

Prison Ministry at El Kanater Prison

The Diocese of Egypt
with North Africa
and the Horn of Africa



Project Overview

Context

Kanater Prison is located on the outskirts of Cairo. The prison houses men and women, Egyptian and foreigners. There are more than two hundred expatriates in the prison. Some have sentences for crimes in Egypt. Others have been caught in Egypt without a visa, and are waiting for deportation. Others are applying and waiting for refugee status from UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees).

Need

The prison authorities provide less than half of the inmates needs. Most of the inmates have their needs taken care of by their families. Therefore, the ministry of the Diocese of Egypt focuses on foreigners, and the church becomes their family. The needs of the inmates are both material and spiritual.

Solution

For more than 14 years, members of the Diocese of Egypt have travelled once a week to visit Kanater Prison. They help to meet material needs through providing basic food supplies, medicine, clothes and blankets. The ministry is led by Rev. Emmanuel Sapana from Sudan and the team provides pastoral support, shares the gospel, and pray with the prisoners.

Life impact

200 prisoners receive pastoral support and have the opportunity to hear the gospel. They are provided with basic food supplies, blankets and medicine.

Mission of the Diocese

- To reach the unreached
- To equip leaders
- To serve holistically
- To work for Christian unity
- To dialogue with others

In their own words

“While in the prison I discovered that God loves me so much. I surrendered myself to Him and joined His family – the church.

Since then, my life has changed for better. God has transformed me from darkness to His glorious light, and has given me new desires and hopes. I am now living for Him, using the talents and resources He has given me to serve Him, through my participation in church programs and helping those who are in need.

I was lost but Jesus found me. I am now a child of God (John 1:12). Thanks be to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”



Project Details

Each week, members of the Diocese meet individually with prisoners. They help to relieve urgent needs of the prisoners through bringing needed items. They also provide friendship and a listening ear, helping to relieve the hopelessness that weighs heavily upon the shoulders of imprisoned expatriates and sharing their burdens of life so they're not carried alone.

The prisoners have their own Christian fellowship within the prison and hold weekly church services and Bible studies. The Prison Ministry team is in regular contact with this group, and we respond to their requests. For example, when a group of Eritrean refugees have arrived and need clothes, when a prisoner can leave and needs an air ticket, or when blankets or medicine is needed.

Twice a year (at Christmas and Easter), the authorities allows Bishop Mouner and a group from the Diocese to meet with all of the Christian prisoners as a group. We sing songs, pray, hear the Word of God and celebrate the Lord's Supper together.



Project Profile

Ministry focus	Prison Ministry
Activity	Evangelism and meeting material needs
Total amount required	\$15,530 USD

Funds Needed in 2013

Weekly visits	\$3,300
Celebrations and gifts	\$1,750
Transportation to the prison	\$830
Conferences and meetings	\$1,250
Other ministry costs	\$250
Air tickets	\$5,000
Salaries	\$1,780
General & Administration Costs	\$1,330
TOTAL NEEDED (in US dollars)	\$ 15,530

How to partner with us

We hope that you will consider partnering with us and supporting this project.

For more information, please contact
 Rosie Fyfe
 Diocesan Partnership Office
rosie@dioceseofegypt.org
www.dioceseofegypt/english/