

The Episcopal / Anglican
Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa
and the Horn of Africa



“I was in prison and you came to visit me”
(Matthew 25:36)

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Welcome to the June 2011 edition of the bi-monthly Prison Ministry newsletter.

Easter celebration

On the Monday before Easter, Bishop Mouneer and a group from the Diocese of Egypt visited El Kanater prison for an Easter celebration. Usually, the Prison Ministry team can only meet prisoners individually. However, twice a year, at Christmas and Easter, we have the opportunity to meet all the men in a group, and all the women in a group. Together we sang worship songs, prayed and shared in the Lord's Supper. Bishop Mouneer preached, and shared about the real, spiritual freedom that is to be found in the forgiveness of sins.

As a result of a donation, we brought chicken, vegetables, biscuits etc. for the prisoners for an Easter meal. Rev. Samuel Iskander, a member of the Prison Ministry team, is pictured to the right with the food purchased. The Christian group in the prison cooked the food and shared the meal with all of the prisoners.



Reading the Bible in prison

A staff member from the Bible Society of Egypt has started joining the weekly visits to the prison. Through the Bible Society, we have been able to provide for a need for the Bible in different languages.

As well as a weekly church service, the men also study the Bible in small groups during the week. At their request, we recently supplied notebooks and pens so that they could take notes as they read the Bible passages during the week. Thank you to the Bible Society of Egypt for your support!



Prison Ministry

For more than fourteen years, members of the Diocese of Egypt have travelled once a week to visit prisoners at El Kanater Prison on the outskirts of Cairo.

The prison authorities do not provide for all of the needs of the prisoners. Most of the inmates have their needs taken care of by their families. Therefore, the church ministry focuses on foreigners, and the church becomes their family.

The prisoners are in prison for a variety of charges. In some of the cases, they are imprisoned as they do not have a visa.

The Prison Ministry team helps to meet material needs through providing basic food supplies, medicine, clothes and blankets. They also provide friendship and a listening ear, helping to relieve the hopelessness that weighs heavily upon the shoulders of imprisoned expatriates.

Prayer requests

- Pray for the prisoners who are waiting to return home. Pray for the government procedures and that just decisions would be made.
- Give thanks for the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection with the men and the women in prison.
- Pray for the families of the prisoners. All of the prisoners served by the Diocese Prison Ministry are foreigners, so their families are not able to see them regularly, if at all.

Returning home?

After the January 25th revolution in Egypt, the interim government announced their intention to grant amnesty to the foreign prisoners who have spent a long time in prison. However, the government later attached new conditions to the proposed amnesty, which disqualified the majority of the prisoners. Each of the men affected is continuing to work through different channels to achieve freedom.

One of these men, Yusuf, says ;

“We did all that was humanly possible through lawyers, human rights activists, friends and prominent people in Egypt. Yet still no breakthrough. Human effort has proved futile. It may seem like all hope is lost, but I am not giving up hope. I believe that God is in control and that he is handling all that concerns me. I am confident that the prayers of you faithful friends are powerful and effective. God has done so much for me and I am so grateful to him. I believe He is working through your prayers.”

Thank you for your support to our appeal to provide air tickets for these men. We will hold this money until these men can return home to their families. We will also keep you updated about these cases.

Thanks be to God for work of the Prison Ministry. Thank you for your generous support of this important ministry.

May God bless you!

In His service,
Rev. Emmanuel Sapana
Director of Prison Ministry



How you can help

The Prison Ministry team values your support. You can support the prisoners through praying for them. We also welcome volunteers to join our weekly visits.

Finally, the ministry relies on donations to provide for basic needs and for other needs such as air tickets. It costs around \$85 USD to provide for the basic needs of 1 prisoner for 1 year.

You can give through the Diocese of Egypt, or through our partner organizations in the UK and in the US.

In Egypt:

The Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt
5 Michel Lutfallah Street
P.O. Box 87, Zamalek
Cairo, Egypt 11211
Phone: +202 27 38 08 21
prisonministryegypt@gmail.com
www.dioceseofegypt.org/english/

In the UK:

Egypt Diocesan Association (EDA)
Mrs. Elspeth Mackinlay
elspeth.mackinlay@tesco.net
<http://www.eda-egypt.org.uk/>

In the US:

Friends of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt (FADE)
Dr. Randi Wood
blessfade@gmail.com
www.friendsanglicandioceseegypt.org