



# News of August 2012

## 1. St. Mary's Fast and Feast

St. Mary's Fast starts on Tuesday, August 7 and ends by her Feast on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. During the second week, the church holds revival meetings in the evenings and daily liturgies every morning.

## 2. Transfiguration's Feast: (August 19)



On Sunday, August 19, the church celebrates the Feast of the Lord Jesus Transfiguration. It usually comes during the revival meetings of St. Mary's fast.



## 3. Kids Camp:

Sixty boys and girls attended the kid's camp this year at Big Bear Village from July 12 to 15. Fr. Gawargious celebrated the Liturgy with them and served them with Fr. Daniel and 27 servants. They benefited spiritually and physically and had a lot of fun. (See pictures on Page 20.)

## 4. St. John's Annual Festival (Sept. 21-23)

St. John Church, Covina, will hold her Annual Festival for three days, from Friday, September 21 to September 23, 2012. Reserve these three days in your diary from now and tell your relatives, neighbors and friends and ask how you can share and serve.

## 5. H.H. Pope Shenouda III:

+ Most of the Christian TV channels still broadcast day and night, the life, works and sermons of the great departed Pope. He left for us inexhaustible treasures.

+ It is announced that the Pope left in his desk a self biography and a very precious diary of the most important events during his papacy.



## 6. H.G. Bishop Serapion:

Bishop Serapion attended the funeral service of Rev. Fr. Angelos Youssef and traveled to Egypt to attend the Pope's election committee.



## 7. A new dentistry service at St. John's:

St. John church holds a medical clinic on the first and third Sunday after the Liturgy in the church hall.

The church board approved a new project to prepare a special room for a volunteer dentist to serve the new comers who have no medical insurance freely.



## 8. Hepatitis C is a concern for many Egyptians:

If you are worried about Hepatitis C, please feel free to call the office of the specialist, Dr. Peter Ruane at (323) 954-1072 X225.



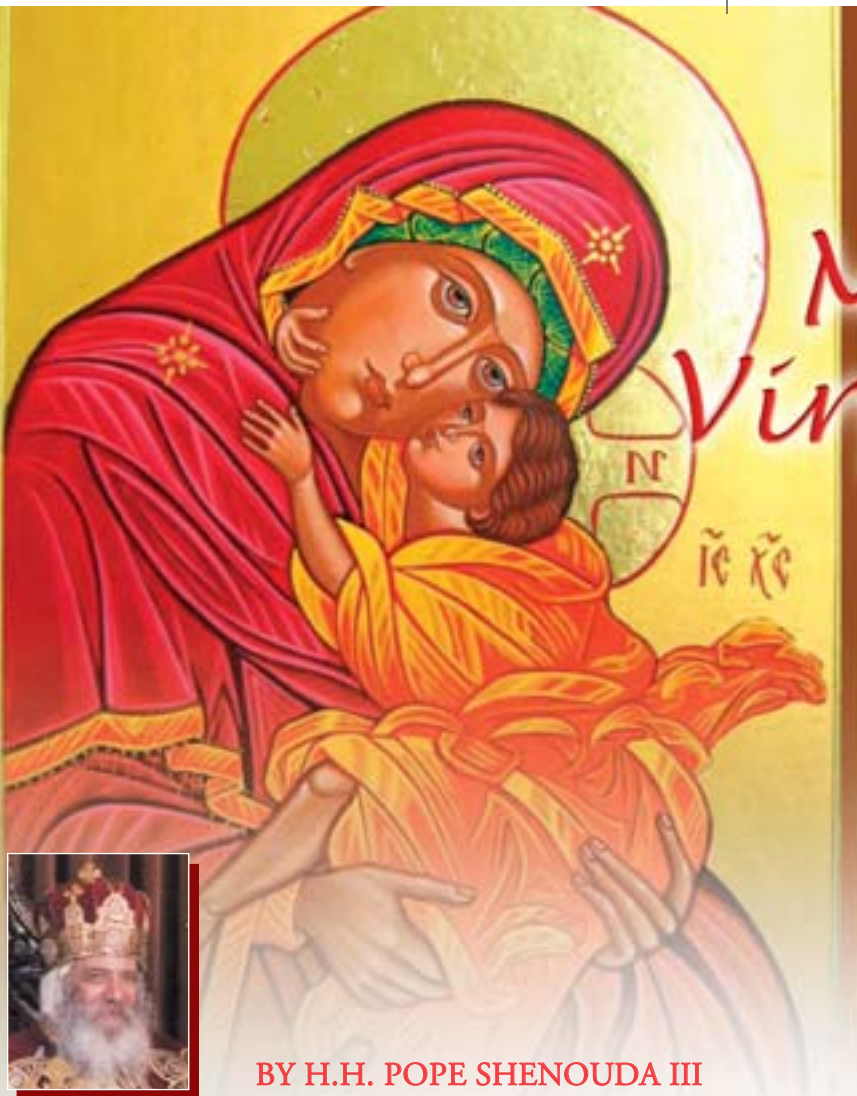
## 9. Boy scouts meetings' schedule:

The regular Boy Scouts weekly meeting at St. John Church is always every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. after the Sunday school classes.

## 10. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Competition:

It will be held at St. John Church in Covina, on August 18, for College, High School and junior high. The program includes a Liturgy followed with breakfast. Each team will go to an assigned room. Lunch will be served and finally, awards and prizes will be distributed.





BY H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

THERE IS NO OTHER WOMAN, the prophets had prophesied about, and the Bible took great care of, like the Virgin Mary. Many symbols and types are mentioned about her in the Old Testament.

Many beatitudes, glorifications and meditations were mentioned about her in the writings of the Church fathers. How excellent are the titles, which the Church calls her inspired by the spirit of the Bible. She is our mother and the glory of our race, the Queen who sits at the right hand of the King, the ever virgin, the pure, the full of grace, St. Mary. She is the strong and merciful helper, the mother of the true light, the vine and the mother of salvation.

The Church elevates her above the rank of the Archangels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim.

Mary who was raised inside the Temple, and lived the life of prayer and meditation from her early childhood, was the holy vessel, which the Lord had chosen to dwell in.

Many generations have waited for the birth of this virgin that the fullness of time may be fulfilled in her as St. Paul says, *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman"* (Gal. 4:4). She is the one who removed the reproach of Eve and saved the reputation of the woman after the fall.

It is the mother of God who came to our Country, Egypt, during the childhood of Christ and lived in our land some years, blessed and sanctified it. She is the same virgin who performed many apparitions and miracles of healing and salvation at Zitoun,

Shoubra and Assiout, Egypt few years ago.

St. Mary is not a stranger to us, but she deeply lives in the hearts and minds of the Copts to the point of change from just being a Dogma to the level of the personal the emotional experience.

There is no such human personality; people have loved in Christianity like the Virgin Mary. In Egypt, all Churches celebrate her feast. In the rites, there are many praises, songs, glorifications and doxologies focused on her especially in the

Coptic month of *Kiahk*. Our brothers the Catholics give her one whole month named the Marian month. In Egypt, one quarter of the current monasteries are called after her name. In the West, thousands of Churches, schools and hospitals are named after her blessed name.

The most ancient Church which was built after the name of Virgin Mary in the apostolic era was the Church of Philippi and in Egypt at the time of Pope





Thaona, the 16<sup>th</sup> Patriarch in the year 274 AD. We have two churches in Europe called, Virgin of Zitoun, one of them in France and the other in Vienna, Austria.

### The Greatness of the Virgin:

The greatness of the Virgin was decided by the Ecumenical Counsel of Ephesus, which was held in the year 431 AD, and attended by 200 Bishops from all over the world. They added the introduction of the Creed that says, "We magnify you, the mother of the true light, and glorify you the Theotokos, the Holy Virgin, for you bore for us the Savior of the world who came and saved our souls...."

**On what basis did the Counsel issue this introduction?**

The Virgin is the blessed saint, whose blessedness will continue throughout all generations, according to her song, which was inspired by the Holy Spirit, **"For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed"** (Lk.1: 48).

The Church gave the Virgin the title of the Queen who stands at the right hand of the King according to the Psalm 45:9. Therefore, many artists when they draw the picture of the Virgin they depict her with a crown on her head as a Queen and place her on the right side of Christ the King of Kings.

The praising of the Virgin is also clear from the salutation of the angel Gabriel, "Hail to you O full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" (Lk.1:28).

Before the greatness of St. Mary, St. Elizabeth felt so lowly and witnessed to her, **"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy..."** (Lk.1: 42-45)

It is really an amazing greatness that just her greeting caused Elizabeth to be filled of the Holy Spirit and the babe in her womb to leap for joy! When Elizabeth was filled of the Holy Spirit, it was revealed to her that St. Mary would be the mother of her Lord!

The greatness of St. Mary is shown by:

God's selecting her out of all the women; of

the world and favoring her above all.

It is written, "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all" (Prov.31: 39).

### The Virgin Mary in the Church Dogma:

The Coptic Orthodox Church honors St. Mary the Virgin, the honor which she deserves, without exaggeration and without being lightly esteemed.

**In the Church belief, she is the "Mother of God", "Theotokos",** and not just the mother of "Jesus", as the Nestorians claimed, those whom, St. Cyril of Alexandria fought against and the Ecumenical Counsel of Ephesus excommunicated them.

The Church also believes that the Holy Spirit sanctified the Virgin's womb during the time of the holy conception. This is according to what the Angel of the Lord told her, **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God"** (Luke 1:35). The sanctification of her womb by the Holy Spirit makes the One who was born of her has an immaculate conception, that is to be born holy, without the inheriting the original sin. But the Virgin herself was conceived by her mother normally like all other people and this is what St. Mary herself assured in her song, as she said, **"My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior"** (Luke 1:47). Therefore, our Church disagrees with the Catholic teaching of the immaculate conception of St. Mary also!

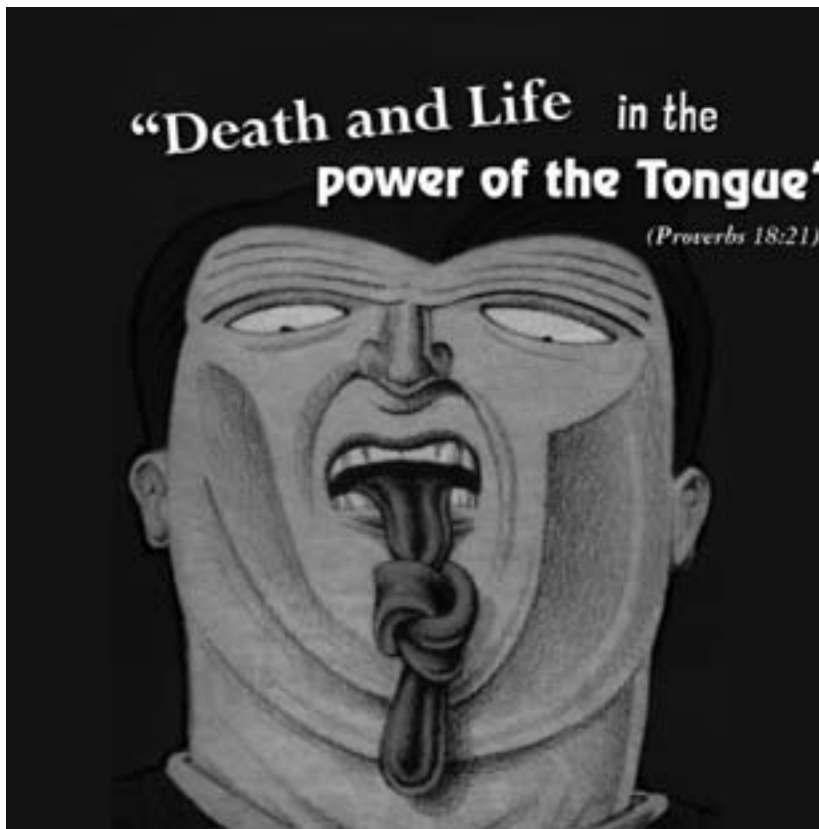
The Church believes also in the intercession of St. Mary and put her intercession before that of the angels and Archangels.

The Bible calls St. Mary that she is "Full of grace", this is not clear in the King James translation which mentioned that she was only favored one! The fullness of grace doesn't mean infallibility

The Church also believes in the perpetual virginity of St. Mary and not as some of the Protestants believe that she bore children after she gave birth to Christ!

Finally, the Church believes of the ascension of St. Mary's body to heaven after her departure, according to history and old tradition, and celebrates this occasion in 16 of the Coptic month of Misra (August 22).





By Fr. Augustinos R. Hanna



Many people go to church, pray and fast regularly, yet in the end they also go to hell regularly! They will not realize, until too late, that the main cause was in their tongues; yes the sins of the tongue.

God originally created the tongue to be a wonderful blessing for mankind; to taste the food and to express our thoughts and feelings, to communicate with people and to glorify God in worship, praise and ministry. Yet due to the misuse of the tongue, it turned to be a curse and a cause of death and destruction. That is why Solomon the Wise said, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." (Prov. 18:21). Therefore, I want to shed light on this small and dangerous member in our bodies in three points:

- (1) The dangerous member
- (2) The sins of the tongue
- (3) The remedy

The dangerous member:

#### 1) Its location in the body:

God, in His wisdom, put the tongue inside the mouth behind two gates and fences to protect it; the first is made of hard material like bones which is the teeth, and the second made of flesh which is the lips. Despite of these strongholds, the tongue still uncontrollable and it "bites

like a serpent and stings like a viper."

#### 2) Life and death, justification and condemnation depend on the tongue:

This is what our title verse says, and what the Lord Jesus Christ assured in saying, "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt. 12: 37). As an application to that, the repentant thief said few words. "Remember me O Lord when You come into Your kingdom" and got saved and heard the answer of the Savior, "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise" (Lk. 23:42, 43). In the meantime, the other criminal uttered few words of blasphemy and went to hell! We have also the example of the Pharisee and the tax collector, in which the first said few words of boasting in arrogance and judging others and was condemned, while the tax collector prayed in humility confessing his sins asking for mercy and was justified (Lk. 18:9-14).

#### 3) The tongue defiles the person:

St. James in his letter says, "The tongue is set among our members that it defiles the whole body" (Jam.3:6). This statement is similar to what the Lord Jesus said, "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man (Matt. 15:11). In the light of Isaiah's vision to the glory of God in the temple and the Seraphim declaring His holiness, he cried out, "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5). So, it is not only adultery or fornication that defiles the person, but also his/her unclean words or jokes, lies, swearing, gossiping, insulting, judging others and calling them bad names, all these stuff defile us and expose to condemnation in hell fire (Matt. 5:22).

#### 4) The thermometer of the soul:

The physician puts the thermometer under the tongue of the patient and knows the temperature of his body and may diagnose some deceases. So, also the tongue reveals the inside of a person, his personality, attitude and whether he or she is wise or fool, a believer or an atheist, a polite or rude, an educated or ignorant etc. This rule is certainly wise, which the servant girl said to Peter, "Your speech betrays you" (Matt. 26:73).

#### 5) Watching the tongue is the first lesson in the fear of God, wisdom and enjoying long happy life:

Both David the prophet and Peter the Apostle agreed upon that the first lesson in the fear of God, which is "the beginning of wisdom", is "***I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days,***



*that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, speaking guile, depart from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it...*" (Psa. 34:11-13& 1 Pet. 3:10).

#### 6. The Scriptures gave many chapters and verses to the tongue:

The entire chapter 3 from James' letter and countless verses in the books of Psalms and Proverbs and the gospels are devoted to the TONGUE.

#### 7. The sins of the tongue make man lose his life, rewards and eternity:

No matter how the person does good works; his or her tongue's sins; will ruin his spiritual life and make him lose his eternal life and good rewards. St. James says in this regard, "If anyone among you thinks he is righteous and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless" (Jam.1:26). In this context, St. Basil the Great says, "What is the benefit, my brethren, if I fasted the whole year and prayed long days and nights, then I called my brother, you fool and deserved hell fire?!" Few drops of poison will sure kill anyone.

#### 8. The tongue is a fire which is set from hell:

Again, St. James likens the tongue with "a fire, a world of iniquity, and sets on fire the course of nature and is set on fire by hell" (3:6). It may destroy houses, forests, cities and the reputation of people, specially ladies and servants. The fire since went off, it is too difficult to stop and it eats up everything in its way.

#### 9. The tongue, although small, but has huge effect:

The Bible likened the tongue with four small things but have giant effects, which are:

(1) **The bits in the horses' mouths**, which controls the direction of the big horse (Jam.3:3).

(2) **The very small rudder of the ship** which turns it (3:4)

(3) **A little fire** that kindles and destroys everything (3:6).

(4) **An utterly evil, full of deadly poison** (James 3:8).

#### 10. The tongue is a hypocrite member:

"By the tongue we bless our God and with it we curse men, who have been made in the image of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing" (Jam. 3:9).

#### 11. The tongue is the most member in the body that can commit the greatest number of sins:

It can commit 100 (one hundred) sins per hour and 1000 (one thousand) sins per day, like a machine gun! Some people cannot speak without cursing others with tens of

ugly names, swearing, backbiting, slandering, judging, gossiping, lying, mocking, boasting and so on. Sometimes, one sentence contains four sins as in the case of Peter denying his Master, he denied with an oath, cursed and swore that he did not know the Man! (Matt. 26:72, 74). This is a compound sin that contains lies and cursing, denial and swearing, false oath and despising His Lord by describing Him with "this man" claiming falsely that he did not understand what the bondservant was saying! All these sins in few words that took few seconds!

In a simple math, if we assumed that a person who commits only 10 tongue-sins per hour and considered the day only 16 hours and not 24 (subtracting 8 hours in night sleeping), that means that he or she commits  $10 \times 16 = 160$  a day, and in a month  $160 \times 30 = 4800$  and per year,  $4800 \times 12 = 57,600$  annually! In the average of 50 years of life, that means he or she commits 2,880,000, i.e., nearly three million sins by his or her tongue alone! My dear reader, have you ever realized this terrible fact?!

### II- The sins of the tongue:

#### 12. The tongue commits the biggest variety of sins:

I will mention here 100 (one hundred) kinds of the sins of the tongue supported with their biblical references, and note that each sin may be repeated tens of times in the same day or in the same speech!

##### 1) Revile (curse, insult & cuss)

The Lord Jesus Christ said, in His famous Sermon on the Mount, "Whoever says to his brother 'you fool', shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt. 5:22).

+ "Do not be deceived, no fornicators, nor thieves, nor drunkards **nor revilers will inherit the kingdom of God**" (1 Cor. 6:9, 10; see also 1 Cor. 5:11; 1 Peter 2:23). Note also that cussing has 1000 (thousands of insults and evil words within this sort of sin alone!).

##### 2) Lying: (Dishonesty-fabrication - deceit- falsehood)

The Bible says explicitly and repeatedly until the last two chapters of the Book of Revelation and the last two pages of the entire Bible: **"But there shall by no means enter it (Heavenly Jerusalem) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of life."** (Rev. 21:27). And in the last page of the Bible, we read, **"But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie"** (Rev. 22:15). Let us always remember the terrible example of Ananias and his wife Sapphira that lied and St. Peter said to them, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...", and they fell





down dead immediately (Acts 5:3,5 10). The Lord Jesus described **the devil as “a liar and the father of lies and he is a murderer from the beginning”** (John 8:44). The person who lies is an ignorant and coward who fears people and does not fear God.

### 3) Swear & oath:

The third commandment said, **“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”** (Exod. 20:7). When people misused this commandment, the Lord Jesus said, **“Do not swear at all...but let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No,’ be ‘No. For whatever is more than these is from the evil one”** (Matt. 5:33; 37). St. James the Apostle confirmed that in his letter saying: **“But above all, my brethren, do not swear.... Lest you fall into judgment”** (Jam. 5:12). Nowadays, some nominal Christians swear for any trivial cause and try to justify their sin and negligence claiming falsely that they do not mean it but it is just a habit! But by this they commit another sin because if it is a habit, so it is a bad habit and they must repent and get rid of it by all means.

### 4) Judging others:

Every Christian knows Christ’s commandment, “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you” (Matt. 7:1, 2; see also Rom. 2:1). This sin of judging others is one of the most sins of the tongue spread like fire among the church goers! God is the true and perfect judge because God is fair and knows everything and the secrets. Moreover, He is merciful and despite He has the right of judgment, He does not judge anyone before the Day of Judgment in order to give everyone a second chance and sometimes a hundred chances to repent. So, how come that we the sinners and ignorant rush to judge others?!

**5) Whispering of a talebearer:** Solomon the wise says, **“A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends”** (Prov. 16:28). He also says, **“The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles and they go down into the inmost body”** (Prov. 18:8).

### 6) Secret slandering or Back-stabbing:

**“Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy”** (Psalm 101:5; see also Psa. 50:20).

**7) Reproaching:** **“He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker”** (Proverbs 17:5).

**8) Spreading slander:** **“Whoever spreads slander is a fool”** (Prov. 1:18).

**9) Threatening:** **“When Jesus was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten...”** (1 Peter 2:23).

**10) Boasting and bragging:** **“The tongue is a little member and boasts great things”** (Jam. 3:5; see also Jer.9:23, 24; 2 Cor. 10:17).

### 11) Flattering and entice:

**“My son, if sinners entice you; do not consent”** (Prov. 1:10); **“For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away”** (Job 32:22).

### 12) Favoritism, partiality and prejudice:

**“Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; nor let me flatter any man”** (Job 22:21). Also, **“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with partiality”** (James 2:1-6). **“It is not good to show partiality in judgment”** (Prov. 24:23).

**13) Bearing false witness:** God said in the ninth commandment, **“You shall not bear false witness”** (Exod. 20:16). Bearing false witness is a sin and a crime in both heavenly and worldly laws. It is a compound sin that contains lying, fraud, false oath and hurting others unfairly. In Proverbs, Solomon says, **“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape”** (Prov. 19:5).

**14) The evil counseling:** **“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly”** (Psa. 1:1). See also David’s prayer, **“O Lord, I pray turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness”** (2 Sam. 15:31).

**15) Words of enticement and leading to evil:** **“A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good...he purses his lips and brings about evil”** (Prov. 16:29, 30; 7:21-23 & 28:10).

### 16) Filthy language:

**“You must put off all these: anger, wrath, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth”** (Col. 3:8).

**17) The words of hypocrisy:** **“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords”** (Psalm 55:21).

**18) The harsh words:** **“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger”** (Prov. 15:1). Harsh words may hurt others more than swords and may cause strife and war.

**19) Words of doubt and skepticism:** (Gen. 3:1; Matt. 4)

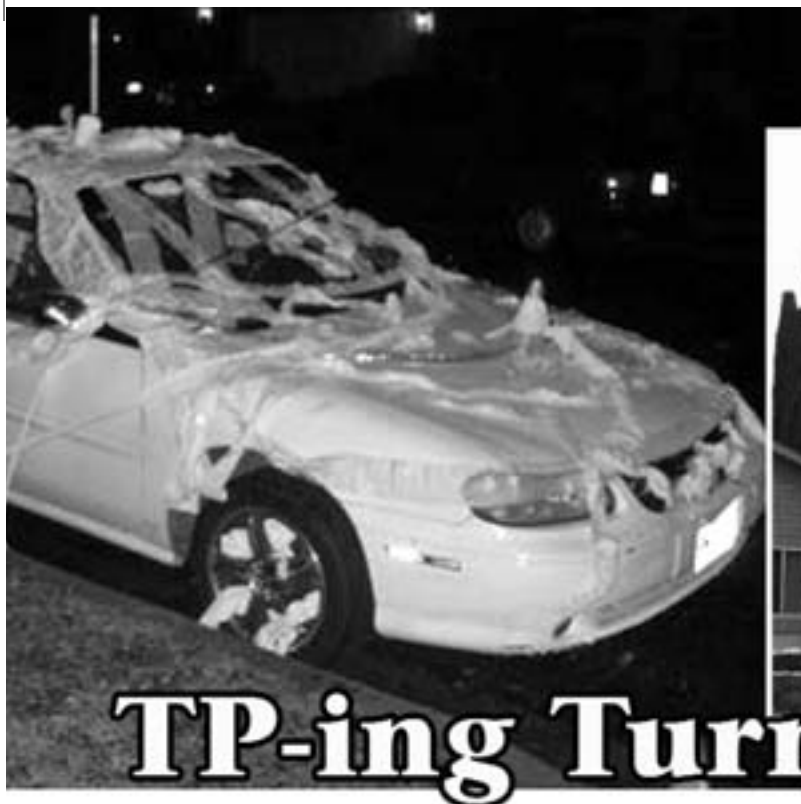
**20) Sowing discord among the brethren:**

God hates sowing discord among brethren (Prov. 6:19)

**21) Words of deceit and oppression:** (Psa. 10:7).

[To be continued]





# TP-ing Turns to Crimes

By: H. Hanna

"TP-ing" is the act of buying rolls of toilet paper and then decorating people's homes by unrolling the toilet paper on trees, cars, bushes and anywhere possible. In many cases it is not an easy cleanup and unsightly. This is done in early morning hours where residents are asleep and the perpetrators remain undetected. Historically, only public and some private high school graduates engage in such behavior and only once upon graduation and is considered clean fun with no intention of creating permanent damage.

Several years ago, our high school kids adopted the same celebration and it too was intended to be clean fun. However, our kids decided to take this behavior to another level. As one example, I remember the kids turned on the water hose at one home and flooded the inside of the home causing damage and the homeowner incurred expense, headache and stress. Here, there was no consequence.

The years went by and the groups increased in number to include boys and girls, high school and college, from our church and other Coptic churches in our diocese.

During the week before and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2012, our kids' campaign victimized many homes and in some cases one home was targeted 3 times. What makes this year different; the kids committed actual crimes of

theft where they permanently deprived the owners of their property. The thefts included home alarm signs, private construction companies' traffic warning signs, and many American Flags.

From experience, the stealing of the American flag could be labeled as a passionate crime. Many owners of the American flags are Veterans and many of them mark their flags so that when found they could prosecute. Here, imagine the newspaper obtains information from public police logs of victims who truly reported these thefts and, the news article reads "Egyptians stole the American flags."

In my opinion, this time the church should consider some action with consequence attached in order to avoid further escalation, defuse any acts with propensity of violence, and to permanently protect our kids from having criminal records.

I strongly recommend that all those involved be named, known by all church members, and sternly warned. They must form their own plan on how to discourage others from any future participation. Each year a form must be signed by most classes for one purpose-the victim could file a report of trespass. Without knowledge a trespass charge could never be filed. That is truly the only consequence I could think of.

Maalesh has not worked and habibi escalated their unacceptable acts. IT MUST STOP.







# CHRIST IN

## THE BOOK OF GENESIS (18)

By Fr. Gawargious A. Kolta

**12- Joseph invited his father and brothers to come down and live in Egypt (Gen. 45:16-27):**

Pharaoh was very generous when he said to Joseph: *"Say to your brothers, do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan. Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land. Now you are commanded to do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come"* (Gen. 45:16-19). Pharaoh loved Joseph as he did not forget that Joseph saved him and the world from famine.

**St. Ambrose** said that the rejoicing in Pharaoh's house and his invitation to Joseph's brothers and father foreshadow the rejoicing of the Christians at the redemption of the Jews. The Christians will give aid to the limit of their resources and send people to preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the Jews.

**St. Gregory the Theologian** said that the carts are the redeeming works of God. The divine carts will not be to enjoy the riches of Egypt, but those of heaven itself. They are boats that sail toward God, sailing with Christ to the kingdom of heavens, restoration of life, and freedom from servitude, through Baptism. Another cart that sets with us to glory is the sacrament of the Eucharist (the Holy Communion).

**Fr. Tadros Malaty** said that we could say that the works of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church are the divine carts that are capable of lifting us up to the Father's bosom, through abiding in our Lord Jesus Christ. As Pharaoh commanded Joseph to bring his family to Egypt, what God the Father to grant us, is in Christ; and what Christ commands to grant us, is through God the Father.

He also said that it was not easy for Jacob, his children and the slaves to leave their land, despite what they suffered of the famine, unless they looked forward to the Pharaoh's promise that he would give them the best of all the land of Egypt (Gen. 45:20). Likewise, it would not be easy for us to forsake what we have in the land of our sojourn, unless God opens our sight to behold the eternal glory set for us, if our hearts depart to there. This is said by St Paul: *"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus*

*my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ* (Phil. 3:7, 8). St. Paul found in the Lord Christ the pearl of high value, for which he gave up everything with joy and happiness. He discovered in Him the abundance of riches and found in Him all true satisfaction.

**Joseph in amazing love** gave his brothers changes of garments but to Benjamin he gave 300 pieces of silver and five changes of garment. He sent to his father ten donkeys loaded with grain, bread and food. **Fearing that they might start blaming one another** what they did to him, Joseph said to them: *"See that you do not be angry with each other along the way"* (Gen. 45:24). St. Ambrose said that as Joseph sent his brothers and asked them not be angry on the way, Christ said to His disciples: *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you"* (Jn. 14:27).

**Fr. Malaty** said that the garments, given by Joseph to his brothers may represent the union with Christ to be with Him and in Him, to hide in Him and to have Him as a garment to cover us eternally. As to the five changes of garments, given to Benjamin, they are the sanctification of our five senses, to carry the features of the Lord Christ. He added that the silver that was given to Benjamin is the word of the gospel delivered by the Lord Christ to His church or to the humanity. The food that was given to the brothers for the journey is a pledge for the earthly journey to enjoy the divine gift, until we reach the glory in His heavenly kingdom.

**Israel heard about Joseph:**

Joseph's brothers went up out of Egypt to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. They told him: *"Joseph is still alive and he is governor over all the land of Egypt"* (Gen. 45:26). Jacob's heart stood still and he did not believe them. But when he saw the carts that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob revived. He said: *"It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die"* (Gen. 45:28), as proclaiming with the Psalmist: *"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is none upon earth I desire besides You"* (Ps. 73:25).

**Origen** said many comments on 'going down' and coming up'. 1- He said the Holy Bible has never mentioned a going down to holy places, but going up to them and vice versa. Although





Egypt was blessed by Joseph, yet, in the Old Testament, Egypt has been a symbol of love of the world. But we can say that Egypt has become far more blessed by the coming to it of the Lord Christ Himself with His Mother and St. Joseph.

2- He said the word 'revived' in Greek means rekindled, that means 'lighted by life'. This means that when they reported to Jacob that Joseph was alive; his spirit was rekindled in him. We can say that our souls are like Jacob's; when we are far from the true Joseph (Jesus), our spirits are quenched, but when we recognize Him as being risen from the dead, our souls get enlightened inside us with the joy of His resurrection that is working inside us. St. John said: "***In Him was life, and the life was the light of men***" (Jn. 1:4). Jacob longed to end his life with seeing Joseph alive; this represents humanity that longed to enjoy the Lord Christ, risen from the dead, so that to die with hope.

3- Origen said also that Jacob was astonished to hear that Joseph was governor over all Egypt, conqueror over every sin and problem. Let us unite with our true Joseph, and carry in Him all victory over the whole body (our symbolic Egypt).

4- **Origen** said that there is a great mystery in the verses '***go down***' and '***bring up***'. It might be depicted a figure of the Lord, who descended into this world and is made into **a great nation; that is the church of the Gentiles**, and after all things were completed, returned to His Father. He added that God does not abandon those placed in the struggle, but is always with them. When Adam descended into the world, God descended to be with him and to bruise the head of the serpent under His feet. The Lord then descended to the Hades, raising Adam to be with Him in Paradise.

#### **Jacob goes down to Egypt:**

Jacob began his journey and came to Beersheba, where he offered sacrifices to God. God spoke to him in a vision and said: "***I am God, the God of your father, do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes***" (Gen. 46:3, 4). This was the last time that God appeared to Jacob. He did not appear to anyone until He appeared to Moses the prophet in the burning bush, for the sake of bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt. God cared for both his going down and his coming up.

**St. Ambrose** and **Origen** said that let us learn in whatever we do, whether embarking on some project or beginning a journey to offer a sacrifice to the Lord in prayer, calling on His help, imitating the godliness of these people. They added that because of the long journey in his old age, he believed that death might come upon him before meeting his son; so he offered prayers to God to grant him life enough to enable him to enjoy his hope and satisfaction

**St. John Chrysostom** and **Origen** said that Jacob was encouraged by his vision. He was not afraid to approach the struggles of this world. In the same way, St. Paul, encouraged by the Lord (Acts 23:11), struggled for the word and preached the Lord, and testified of Him in Jerusalem and Rome (1 Cor. 15:10). In the mystical level, the 'great nation' promised to Jacob represents the church of the Gentiles. They added that on an individual level, the promise can be fulfilled in each one of us through the righteousness that leads to eternal life.

**Orogen** commented on the phrase '**And Joseph will put his hand on your eyes**', saying that our true Joseph puts His human hands on the eyes of the blind man to restore to him his lost sight; He puts His spiritual hands on the eyes of the Law, which had been blinded by the corporeal understanding of the Scribes and restored their sight to understand spiritually the books of the Law. He added saying: "I pray God to put His hands on our eyes, so that we do not look forward at the seen things, but at the things which are not seen, which are eternal (2 Cor. 4:18).

**St. Ambrose** said that the true Joseph places His hands on those, who are blind, that those who do not see may see (Jn.9:39). He added that Christ does not put His hands on those who are going to die but on those who are going to live. He puts His hands on those who have previously died to sin, that they can see God.

**Fr. Tadros Malaty** said that Jacob would not have received these promises, except in **Beersheba** (the well of Sheba), namely in **the water of Baptism**, in which the Holy Spirit grants us the new birth to become members of the body of Christ, to be prepared, by this, for God to go down with us to Egypt, and to bring us back from it. As for **the sacrifices** that he offered, these would represent the source of every divine gift, which is **the sacrifice of Christ on the cross**.

Finally, the children of Israel set forth, carrying their father, their little ones, their wives, and their livestock. The book of Genesis mentioned to us that all the persons who went with Jacob were 66, to confirm how they enormously increased in Egypt. In the book of acts, St. Stephen mentioned that their number reached 75 (Acts 7:14); probably he added to them Joseph, Asenath, Ephraim and Manasseh, and their five grandchildren.

**Fr. Tadros Malaty** said that sent Judah before him to Joseph to point out the way to Goshen. If Jacob represents the church, it cannot walk without Judah, namely the Lord, who came out of the tribe of Judah, to lead us on our way to the strange land, as He Himself is the Way (Jn. 14:6).

(*Ancient Christian Commentary on Genesis, II, p.299-302*). (*Father Tadros Malaty, on Genesis, p. 354-356*).

(To be continued)





By H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

### [1] *The Skilled Speaker*

**The skilled speaker is one who tells you what you want to hear and not what he wants to say...**

And if he wants to say something to you he puts it to you in an interesting way so that you want to listen and if he does not finish what he was saying you urge him to tell you the rest of the story.

**He fills your ears with what they like and does not force you to listen to what is not interesting to you.**

If he notices from your expression that you are not listening any more, he does not go on and on, but tactfully brings the subject to a close in order to change the conversation to something which he knows you will find more pleasing and beneficial.

Through his speech he arouses your concern and your interest in what he says.

**You always feel that his words are soothing to your ears, your mind and heart.**

This is why we find that the skillful speaker attracts the attention of his listeners, as opposed to someone who speaks on boring subjects which do not interest his listeners, yet they have no power to stop!

### [2] *Problems and Crying*

Someone comes to me crying because of a problem that had befallen him and I usually say to him:

“Calm down and let us think and pray. Problems will never be solved by crying, but by practical solutions which can be put into effect.”

Crying just paralyses the mind and does not give it a chance to think...?

### [3] *Apology*

Sometimes a person apologizes for mistakes he had made and imagines that the matter is then done with, but his apology is not acceptable.ize of the offense he has committed.

This superficial apology does not satisfy the heart of the one who has been hurt, and cannot cover up the previous mistakes.

**Also, just apologizing is insufficient. He ought to deal with the consequences of the errors he has made by making amends to the person whom he has wronged.**

### [4] *Covering Things Up or solving them*

Facing the issues, mistakes and events honestly is the safe way to resolve them. Just covering things up is not a solution. It may

provide a temporary relief, but it does not deal with them and the sickness remains as destructive as ever.

**Covering up involves deception, and most of these cover-ups are brought to light eventually. They do not stand up to reality. Facing the facts is better, more honest and productive...**

To face up to things demands sincerity with oneself and others requires courage, because covering up is sort of escape.

Covering things up does not lead to purity, nor to solutions. Before God all is revealed.

### [5] *Two Meanings of the Cross*

Some people love the cross for its blessings and its strength and for its doctrine of faith... but they do not love the cross in their lives. By which I mean that they do not like to carry their cross...!

**The cross is outside them, not inside them!**

They love Golgotha for its spirit of self-sacrifice, but want to avoid its pains!

### [6] *Noisy Behavior*

Something we have even met during our ministry...

There is a kind of person who imagines that he will achieve his desires in the Church by noisy and disturbing methods, with pamphlets and leaflets and stirring up the people and talking a lot here and there, imagining that the Church will do for him what he wants in order to stop his noise and screams!

However, such unspiritual methods as these are not compatible with the spiritual atmosphere of the Church. They are an attempt to introduce the atmosphere of the world into the sphere of the Church. It is not for the Church to bow down to these





methods otherwise her people will get accustomed to them.

#### [7] *A Famous Preacher*

A famous preacher once said to me: "Do you know how many sermons I have preached this year?"

And I replied, "I would rather know how many people have repented this year because of your sermons, and have turned to God."

#### [8] *Remember and Forget*

I visited a man in hospital when he was ill in bed after he had a thrombosis brought on by stress from his inability to bear failure in a job which was particularly important to him...

I said to him, "You have done very many great things which have seen success at your hands..."

Why then do you concentrate so much on this one job which has failed for reasons beyond your control?!

Remember your success and how God helped you in them, and forget this work which failed through no fault of yours."

#### [9] *Tomorrow is better for you*

**Don't live in your present day if it is too wearisome for you, but live for your tomorrow.**

**In this tomorrow see the hand of God reaching out to you to calm you.**

**And on tomorrow you will see many solutions to your problems.**

If your today is dark, then your tomorrow will open before you windows of light.

The Saints lived for their tomorrows, for their eternity, and hung all their hopes upon it.

David lived for his tomorrow when Saul was pursuing him. And so did Jonah when he was in the belly of the fish...

Joseph lived for his tomorrow when he was in prison and so did his father Jacob when he was fleeing from Esau, trusting that God would restore him from his exile...

**If things become problematic for you, say to yourself that they will be solved tomorrow by the grace of God. Then smile and live for that tomorrow...**

#### [10] *The Importance of Endurance*

**The value of a piece of work is in its endurance.**

You may do something which makes an impact for days or weeks, but which comes to an end, and it is as if it never happened. Or you may do something which has an effect on your life, which ends with the ending of your life. But this is not an activity of any real depth or strength. **A strong action is one that lasts even after your life. It continues into eternity where God will remember it for you. And it continues on earth where the people remember you for it.**

Let us give some examples of such work which

endures:

Strong love is something which endures... As for that which is not shaken by events, or ends with any difference of view; that is not a real love.

Strong spiritual training is also something that lasts but if you are strict with yourself just for a few days or weeks and then revert to how you were, that is not strength, and brings you no benefit...

Likewise, repentance which is only temporary is not real repentance, and a temporary improvement is not a real one. It is important that repentance and improvement should both continue and last.

Fixed principles are similarly enduring but as for those that are practiced and then disappear away, their roots are not firmly established in the soul...

**It is easy for a person to do good just for a limited period! But if a person is really good, then his good is a permanent feature.**

To begin a piece of work is easy, what is more important is that we carry it on to completion.

#### [11] *True Love*

Some people imagine that their love for a person means that they will protect and defend him whatever he has done wrong! But true love is to save that person from his sins even if it means rebuking him until he abandons them...

#### [12] *The Relative Truth*

**Truth, in its absolute meaning, is total goodness and total sincerity.** It is also one of the names of God.

**But most people live in a relative "Truth", which is in accordance with what they know and what they feel.**

Two or more opponents might dispute about the Truth, each one claiming that it is on his side, while the Truth is in fact quite far from both positions, or in between. A person may become over-enthusiastic and rebellious on the pretext of defending the Truth. Probably this 'Truth' of his consists of mistaken facts in his mind which he has heard but not examined thoroughly and that is not the Truth!

#### [13] *A Reverse Situation*

I was amazed at the priest who instead of sharing in solving the people's problems set them at work on his own problems to share in solving them!

Instead of providing a "big heart", which could give love and compassion to everyone, he was striving to be the object of the people's love and compassion!?

#### [14] *Is Silence a Virtue?*

Silence is not always a virtue. Sometimes we are condemned and considered guilty for keeping silent.





# Summer Contest (2)

By H.H. Pope Shenouda III

(There are gifts for the best three answers  
- Deadline October 2012)

## First:

1. What is God's first promise to man?
2. When did God first allow man to eat meat and what was the condition?
3. Who was the first family that knew music in history? And what were the musical instruments they used?
4. When was laughter first mentioned in the Bible?
5. What the first and the last time that tithes were mentioned in the Old Testament?
6. Who was the first person whom God ordered to meditate in His law day and night?

## Who:

7. Who were the two magicians that resisted Moses? And the other two who resisted Sts. Peter and Paul?
8. Who is the last enemy that will be destroyed?
9. Who were the husband and wife that made their house a church?
10. Who was the Apostle that was said of him in the book of Acts, that he was called to preach Rome?
11. Who was the Bishop that was young?
12. Who was the person that the three persons of the Holy Trinity called him for ministry? How to prove that?
13. Who wrote four letters from a Roman prison? And what were they?
14. Who was the prophet that ordained two kings; one of them was righteous and the other was evil?

## The Holy Spirit:

15. What is the first verse that mentioned the Holy Spirit in the Bible?
16. Who was said of him that the Spirit of the Lord began to move him?
17. Mention a verse about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures and in prophecy?

18. Where the holy breath that grants the Holy Spirit, was mentioned?
19. Give us two verses from the New Testament about the dwelling of the Holy Spirit within us and His guidance?
20. Tell us two verses to prove that the Holy Spirit is God and about His work in creation.

## Christ:

21. Mention a verse about His presence in heaven and on earth in the same time?
22. Mention three verses that prove the Divinity of Christ.
23. Mention a verse that proves the supremacy of Christ over the Angels.
24. Did Christ accept bowing down as worshipping Him?
25. Mention a verse that proves the presence of Christ before all ages.
26. Mention a verse proves that Jesus Christ stands at the door of the sinners hearts.

## Regular persons:

27. Who is Nimrod? And with what did the Bible describe him?
28. Who were the sons of God; and the daughters of men mentioned in Genesis 6:2?
29. Who was Rufus, and who were his father and his mother?
30. Mention four persons, the Lord chose them from their mother's womb/

## Virgin Mary:

31. Mention a miracle that Virgin Mary intervened in it.
32. Where it was mentioned that Virgin Mary was praying with the Apostles of Christ?
33. Where was mentioned that Virgin Mary had a sister?
34. Where it was mentioned in the New Testament that Virgin Mary also needed salvation?
35. What was the spiritual effect of St. Mary's visit on Elizabeth?
36. Where did St. Mary live after crucifying Christ and with whom?

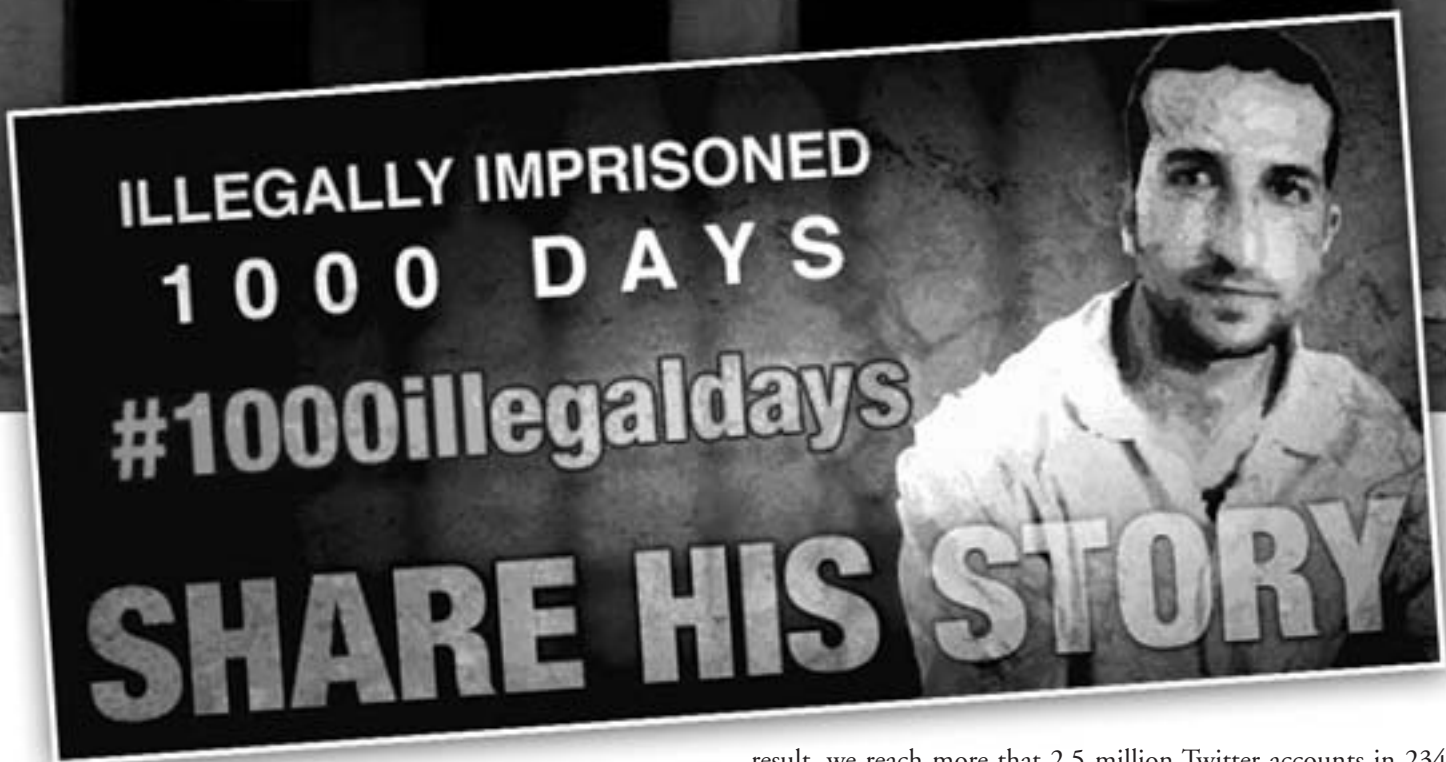
## Fasting:

37. Mention two examples of Biblical congregational fasts.
38. Mention a verse about vegetarian food inside the Garden of Eden; and another verse about it outside the Garden of Eden.
39. Mention a verse about fasting in a fixed time.
40. who was the prophet that did not eat meat or any delicious food during his three week fasting?





# Human Rights' Corner



**Frhanna,**

Today is the 1,000th day of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani's illegal imprisonment in Iran: 1,000 days apart from his wife and two young boys; 1,000 days resolute in his refusal to recant his faith in Jesus Christ in the face of execution. On this day, we are asking everyone who supports Pastor Youcef to **share his story once more**, and let the world know about these 1,000 illegal.

When you go to [ACLJ.org/Nadarkhani](http://ACLJ.org/Nadarkhani), you will find a new short video telling Pastor Youcef's story that you can easily share on Facebook and Twitter

Thousands of people have allowed us to tweet once a day on their behalf as part of our Tweet for Youcef campaign. As a

result, we reach more than 2.5 million Twitter accounts in 234 countries and territories for Pastor Youcef every day.

If you've already signed up, we have launched a new Tweet for Youcef dashboard that allows you to see how many tweets you've delivered for Youcef, how many of your friends have signed up, and provides you new, easy-to-use tools to encourage others to Tweet for Youcef as well. Most importantly, please continue to pray for Pastor Youcef, his family and his attorney as they face immense pressure and persecution in Iran. You have my sincerest thanks.

**Jordan Sekulow**

**ACLJ Executive Director**



# Calls to Destroy Egypt's Great Pyramids by Islamists

## Has the sun finally set for Egypt's Great Pyramids?

This is a reference to the Muslim Prophet Muhammad's companion, Amr bin al-As and his Arabian tribesmen, who invaded and conquered Egypt circa 641. Under al-As and subsequent Muslim rule, many Egyptian antiquities were destroyed as relics of infidelity. While most Western academics argue otherwise, according to early Muslim writers, the great Library of Alexandria itself—deemed a repository of pagan knowledge contradicting the Koran—was destroyed under bin al-As's reign and in compliance with Caliph Omar's command.

However, while book-burning was an easy activity in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, destroying the mountain-like pyramids and their guardian Sphinx was not—even if Egypt's Medieval Mamluk rulers "de-nosed" the latter during target practice (though popular legend naturally attributes it to a Westerner, Napoleon).

Now, however, as Bahrain's "Sheikh of Sheikhs" observes, and thanks to modern technology, the pyramids *can* be destroyed. The only question left is whether Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood president is "pious" enough—if he is willing to complete the Islamization process that started under the hands of Egypt's first Islamic conqueror.

Asking "What is it about Islam that so often turns its adherents against their own patrimony?" Daniel Pipes provides several examples, from Medieval Muslims in India destroying their forefathers' temples, to contemporary Muslims destroying their ancestors' heritage in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Malaysia, and Tunisia.

Currently, in what the International Criminal Court is describing as a possible "war crime," Islamic fanatics are destroying the ancient legacy of the city of Timbuktu in Mali—all to Islam's triumphant war cry, "Allahu Akbar!"

Accordingly, while many Egyptians—Muslims and non-Muslims alike—see themselves as Egyptians, Islamists have no national identity, identifying only with Islam's "culture," based on the "sunna" of the prophet and Islam's language, Arabic. This sentiment was clearly reflected when the former leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Muhammad Akef, declared "the hell with Egypt," indicating that the interests of his country are secondary to Islam's.

It is further telling that such calls are being made now—immediately after a Muslim Brotherhood member became Egypt's president. In fact, the same reports discussing the call to demolish the last of the Seven Wonders of the World, also note that Egyptian Salafis are calling on Morsi to banish all Shias and Baha'is from Egypt.

In other words, Morsi's recent call to release the Blind Sheikh, a terrorist mastermind, from U.S. imprisonment, may be the tip of the iceberg in coming audacity. From calls to legalize Islamic sex-slave marriage to calls to institute "morality police" to calls to destroy Egypt's mountain-like monuments, under Muslim Brotherhood tutelage, the bottle has been uncorked, and the genie unleashed in Egypt.

Will all those international institutions, which make it a point to look the other way whenever human rights abuses are committed by Muslims, lest they appear "Islamophobic," at least take note now that the Great Pyramids appear to be next on Islam's hit list, or will the fact that Muslims are involved silence them once again—even as those most ancient symbols of human civilization are pummeled to the ground?







## Arrows in the Hand of a Warrior

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

(Excerpts from his speech in the graduation party, August 2000)

Congratulations to all the graduates of the class of the century! Solomon, the wise king says in Psalm 127, ***“Like arrows in the hand of a mighty warrior, so are the children of the youth”*** (Ps. 127:4).

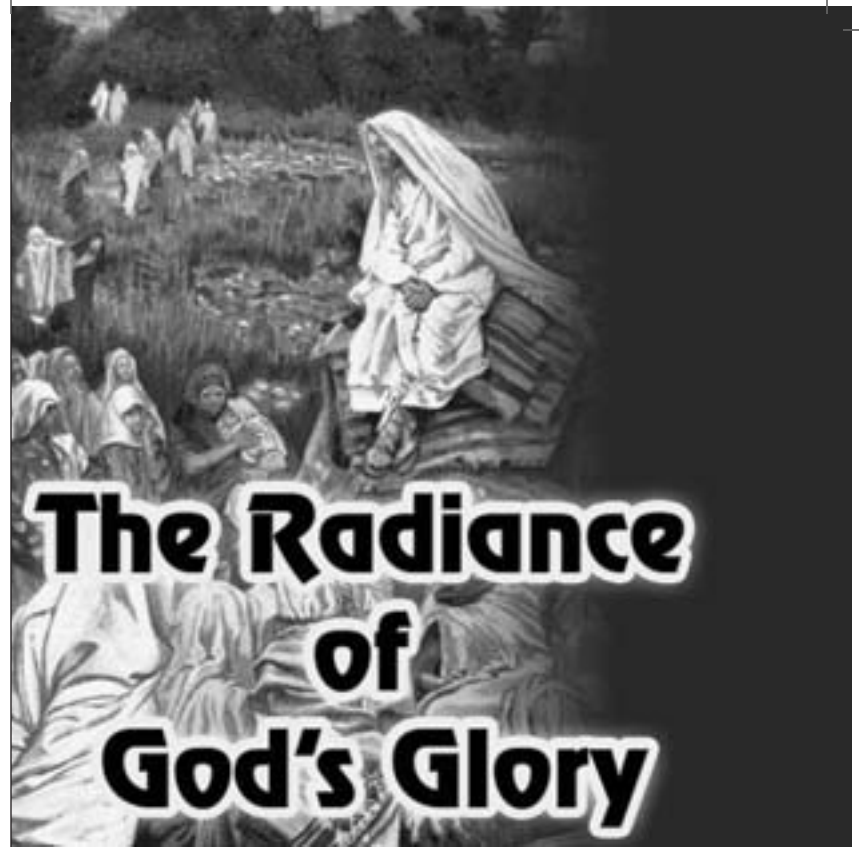
Youth are like “arrows” for many reasons:

**Powerful Weapon:** The arrow was the most powerful weapon in the days of David and Solomon. It is very fast, very sharp, strong and fatal to the enemy if it is aimed right. St. John says to the youth, ***“I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”*** (1 Jn. 2:14). Also, David, the Psalmist, says, ***“Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies”*** (Ps.45). You are the soldiers of Christ, members of His body, the children of the Coptic martyrs, St. George, St. Mina, St. Demiana. The secret of their glory, faith, courage, success and victory was due to considering God as their top priority. They loved Christ more than their own lives. They kept His commandments and had great zeal for His Church.

**Mighty Hands:** The arrow, in order to be effective, must be put into strong and skillful hands. Our verse says, ***“Like arrows in the hand of a mighty warrior, so are the youth”***. When you put yourself in the mighty hands of God, He will use you in a miraculous way for His glory. Your life will be greatly useful, extraordinary and sharp. Therefore trust in the Lord and give Him your heart and let your eyes observe His ways. You will not miss the target.

**Right Target:** With prudence and in the mighty hand of God, which never fails, you as an arrow will be directed aright to the mark, God’s glory and the service of your generation. ***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you”*** (Matt. 6:33). This goal must be crystal clear before you. It is not money, not earthly pleasures, but it is eternal life (Phil. 3:14).

**No Turning Back:** Since the arrow has been shot from its bow, no one can stop it or change its direction or withdraw it. Remember the song, “I have decided to follow Jesus...no turning back”. Advance; make progress, “Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord”.



## The Radiance of God’s Glory

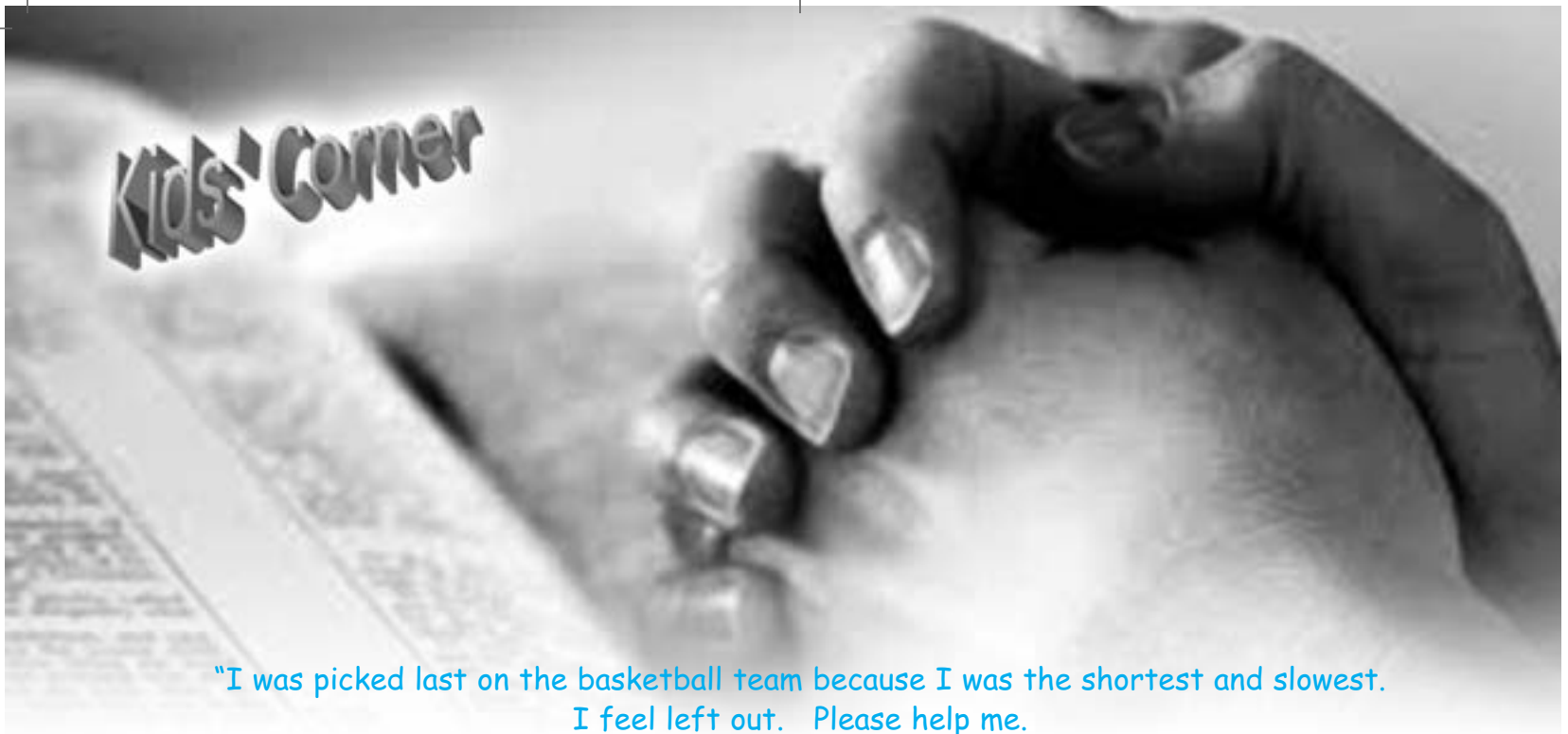
***“God in these last days has spoken to us by His Son, the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person”*** (Heb. 1:2).

The glory of God is beyond comprehension. Glory is the essential nature of God; it is that which makes God, God. Glory includes beauty, majesty, splendor, greatness, power, eternity. This word is without peer in reference to God.

Moses had prayed, “Show me Thy glory.” But mortal capacity has its limits and man could not look upon the indescribable glory and flaming splendor of the infinite God. The great law-giver, huddled in the cleft of a rock, had to be content with but a glimpse of the burning skirts of the One who is eternally clothed in majesty and holiness and before whom suns are but as candles and stars as jewels in His diadem.

But the sacred record tells us that God in Christ was made flesh and “we have seen His glory” (John 1:14). The perfect life of Christ revealed the glory of God as graphically as possible to human understanding. Jesus was the embodiment of the qualities of the Godhead. In Christ, we see God’s Glory.

James Irwin, commander of Apollo 15, said he had never felt closer to God than on his space flight. He shares that while walking on the moon, the thought came to him that this was the greatest event in the history of the world- man walking on the moon! But then he adds, the Lord spoke to him and said, “I did something greater than that. I walked on the earth.”



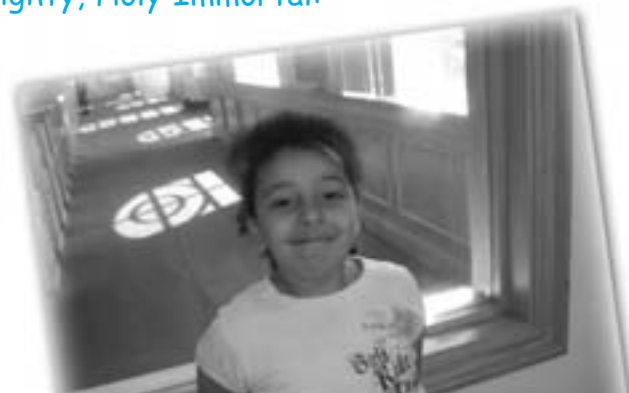
"I was picked last on the basketball team because I was the shortest and slowest.  
I feel left out. Please help me.

"...God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;  
28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and  
the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,  
29 that no flesh should glory in His presence."  
(1 Cor. 1:28).

I know you must feel isolated and alone. However, remember that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ picked people without a lot of skills. They were uneducated (some of the disciples), came from a sinful life (St. Mary Magdalene), had unpopular jobs (tax collector), young with little experience (St. Timothy, Jeremiah). The best qualities are found in the Mother of God. She was humble, has a servant like attitude, obedient, accepted others (she did not interfere when the people were mocking, challenging, or crucifying Him during His ministry). These qualities are not honored by the world, but are highly honored by God.

Let us remember who we want to please in this life. Also, God can do amazing things in the smallest person or one who is not popular. He choose St. Mary to be His mother, not because she was the most likely to be a mother of the Highest.  
She glorified God in her love for God and others.

We are please with the following 2nd grade students who memorized  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal:





# Congratulations



**Marlene Morcos**

Dearest Marlene,  
Congratulations on graduating from UC San Francisco with a Doctorate degree in Pharmacy and attaining your Board of Pharmacy license. We are so proud of your achievements and hard work. May the Lord bless your career with success and happiness  
-The Morcos Family, Isis, Essam, Michael, and Teta Alice



**Dr. Mark Hany Nashed, M.D.**

Dear Dr. Mark,  
Congratulations on your graduation from Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine. May God bless your Career and future!  
-Love, Mom, Dad, and Michael

**John R. Dawod (H.S.)**

Congratulations John on your



graduation from High School And joining College. May the Lord Jesus bless your future And continue to grant you more success in life  
- St. John Church and Family, Mom Mona, Dad Rafik and Sister...

**George Y. Awad**

Congratulations, George for graduating



from High School and attending college. May the Lord Jesus bless you and shine upon your future  
- Dad Youssef, Mom Afaf, brothers Paul, Mark and Joseph

**Sandra Hanna**

Dear Sandra: Congratulations



on your graduation from High School and joining college. May God continue to grant you success in life and studies  
- Mom Eman, Dad Maher and sister

St John Coptic Orthodox Church, Covina congratulates Ronnie and Timber Adrawis for the baptism of their blessed twins,

**MADDOX AND JACKSON**  
(Matthew & John)

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless them and grant them health, growth and long life









## John Sedaros Eagle Project:



It took over 700 hours (2 months) and 55 volunteers from troop 443 and church members to renovate (renew), repair and restore the old church pews to its natural oak beauty. Also, removed over 120 pieces of Gum sticking!!!!  
(By the way this is shameful; we hope not to be repeated anymore).

## News and Views



Has the sun finally set for Egypt's Great Pyramids?  
**See Page 16 for more**

## Christians Crucified in Egypt

