



Newsletter October 2010

Dear Friends

We hereby have the honour to welcome you to read EpiscoCares' new official newsletter.

To you who might not know EpiscoCare, we are a development origination established in 2003 under the umbrella of the Anglican Church, running the development sector within the Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Our vision is to reach out to the poorest communities in Egypt, to enable them to enhance their own standard of health and living through education and development support. Our approach is participatory, and without any kind of discrimination with respect to sex or religion.

We will make an effort to be able to send out a newsletter every second months, to tell about achievement and special events during the period.

New offices

On October the 1st EpiscoCare celebrated the opening of their new offices in the building of the Diocesan/Headquarters. The opening was attended by all participants of the annual Synod and the inauguration was done by Bishop Mouneer H. Anis (bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa), Bishop Andrew J. Proud, Bishop Bill A. Musk (area Bishops of the Diocese), Bishop Mark Lawrence (South Carolina, USA) and Director of EpiscoCare Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim.



Bishop Mouneer H. Anis, Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim director of EpiscoCare and Bishop Mark Lawrence cutting the ribbon for the inauguration of the new offices.

"In the presence of Bishop Mouneer Hanna Anis the bishop of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa, EpiscoCare opened new premises as a first step towards an expansion, being able to serve more poor and needy people, and to serve those who have no one else to serve them.

We thank God for these new premises and we thank all who are taking part in our joy and who pray for our future work.

We call upon God to enable us to be his good congregation and contribute in developing the poorest communities for the benefit of our beloved Egypt," says Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim, director of EpiscoCare.

The Synod

The annual Synod of the Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa were held during the weekend of the 1st and 2th of October. Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim, director of EpiscoCare, gave a brief status report of EpiscoCares achievements during the year and she presented the hopes and goals for 2011.



Visit from Denmark

October the 19th a delegation from Christian-Muslim discussion forum under the Danish Lutheran church and interfaith dialog visited one of EpiscoCares development centres to learn about the live interfaith dialogue projects taking place at the centre.

Kids from the nursery, Muslims and Christians together, presented songs and there were an interview with two women who have started there one business through loans from the centre. They told about the change in their lives and also they expressed their gratitude for what the centre had meant not only for them personally but for the whole community.

The Danish group, half Muslims half Christians, were very inspired and did not hide how overwhelmed they were over the impressive work being done at the centre in Ain Shams, both in relation to the live interfaith dialogue but also for the local community as a whole through all the programs (Education-, childhood and motherhood-, health-, economic-, community organization- and social care program).



Kids from the nursery in Ain Shams center presenting songs about respect and harmony.

"It has impressed and inspired me to see the involvement in EpiscoCares work and to see how much good that can done for only few resources"

Hussein Arac, member of the Danish parliament

Literacy Exams

In November EpiscoCare held two examines in cooperation with Adult Education. The first one, a 2-hour written exam in Arabic and Mathematics, was attended by 15 students, who have participated in literacy classes at EpiscoCares Community Development Centre in El Ras El Soda. The second exam, a 1-hour dictation, was attended by 34 students from our literacy classes.



Students struggling at the exam.

From EpiscoCare we wish all who completed the exam good luck in the future and we hope they will get a great benefit from their effort.



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Opening of a new nursery

Tuesday the 2th of November Bishop Mouneer H. Anis was to cut yet another ribbon, this time to inaugurate a new nursery, The All Saints Cathedral Nursery, located behind the Cathedral in Zamalek. The nursery, part of EpiscoCares Childhood and Motherhood program, has a capacity of 40 children age 3 months to 6 year, and the well educated staff of Arabic and English speaking teachers will use the Montessori Method for educating and preparing the children for primary school.

As stressed out by Mrs. Seham Samy, Coordinator of the Childhood and Motherhood program it's been a challenge to recruit children, but she is very optimistic and believe that even before the New Year all classes will be well filled.



"The dedicated staff of thoroughly trained and educated teachers is committed to educating and caring for the total child and the nursery are committed to providing parents with high quality services at affordable prices".

Mrs. Seham Samy, Coordinator of the Childhood and Motherhood Program

Bishop Mouneer H. Anis cutting the ribbon with help from one of the children, after there were a party with balloons, hats and chocolate.

Celebration party

On November the 22th El Salam Community Development Centre was pleased to hold their annual celebration party to present the achievements of beneficiaries who have been participating in different programs at the Centre. It was a very cheerful and celebratory event participated by Bishop Mouneer H. Anis, Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim, Staff members of EpiscoCare, Local politician and religious leaders and least but not les beneficiaries of the centre.



The Bishop here thanks all staff members of the Center for their great and hard work and for being so delegated in their job helping those who are less fortunate.



Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim and Centre manager, Thanaa Ezzat Kelleny, handing over diploma and small present to congratulate the beneficiaries on their achievements.



Christmas items from Boulaq Center



Lady from Boulaq working on her needlework.

This month has been very busy in the Boulaq Center preparing Christmas items to sell in the shop in Zamalek and at various Christmas bazaars in Cairo.

Again this year there has been considerable interest in the beautiful handmade tablecloths and other beautiful Christmas embroidery.

Protocol between the Diocese of Egypt and the Diocese of Singapore



Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim during training of Cambodian field workers.

In November the Executive director of EpiscoCare, Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim went on a two week trip to Singapore to exchange experiences with the diocese of Singapore, and to train group of field workers in Cambodia. This training focused on introduction to development.

New in EpiscoCare

We welcome Cæcilie Andersen and Hanne Skovgaard, both from our Danish partner organization Danmission. They will be working with communication, organizational structure, capacity building and fundraising.

"I have had the chance to visit EpiscoCares five Community Development Centers and must say I am very impressed by the big effort and work done by the Center staff. They are a wonderful witness in showing God's love to the needy and marginalized people despite religious background. No doubt about the staff's dedication in their work and no doubt about the gratitude amongst the beneficiaries.

I have my daily whereabouts at EpiscoCares head office and here I experience how hard and intensive the staff is working to be able to reach out to as many people as possible despite challenges and limited finances," says Hanne Skovgaard, Danmission



Prayer Requests

Pray for all staff members, volunteers and people associated in EpiscoCares 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 EpiscoCares work to strengthen and develop marginalized and needy people within Egypt, may the presence of EpiscoCare be a light in the darkness, and may it be a wonderful witness of the love of God to all people.

Pray for the financial situation within EpiscoCare and throughout the world. May God raise up faithful supporters of prayer and finances enabling EpiscoCare to reach more people

Pray for Menara School for Children with Special Needs and the needed of money to run the school and pray for the All Saints Cathedral Nursery, for children, parents and staff and for the need to get more pupils.

Contacts

For more information's about EpiscoCare and our work please contact:

Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim/Executive Director, EpiscoCare

episcocare@gmail.com

tel. +20 (2) 2738 0821/3.