for M.I.C. and during video for M.I.C. and also I founded the medical correspond team medical response team in M.Y.C I just do what I can

Irem Khan: Can you tell us a little bit about the emergency medical response team

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At M.Y.C

Shan Khan: So basically only rotation with that ???? ???? had the idea of doing an emergency medical response team so she basically has it at her church she advise me and guy help me on how to set it up and basically the purpose is to have a team of trained individualizes in place when they first-aid and eventually the goal is to have them trained and else something like community respond team program that the home land security and ??? does here in town across the country actually that won't ??? an emergency procedures like fire drill what to do if there's a fire what to do if there's a tornado what to do if serve weather if there's an intruder on campus etc. different situations so that it adventure go currently

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In the adventure goes have it yet every bus site in town not just in ????

Irem Khan: Can you tell us a little bit about the emergency and medical response team

Shan Khan: Yes the emergency medical response team like I said ??? she gave me the idea of starting the emergency medical response team she had it at her church she could've got in a establish I did research about the type of different people some of the emergency services in the city I would like to show the fire department what ??? they research then finally some of the board members at M.I.C I know some of the other ??? ??? and kind of set it up this time it started training people for it in December of 2013 it involved about six to eight weeks in training and ??? weekends

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training them in different things such as basic first aid C.P.R ?????? basic life support and ??? and heart saver C.P.R courses C.P.R ad ??? ??? courses we had to communicate how to used radios, teambuilding and teamwork emergency response team setting and some you need rules and procedures for our particularly first aid environment. This all culminated in this effort. We did some practice runs and we started actively being on duty, being on call in March about 2014 and since then we've been present at every ??? prayer at M.I.C. and had at least three to five people present at every praying ?????? at M.I. C, and then at every event at M.I.C, every big event such as the ground breaking ceremony in May, at the end of May. The goal is to have the medical response team again be trained

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In first aid, basic first aid, C.P.R. ?????? and kind of emergency procedures like how to deal with severe weather, fire and so on and are in place for the Muslim community and eventually have ??? that every ??? in town and also, to be able to do this so that, you know, in case there's an emergency, in case someone has a heart attack, in case somebody gets injured, there's a fire, so that we can deal with it. We won't run around like chickens with our heads cut off. So, the goal is to be there at ?? prayers, ??? prayers, ???????????? and at big events like "E" carnivals. So, ?? we have about ten to fifteen people who are on the team. Myself I am the director and the coordinator for the team. Dr. ??? is the medical director.

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She helps formulate our protocols and helps update our protocols. We have we've got ??,??,??, ??,??, and ?? and ??,?? Dr. ?? was in ??? Dr. ?? and a number of others who have expressed interest who are on the team. So, like I said. We are there, we have our equipment, we have a ????? in West Islam. Not West Islam sorry. At M.I.C we have our first aid kits that we've assembled ourselves, first aid bags. We have bags out mass. We have

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Radio set we use and we have our protocols organized. We do drills and we have our certifications so that's kind of the promise behind that.

Irem Khan: So, what's the main goal of M.R.T?

Shan Khan: The goal of M.R.T, as I said, is to be present and be able to deal with emergency situations as they arise. Emergency situations such as somebody having a heart attack, someone having chest pain, people that get injured. If there's a disaster such as a tornado, a severe thunderstorm, a fire, that's the goal. And we want to have trained individuals there who know how to do, what to do. And again this is something that we came up with but also it's a federal mandate. The ??? guidelines mandate that there be trained individuals in first aid and C.P.R in a location is what.

Irem Khan: Can you also tell us a little bit about, this is trending to sports I see,

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but can you tell us about cricket?

Shan Khan: So basically, in ????? especially every Friday night and Saturday night, after the ??? prayer, we play cricket. And this has been going since M.I.C. started praying to ?? So basically, a bunch of young people and uncle, older people, get together and we play tape ball cricket. Often times two or three matches and usually these matches last until one or two in the morning then we and a bunch of the other kids are playing soccer and basketball outside. We all go to IHOP and we eat ??? there in the last ten minutes of Ramadan we stay at M.I.C. and eat ??? there and it's a really positive experience. You get a lot of teambuilding, a lot of cohesing spirit, and we've also kind of started to establish the Muslim Cricket League of Memphis. As part of this

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We were going to do some tape off tournaments. ?????????? get the cricket ??? built at M.I.C. We're going to be playing there in the ??? Hopefully, trained are of kind generation in how to play cricket and expand the sport in the city and paly with the other teams in this city as well. And some of what we do with, we also play ping pong. We have an informal ping pong league. We pray. We basically, play kind of after. I ??? everyday outside of Ramadan and the Every weekend, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, play ping pong at least until midnight until after a ?? We've done ping pong tournaments in the past and had prizes for that. It's really a fun environment to be in.

Irem Khan: And talking more about the environment, what is M.I.C. to you?

Shan Khan: M.I.C. is a, to quote what M.I.C's steady goal, it's a family life center. Basically, I's a place where all people of all ages, all backgrounds

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Can come and sort of be Muslim in America. It's about what being Muslim in America. You see people from every single different type of backgrounds. You see people that were born and raised here, people who are born overseas, you see people from different parts of the world. You see people wearing different types of clothes, speaking different languages, but the remaining factors that almost ??? Americans here, and it's an educational environment. You learn about your dean. You have ??? doing his programs, ??? different classes about ??? and you have different programs. That are our sports programs that we do with ping pong, cricket, soccer, basketball. We meet up there for our... it's a focal point. That's where we gather to do our activities, to do our service, to do our deed, to do our citizenship, to eat, to play together, to eat together

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To be together, to learn more about our dean together. It's really the focal point and in ??? Once the new building is built it will be the place where our community goes to basically to do everything. It will be our park, it will be our community center, it will be our gym, it's going to be our school, it will be our place where we have our weddings, it will be our place where we have our fund raisers, in ??? In is kind of the focal point. And for a lot of people, its they look forward to going to it. I can attest the fact that there is no place that I've been to here in this country at least that's like M.I.C I mean ??? I had the chance to travel to a different ??? And ??? Is unique but M.I.C is something completely different ??? And the very

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it has a very perform impact to a lot of people it has drawn a lot of people to come to more towards the dean because of the programs that are there because of the effort and the exclusive and welcoming at the atmosphere at M.I.C for all people regardless of their background

Irem Khan: Where do you see in the future of the Muslim community and about twenty or thirty year in Memphis?

Shan Khan: So if we continue along the path where we are currently and continue along the path of development that we have right now and we continue with building the buildings and bringing more

people in and remanding exclusive and remanding untied like we are currently and then ??? the community will thrive in Memphis and ??? We see the area around M.I.C that Cordova area is populated with Muslims being kinda like a Muslim ??? Where we have Muslims Americans

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Living there going to work there and having business restaurant some shops there maybe we even have a university that's run by Muslims Muslim university and in ??? With either engagement we have with the boarder Memphis community like the enter face ??? We do like month activities that we do community services that we do I think the Muslims professionals and business man we have in this city and how visible we are I think in the future we will be able to be more visible and we will have a really good and positive impact on the city and our community will grow a little ??? And united and I think ??? Future is bright

Irem Khan: Is there any advice you give to young Muslims in Memphis

Shan Khan: Always be true to your deans (speaking Arabic) and always know your roots be aware of your roots at the same time be

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Aware that you're an American Muslim with that means that mean you are a part of an exclusive multi culture community and that you should always try to do what is right by your dean and do what's right for people and don't ever be selfish always try to do what's good and be an active member of your community be an active positive participant of your community

Irem Khan: Is there anything else you like to tell us about the history of ??? Memphis you involvement in Memphis and what you think about the Muslim community in Memphis?

Shan Khan: Like I said if we continue now the path of being united we can go places in ??? And the history from the 1960s until now that ??? I hope it continues.

Irem Khan: Thank you for being here with us today thank you for making time to do this interview with us

Shan Khan: Thank you

Irem Khan: Today is July 17th,

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2014 (speaking Arabic) my name is Irem Khan and today is July 17th and the time is approximately 4:30. Thank you for being here on behalf of Crossroads To Freedom, Aspire 2014, Rhodes College, and all of their partners.

\$ Thank you for inviting me.

@ Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

\$ My name is ????? Khandekar, I'm a practice Cardio Vascular Surgeon in Memphis. I have been here in Memphis since 1975; when I first came here for training in Cardio Vascular Surgery and since then I have stayed back to practice medicine.

@ Where are you from?

\$ I'm originally from ????

@ What was the image of America in your country?

\$ It's a very advanced western civilization.

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@ What made you decide to come to America?

\$ I came to America to train as Cardio Vascular Surgeon.

@ Did you come with anyone else?

\$ Actually I came by myself I had a friend that accompanied me he also came for the same purpose he was training for (couldn't understand) medicine.

@ How did your parents and family members feel about you leaving?

\$ Well I think it was mixed feelings part of them wanted me to succeed, learn what I dreamed to do and of course they didn't want to see me leave them and unusually the idea was to get my training and go back so they are looking forward to that.

@ Did you have any trouble leaving your home country?

\$ Yes I did, of course I was very excited to come here, but leaving my

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family, my home country and adjusting to the lifestyle in this country was difficult, but it was exciting also.

@ Were there any immigration issues?

\$ Not really I came in with an exchange ???? which allows me to work as a doctor and so subsequently I changed that to permanent residence ???? and then I became a citizen when time came.

@ What city did you arrive in?

\$ I came to Philadelphia.

@ Why did you go to Philadelphia?

\$ I started my training there.

@ What was your reaction when you arrived? Was it what you expected?

\$ Yes well because we see images of America in the movies and TV and also little about it in magazine, and books.

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It was a mixture of all of those plus, the reality that here you are in the midst of a new apple fair.

@ Did you feel as though you were treated differently?

\$ I thought I was treated very coolly as long as people knew I was just new here they were trying to be helpful most of the time and then there are people who are not very patient as well, but in general I felt positive about the treatment I got here.

@ When did you come to Memphis?

\$ 1975

@ Why?

\$ I came here to be trained as a Cardio Vascular Surgeon the University of Tennessee.

@ What was Memphis like when you got here?

\$ Memphis in 1975 was a very different city than what we see today. It was still a very

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small city in many ways culturally and diversity wise ethnically and when I first came when you go back to the history we had the civil rights movement was just finished and Martin Luther King was you know killed here and there was still quite a lot of racial divide I must say there was no tension, but I feel a definite distrust or mistrust among the communities.

@ Did you have difficulty fitting in to the new society?

\$ Yes and no yeah I had the advantage of not being neither

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black or white so I could sort of mingle with both parties and to be very objective which helped, also there was a lot of inherit culture that exist in Memphis that I was not familiar with which made it difficult for me to get adjusted to. The language was an issue the accent especially and they did not understand my accent and I having a hard time understanding there draw, but I'm use to it now I can pretty much talk about that and also talk with a draw sometimes I want to.

@ At the University of Memphis was there a lot of Muslims there?

\$ There was some I was mostly associated with the University of Tennessee even though I have some friends

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who went to the University of Memphis as a teacher and some students. There were not that many foreigners especially from our part of the world.

@ Now let's talk about Islam in Memphis at the time, was there a Muslim community in Memphis?

\$ There were few Muslims, but there was not a community.

@ Ok who were the other founders of (speaking Arabic)? Sorry what (speaking Arabic) did you go to? Did you start going?

\$ There was no (speaking Muslim) when I first came.

@ Ok how was the founding of (speaking Muslim) when you came?

\$ Well when we first

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came to Memphis we did not know who the other Muslim were so with time I got to know a few at my work and also outside work and during (speaking Arabic) I got to know the Drummodawns here, but it was not observed as much at that time and then I was told one day that tomorrow is (speaking Arabic) so somebody suggested that we should go pray and they wanted to come to my apartment to pray and that was 2-3 ???? that suggestion that I told them that I do not think you can pray, eat, prayers in somebody's apartment that night in the evening we met at one of the Muslim brother's house his name is F???? F????

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In his house we had a eat dinner where we met few other Muslims. I could probably remember what 10 together two of them come from surrounding cities and we had a very nice time we got to meet some new people and that to me was sort of an s???? show for a ????? ????? after that we got to see each other more often and start talking about building something. So we at first were going to meet at the University centers and UT and also the University of Memphis at that time it used to be called Memphis state University so when we

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met there on weekends we'll have weekend classes H????? classes we also studied teaching our young one about Islam about that time so you do not have M???? we were just thinking about it.

@ Who were the other people that were involved?

\$ I remember Dr. M????, Dr. M????? he has since passed (speaking Arabic) and his family he had a father F???? D???? this is just a few there was just not that many at the time.

@ How did you see M???? Islam grow? How was M???? Islam founded?

\$ Well at that time it was not named M???? Islam; the M???? was named after a

[0:54:00]

long time after we had a Muslim Society in Memphis and Dr. Smiley and F???? we met several times and we decided to form an abolition called Muslim _____ of Memphis which later we were able to buy a piece of property and do a lot of M???? first we had a small property we renovated