



Newsletter January to March 2012

Dear Friends

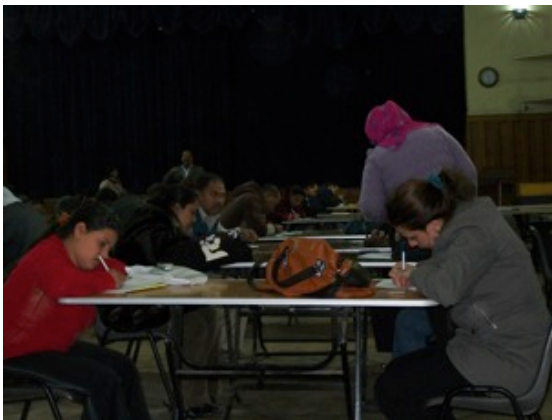
We have now past the one year anniversary of the Revolution in Egypt. We are still feeling the effects of this event in Egypt. Especially the economy has been badly affected, which in particular has had a large and negative impact on the poorest people's way of life. Therefore EpiscoCare's work in the local community centres is very important. During this time more and more needy people come to benefit from our projects and all of our programmes are continuing to show growth and success.

Here follows a small selection of some of the activities that have taken place in EpiscoCares local centres in the period January to March 2012.

January 2012

Literacy Exam

It is estimated that 30 percent of Egyptian adults are illiterate, thus one of the major focuses of the Education programme is the literacy classes. A final exam was held at El Salam Community Development Centre for one of these adult literacy classes. 17 students who finished the classes were able to sit for the exam. Upon the successful completion of these exams each student will receive a certificate of literacy, which will help them to gain future employment.





Mental Health Awareness Class

There is a general lack of understanding among the Egyptian people about mental health. It is a sad fact that people with special needs are often neglected or maltreated because of a lack of understanding. The Community Centre in El Salem held a mental health awareness class attended by 20 women for 7 weekly lectures. The hope is that these women will be able to share their knowledge with other women in the community to help raise more awareness and understanding about mental health and how to deal with this issue.



February 2012

Cleaning Campaign

One of the main goals of the Health and Environment program is to improve the environment of the beneficiaries. Several times a year, EpiscoCare's local centres organize groups to clean the neighbourhood. In February, 60 volunteers participated in a cleaning campaign to clean up the neighbourhood El Ras El Soda Community Development Centre. These volunteers swept the street clean and removed glass and other debris from the street. This campaign helps the beneficiaries to take responsibility for the local area that they live in and it gives them an understanding of why it is important to look after and maintain a healthy environment

BEFORE



AFTER





March 2012

Mother's day celebration

Mother's Day is a very important celebration for EpiscoCare, as one of our aims is to empower women and raise their self-esteem. We wish to celebrate the women, as we know how hard they are sometimes struggling to make family life work and to secure a good future for their children.

Therefore most of EpiscoCares local centres celebrated the day and more than 300 women and children attending the parties. All the women were given encouragements for their great work as mothers and housewives, and they all received a presents to show how appreciated they are.

In Boulaq centre the day were celebrated with, first a small service for the women while the children were activated with drawing and playing.

After the service all the women received a presents, this year, in addition to bread and honey, they got a practical gift, a broom and dustpan, but also they received a beautiful scarf and a nice lotion.



Field visit to Ezbhit El Nahel

In March staff members conducted a field visit to the Ezbhit el Nahel Local Community Centre and church. The purpose of the visit was to follow up on the renovation and to see how the initial projects are running. The renovation of the church is complete but the work on the Community Centre still needs a lot of finishing to be done. However literacy classes have already started as the need in this neighbourhood is great. In addition to talking with the staff and touring the facility, Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim Executive Director, EpiscoCare spoke with a group of women about having purpose and focus in their lives.





Celebrating the Bishop

The EpiscoCare staff would like to congratulate the Bishop on the 5-year extension on his term as the President Bishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The staff from Boulaq centre invited Bishop Mouneer Hanna Anis and his wife Nancy to join them for a breakfast to celebrate the Bishop, but also to share information and facts about the work and projects carried out by the Boulaq centre. The Bishop showed his enthusiasm for the work that is performed at the centre and he thanked and encouraged the staff to keep up the really wonderful and meaningful work helping and assisting some of the poorest and neediest women from the Boulaq area.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for all staff members, volunteers and people associated in EpiscoCare's projects; may they each fill the role assigned to them and may they find strength and encouragement in their work to the benefit of others.

Pray for God's leading during this critical transitional period in the life of Egypt. We are quickly approaching the presidential elections in May. Please pray for God's will to be done in the selection of a new leader.

Pray for year 2012, may the presence of EpiscoCare be a light in the darkness for many people.

Pray that all Egyptians, men and women, rich and poor, Muslims and Christians may unite in the spirit of God's grace.

Contacts

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