

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 in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Please find below an update from the Prison Ministry.

### Air Tickets

When some prisoners complete their sentence, they have no money to purchase an air ticket, and sometimes have to stay longer in prison. As a result of donations given in 2011, the Prison Ministry has a fund which enables us to help prisoners return to their home countries.

In the first three months of 2012, the Prison Ministry bought the following air tickets;

- Sunday, returned to Lagos, Nigeria (\$475 USD)
- Victor Smith Basseyy returned to Lagos, Nigeria (\$460 USD)
- Anis Dokah, returned to Juba, Sudan (\$520 USD)

### Anis' Story

Anis Dokah is a 27 year old man from Juba, South Sudan. He is the oldest son of his family, and before being imprisoned, he lived with his mother Susanna and younger siblings as refugees in Cairo.

In 2007, he was sentenced to five years in prison. After he had completed three quarters of the sentence, Anis and the other man who was accused of the same crime were given the choice to leave the prison and be deported to South Sudan, or complete the sentence and stay in Cairo. Anis chose to complete the sentence, because his family lived in Cairo and he wanted to stay with them to support them.

In February 2012, Anis completed his sentence. However, a new condition arose that if he wanted to stay in Cairo, he needed to stay in prison for another 5 years. This time, he chose to be deported to South Sudan, and the Prison Ministry paid for his ticket.

### Jimmy

In February, we received the sad news that a young Sudanese man died in prison. His name was Jimmy John and he was 22 years old. He was caught with a mobile phone during a routine search. As the prisoners are not supposed to have a phone, he was punished by being placed in solitary confinement. He was kept in a dark room where there was not enough space for him to lie down. He had a bad cough, and before he was brought to the hospital he died. Pray that Jimmy's family in Sudan, and the other prisoners, would know God's comfort and strength.

### Yusuf's 40th Birthday

In February, members of the Prison Ministry team joined many other visitors and prisoner in celebrating Yusuf Okechukwu's 40th birthday. It was a joyful occasion!

### 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 Easter service that Bishop Mouneer will lead in the prison on the 10th of April. Pray the prisoners would know the hope that Jesus' resurrection bring.
- In February, 62 refugees arrived at the prison, after being caught trying to cross the border from Egypt to Israel. There is no space for them in the rooms where the men sleep, and they have been sleeping in the corridors. Pray that these men would be provided for, and they would be released soon.
- Give thanks to God for His provision to the Prison Ministry in 2011.

## Interview with Afef

For the past three years, Afef (pictured right) has worked part time for the Prison Ministry. She visits the Prison each week, and she is responsible for buying the food, blankets and other needs for the prisoners.

*Why did you join the Prison Ministry team?*

There are many church ministries which care for old people and sick people. However, few people serve in the prison as you don't see the prisoners so it is easy for them to be forgotten. In 2008, I started praying to God about how I could serve Him. Six months later, I found out about the Prison Ministry and I started to join the prison visits.

*What encourages you about the Prison Ministry?*

The faith of the prisoners. They are always praying. They meet several times each week for prayer and Bible study.

*What is hard?*

Some people have to stay in prison a long time. This makes me upset and sometimes I go home and cry and pray for them.

## Ecumenical Prison Ministry meetings

A few times each year, the Prison Ministry from the Diocese of Egypt, joins with people from the Catholic and Presbyterian Churches that serve in other prisons in Egypt. We meet together to pray, to encourage each other, and share issues. At the last meeting, we celebrated with Rev. Paulos (pictured to the left of Bishop Mouneer) who has served ministries in Upper Egypt for the past 25 years, including Prison Ministry.

## Financial Update

The Prison Ministry relies entirely on donations from individuals. We thank God that in 2011, the Prison Ministry was able to cover all of its costs through the generosity of others.

There are two aspects of the costs; (1) the regular costs of visiting and providing for basic needs, and (2) purchasing air tickets

### Weekly Costs

In 2012, a total of \$10,530 is needed for the Prison Ministry. We have a surplus of \$2,830 from last year, and **we need to raise \$7,700 to cover our costs this year.** Previously we were only able to provide very basic food supplies because we did not receive enough donations. In 2012, we hope to provide more supplies, as we want to be generous to those who have little.

### Air Tickets

In 2011, we raised \$5,530 for air tickets for prisoners to return home. This has meant that we have been able to help people leave as soon as they finish their sentence.

We thank God for your support of the Prison Ministry. Please continue to remember the men and women in the prison in your prayers.

In His service,  
Rev. Emmanuel Sapana  
Chairman of Prison Ministry  
Diocese of Egypt



## 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 and for other needs such as air tickets. We need to raise around \$10,000 to cover our costs in 2012.

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

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