

University Of Islam

Muslim School Building Top Educational Center

The University of Islam, largest Muslim school in America, carefully building toward a truly great educational center on Chicago's South side, has already become an international focal point.

The Muslim school—under the direction of the veteran-educator, Sister Christine Johnson, principal—is more than a “tourist attraction.” It has attracted educators and others with serious interest in education from across the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Recent visitors to the 30-year-old institution, which covers the grades from kindergarten through high school, include J. A. Rogers, famous Negro historian and writer, and Mrs. Ruby Shuttlesworth, wife of the embattled civil rights fighter, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth.

OTHERS INSPECTING the school came from Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Egypt, Cameroons, Urundi and the West Indies.

Sister Christine, speaking of the future of the school, which now has a student enrollment of 437, said frankly that “our ambition is to make this school the most modern and advanced institution of its kind in the world.”

“We’ve come a long way,” she added, “and we’ve got a long way to go. But with the kind of support given by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, we will do it.”

Mrs. Johnson, who taught for 15 years in the public school system of Chicago, said a top ambition of the school is to establish a junior college “so that our boys and girls will get the necessary background for admission to any college of their choice.”

A GRADUATE OF Loyola University, Chicago, Sister Christine said the University of Islam will graduate 38 students February 22—six from the high school and 32 from the 8th grade.

The administration of the Mus-

lim school is searching constantly, she said, for ways and means of building the well-rounded student before graduation from secondary classes. With this in mind, the school has instituted a cultural-educational tours project.

“We found that most parents do not take their children to see cultural exhibits when they are very young,” Sister Christine asserted. “This cultural experience is of vital importance in helping the students gain knowledge of the world and its peoples.”

“**IF THE EXHIBITS** are historical in nature, we take the children so they can see some of the past that belongs to them. If the exhibits show something new in science, we want the students to see them so they can keep abreast with what is going on in the world today and tomor-

row.”

Recently the students toured the American Iron and Steel Institute’s “Showcase For Steel” exhibit at Chicago’s famed Museum of Science and Industry.

The scope of the displays covers steel production and technology; its many uses in daily living; its place in modern design and art, and the part it plays in health, educational and recreational facilities.

MRS. JOHNSON said the children are briefed before all tours on what they can expect so they can formulate questions and have a better understanding of what they see.

Sister Christine, who has had experience as an occupational therapist, nurse and National Youth Administration supervisor of arts and crafts, said all teachers at the University of Islam are accredited and degreed. Faculty members have included teachers from Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Haiti as well as the United States.

The Woman In Islam

By Tynnetta Deane

What do we mean when we say, “That’s a Muslim girl or that’s a Muslim woman.” Do we imply the same emphasis and meaning upon addressing a woman of our race who is a Christian? Indeed, the reference is quite different. It is this difference that we must discuss, for our misunderstanding of truth in these days will cause us to lose everything, even to our very lives.

New ideas and new names may at first appear strange to us, yet, we must agree that that which is strange and new to an individual and to a group is the result of their lack of knowledge. For example, when we hear the sound of a foreign language, do we, who only speak and understand English condemn this new lan-

age as being false or incorrect usage because of our lack of knowledge of this foreign lan-

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