



أبروشية الكنيسة الأسقفية / الأنجليكانية بمصر وشمال أفريقيا والقرن الإفريقي
The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Bishop: The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis
Address: 5 Michel Lutfallah Street, P.O. Box 87
Zamalek, 11211, Cairo, Egypt
Tel.: +20 2 27380821/3/9
Email: bishopmouneer@gmail.com

المطران د. / منير حنا أنيس
ه ش ميشيل لطف الله
الزمالك القاهرة ١١٢١١ مصر

13 October 2011

My Dear Friends,

In the tradition of the Coptic Orthodox Church there was a story of a Muslim Caliph who challenged the Coptic Patriarch and said *"you have a verse in your Bible that says, 'by faith you can move mountains.'" The Caliph added, "Show me that this verse is true and move the mountain of Mokottam (in the south of Cairo). If you cannot move it, I will kill all the Christians."*

The Patriarch was very sad and worried because he was not quite sure that the mountain would move. He was contacted by a shoe maker named Simon who said to the Patriarch, *"do not worry, let us just pray and fast for three days and our mighty Lord will make a miracle!"*

The Patriarch called for prayer and fasting for three days. On the third day, the doubting Caliph came to see if the mountain would move or not. The worried Patriarch was praying with his people, and behind them, Simon was interceding with confidence.

The mountain moved! The Caliph said, *"I now know that you worship the true God."*

Today was the third day of fasting and prayer. Many of our staff in the Diocese of Egypt, having this story in mind, were expecting a miracle to happen today or tomorrow; a miracle that can show how God will rescue His Church!

Today I have seen a miracle. It was very much like moving a mountain. I went this morning to visit the Grand Imam of Al Azhar. I arrived a bit early and I waited at the office of his advisor. While waiting I saw a bearded Muslim man in his 50's who came to present a proposal to the Grand Imam's advisor. He said, *"I am a Muslim and I live between Tahrir Square and Maspero. I came here to witness that the spirit of hatred against Christians has increased a lot. On the night of the 9th of October when the killing of Christians took place, I met a group of people who were searching for Christians to beat after they heard that Christians attacked the army."*

The man added, *"Hatred is on the rise and I came to witness for this."* He proposed then that Al Azhar must respond to all the thoughts that promote this hatred towards Christians. He also said that, *"I and a group of Muslim writers and artists are happy to devote our time in order to combat this hatred against Christians. We have a list of books we must respond to and correct the false teachings towards Christians."*

The advisor of the Grand Imam said to him, *“this is a very good idea. Why don't we have the idea written and I will present it to the Grand Imam.”*

I did not believe my ears! A group of Muslims are disturbed by hatred of Christians and want to combat this hatred!!!!

To me, this was a miracle!

Who moved the heart of these people? Certainly it is God, who hears our prayers!

Let us continue to pray.

+ Mouneer Egypt

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis

Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa
President Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican
Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

