

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)

Dear friends,
Greetings from the Prison Ministry team!

Although it's been a long time since we sent the last newsletter, the Prison Ministry team has been active! Thank you for your prayers, and your support of this ministry at El Kanater Prison in Cairo.

Air Tickets

In April—December 2013, we spent \$1,067 on the following air tickets:

- Abdullah Rasheed, Lagos, Nigeria (\$520)
- Rukayat Oduntan, Lagos, Nigeria (\$477)

We purchased 6 air tickets in total in 2013. This allowed prisoners to return to their home countries, truly a life-changing gift!

Working Together

Our prison ministry is an active part of the **Egyptian Prison Ministry Fellowship**. This group includes people from the Coptic-Orthodox, Catholic, Presbyterian and Anglican churches in Egypt, who serve in prisons around Egypt including Minya, Assiut and Sohag (Upper Egypt), Alexandria and Cairo. All of these groups serve Egyptian prisoners and their families, except our ministry which serves only foreigners. This group is affiliated with [Prison Ministry International](#).



We host the 6-weekly meeting at All Saints Cathedral. The purpose of the group is to discuss common issues, encourage each other, how to improve our ministries and leaders, and to pray for each other. This group is also responsible for organizing annual conferences.

Prison Ministry

Each week, members of the Diocese of Egypt have 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.

Prayer requests

Give thanks for the new officers who are more compassionate to the prisoners. Pray that the prison administration will continue to treat inmates with care and compassion.

Pray that the Prison Ministry team is an encouragement to the inmates during the weekly visits.

Pray for the inmates who have finished their sentences but whose releases have been delayed.

Pray for the inmates who are seeking refugee status. Pray that the UNHCR may accept their cases and assign them for resettlement soon.

Pray for peace in Egypt. There is always a crisis. May His Peace reign in this nation.

Update from the Kanater Men's Christian Fellowship

Our Prison Ministry exists to serve the men and women inside the prison. The men have a fellowship group with its own leadership team. John Servaikaran from India is responsible for the material needs, and Midardo from Sudan is responsible for the spiritual needs. John writes:

"We give thanks and praises to God Almighty for all. We give thanks for this great opportunity for us to worship in this place with His Peace and Love, without significant problems. Praise to the Lord!"

We continue to meet in our canopy. We meet three times in a week. Sundays are worship, Tuesdays and Thursdays are Life Group Meetings and Bible Studies, and discussion and sharing of testimonies. We additionally use this time to have song rehearsal, general prayers in which everyone participates each in his own language, and a "love feast" with sharing of food and refreshment or treats, as our food supply allows. Our meetings last for two hours; from 9-11 A.M., but at times the cell doors are opened late; therefore, we must adjust our program to run with the time.

On Fridays we clean the environments of the prison in a program we call "Community Service". Saturdays we pray Intercessional Prayers and the Leadership Team discuss the fellowship affairs. We also supply to members the Bibles, Hymn Books, writing note books and pens. Also, if financial capability permits, we do social welfare service to the members. All these things we do for the loving and providing for their basic needs. Thanks be to God! By His Grace and Mercy the activities of the fellowship are going well. We have trained new group leaders whom have joined the leadership team and are assisted by Midardo."

Practical Service to the Prisoners

We are in frequent communication with John about the needs of the prisoners. We try our best to respond to the needs of the prisoners. We can only do this because of generous donations. Thank you!!!!

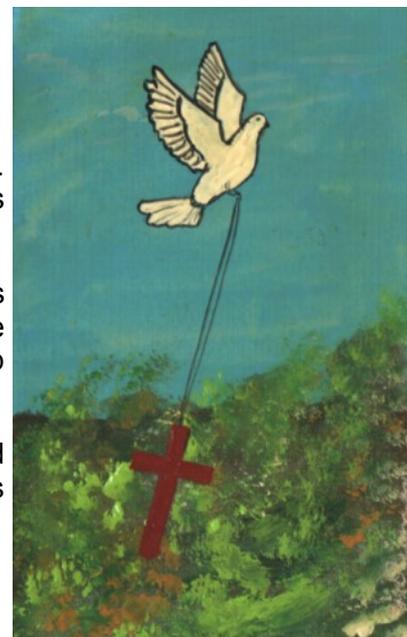
Recently, we purchased some non-prescription medicine for the prisoners such as painkillers, bandages, eye drops, and cough and flu medicine. We also bought 10 each of fans, mops, brooms and rubbish bins for the fellowship group to set up and clean up after their church services.

When 50 refugees from Eritrea arrived at El Kanater Prison, we purchased 100 pairs of socks and 50 flip flops. We spent \$581 on these needs. This is addition to the normal items of food we bring each.

Christmas Celebrations

Bishop Mouner Hanna Anis and the Prison Ministry team joined the men and women at El Kanater Prison to celebrate Christmas on the 23rd of December. The visitors were given hand-painted Christmas cards (pictured above).

We brought 60 chickens, 40kgs each of rice and vegetables, other food, soft drinks for the Christian prisoners to cook a feast for all the prisoners, as well blankets, underwear, and cotton robes for the women, and Bibles in English, Spanish and French. This year, we also purchased a multi-gym equipment, giving the inmates the opportunity to exercise while inside. The men were so happy with this gift!



Testimonies from the Inmates

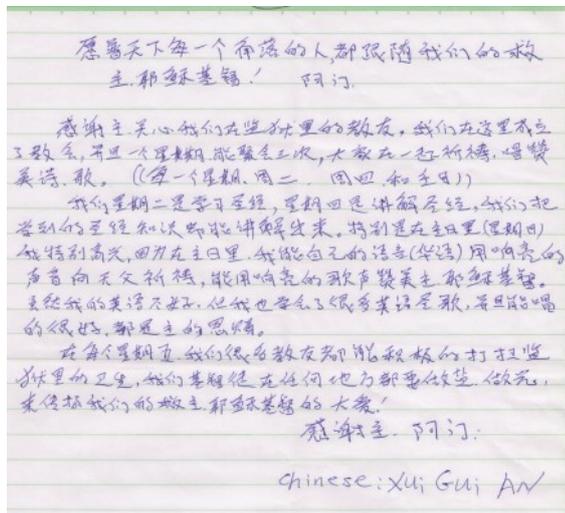
Many of the expatriate men and women at El Kanater prison face long sentences and difficult conditions. Yet many find hope through Jesus Christ. One of the men writes *"while in this darkness called prison, God has shown His light onto us. We have the privilege to gather to pray, worship and hear His word. We have seen this light through His Word and we appreciate this light. This is the Light we are reflecting through the darkness."*

Xui Gui An

"May people living in any corner of the world all follow our Savior, Jesus Christ! Amen.

I thank my Lord for caring about our brothers and sisters in prison. We established a church here and get together three times a week. We pray, sing anthems together, we study the Bible and we talk about the knowledge we learnt from the Bible. On Sundays I am very happy, because we use our own languages, and I pray aloud to our Holy Father, sing aloud to praise the Lord, Jesus Christ in Chinese. Although my English is not good, I learnt a lot of English anthems and I'm able to sing them well. This is the gift from the Lord! Every Friday, many of our brothers will clean the prison proactively.

We Christians should be salt, be light at any place to spread our Saviour Jesus Christ's grace."



Midardo

"Thanks be to the Almighty God for giving me knowledge to serve His people inside the prison. God blessed me to teach and preach His word to the prisoners. Recently God blessed me with a new service in Ramadan. In the month of Ramadan, I serve non-Christians or Muslims by cooking during the whole month of Ramadan for the break-fast of those who are fasting. God said we should love our neighbor, and reach out to the lost ones. Inside prison, I'm showing God's love, and witnessing Christ's Love for mankind. The best way in life is to serve God. Praise be to God.

My favourite song we sing in church is:

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

He is Worthy to be praised and adored.

Let us lift up holy hands in one accord.

Saying blessed be the name, blessed be the name of the Lord!!!"

Wamaba Wamba

"I am from Cameroon and I am an assistant in the fellowship. Ever since I came to Kanater Prison I have had light. I am very proud today because I know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior of the world and I spend more time reading the Bible. As I took the Lord for refuge, I take refuge in the shadow of his wings, as long as the misfortune goes on. Upon God, whose word I praise, I count and am not afraid. He freed me and kept me safe. *For God said: "Reject your burden, put it on the Lord and He will comfort you." Psalm 18: 2."*

Thank you!!

The Prison Team is so encouraged by the friends who support this ministry. Without your generosity, we could not give to the men and women in prison. Thank you for your support and your prayers.

May the Lord bless you,
The Prison Ministry Team

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.

The ministry relies on donations to provide for basic needs of food and transport, and for other needs such as air tickets.

For more information about how you can support the Prison Ministry please contact

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