

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)

PRISON MINISTRY

January—May 2014

Dear friends,
Greetings from the Prison Ministry team!

New Prison Ministry in Alexandria

The Anglican Church recently started a new prison ministry in Alexandria, on the north coast of Egypt. This new ministry is co-ordinated by Mrs. Nabila Mansour, a member of the St Mark's Anglican Pro-Cathedral in Alexandria.



There are 8 regular volunteers from different denominations. There are also 4 students from the Alexandria School of Theology joining the prison ministry for the practical component of their training.

The team visit Borg el Arab Prison and Hadra Prison. Borg el Arab is located 45 kilometres south-west of Alexandria. It is a men only prison, and there are 8 foreigners and 250 Egyptians.

The conditions in which the men live are very poor. The cells are underground and have only small windows. Many men share the same rooms and there are no beds, only mattresses on the floor. Skin diseases are common. As most of the Egyptian men are from other areas of Egypt, they receive few visitors and no-one else provides for them except this ministry.

Ministry Activities

- Visiting the prisoners. We listen to them and encourage them, pray with them, sing worship songs and read the Bible together.
- Sending letters to the prisoners
- Supplying material needs (medicine, food, clothes, blankets, toiletries), spiritual (spiritual books and Bibles) and legal support
- Continue to follow up after prisoners after released. For example assisting with finding jobs and spiritual guidance.
- Support prisoners' families through helping them with material and spiritual needs (school fees and supplies for children, food and clothing, gifts at Easter and Christmas)

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

Please pray for Nabila as she co-ordinates this new ministry. Pray for the ministry team that they would be able to share the love of God through word and deed.

Pray for the prisoners who suffer from sickness.

Praise God for the Christian prisoners who teach the Bible and show love to the other prisoners.

Praise God for the 5 people who returned to their home countries, because of donations for air tickets. Pray for the 5 Eritrean men who need air tickets to return home.

Easter Celebration with Bishop Mouneer and Dr. Maher Samuel

We were blessed that Dr. Maher Samuel joined Bishop Mouneer and the Prison Ministry team for the Easter celebration. Dr. Maher is a well-known preacher and psychologist in Egypt. During the Easter service, he spoke from John 20 about the power of resurrection. He shared that our 'original image,' how we are originally created to be, is distorted by sin. Through Christ's resurrection, we can restore our distorted image and we can know the meaning of life, even while in the prison.

The Prison Ministry team brought gifts of clothing and underwear for the men and women in the prison. We also brought large quantities of chickens, rice, spices, and vegetables, which the men and women used to cook an Easter meal for themselves and for their fellow inmates of other faiths.



Impressions of Visitors

"I recently joined the prison visit knowing it would be an experience, just not sure what kind. I wasn't sure what to expect. I spoke with three men from the prison; one from Europe, one from the Africa, and one from Central America. For me, there was a huge disconnect between the joy that I saw in them, and the length of their sentences. At times it was hard holding back tears. I came away thinking that I had seen something on Christ in meeting them." Andre

"After my first visit to the prison my heart was so warmed by how God can meet people at their lowest point, I was super excited that I couldn't sleep nor to get the prisoners out of my head and prayers. I was also a very humbling experience to see myself not better than any of them, I could have been in their place easily if wasn't for God's grace." Silvia

Provision of Medicine

One of the challenges facing the men and women at El Kanater Prison is the lack of health care and medicine. The prisoners asked if we could bring non-prescription medicine for them such as cold/flu medicine, bandages, and painkillers. We bought some one time through a pharmacy, but it was expensive and it is difficult for us to afford extra expenses, as we only just cover our running costs.

It was therefore a great blessing when [Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf](#) offered to provide the medicine for free. Harpur Memorial Hospital is another ministry of the Anglican Church, founded more than a century ago with a mission to serve the poor.



It is wonderful that our ministries can support and serve each other!

Testimony

My name is Leslie Gustaaf Willy Maros. I have spent already seven years and five months in prison in Egypt. But, I feel soon something is going to happen. I know when you put your trust, faith and belief in the Lord Almighty that everything is possible. That's why I wrote this down (Psalm 107:14), *"He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces."* I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for showing me this, Amen.

Air Tickets Purchased

Because of your support we were able to send the following prisoners home:

Name	Destination	Price	Date
Lazeez	Lagos	\$ 370	January 2014
Ademiran	Lagos	\$ 370	January 2014
Adualeremi	Lagos	\$ 440	March 2014
Yewu	Lagos	\$ 440	March 2014
Emmanuel	Lagos	\$ 470	April 2014

Air Tickets Needed

There are many Eritrean refugees at El Kanater Prison. Many are victims of human trafficking. They are either kidnapped, or promised a better life and pay a high fee to leave Eritrea. They arrive in the Sinai region of Egypt, one of the most notorious routes for human trafficking in the world and well-documented abuse. Many are tortured, raped, and cases of organ harvesting have been reported. There is also extortion, where desperate families will pay large ransoms for the freedom of their loved ones.

Often, the traffickers will call the Egyptian authorities, and the prisoners are rounded up and brought to Egyptian prisoners. Our Prison Ministry has in the past supplied basic needs to these prisoners.

There are currently 5 Eritrean men who can return to their families. We have funds for three air tickets, and need to raise funds for the remaining three.

Weldu	Eritrea	\$ 740
Misginabirhane	Eritrea	\$ 740
Kasim	Eritrea	\$ 740
Filmon	Eritrea	\$ 740
Ghebreslasie	Eritrea	\$ 740

For more information, please see the following report: 'Human Trafficking Cycle: Sinai and Beyond,'

http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/Small_HumanTrafficking-Sinai2-web-3.pdf

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.

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

Prison Ministry Team

The Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt

5 Michel Lutfallah Street

P.O. Box 87, Zamalek

Cairo, Egypt 11211

Phone: +202 27 38 08 21

prisonministry@dioceseofegypt.org

<http://dioceseofegypt.org/explore/ministries/other-ministries/prison-ministry/>