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JOHN

Congratulations

**Class of
2018**



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*Verse
of the Month*



"Bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is
profitable for all things, having promise of the
life now is, and which is to come." (1 Tim. 4:8).

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**SCHEDULE of MEETINGS and EVENTS
for the MONTH of May & June 2016**

SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
+ English Liturgy 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. (In the New Church)	+ Liturgy 8:00 -10:00 a.m.	+ Liturgy 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	+ Liturgy from 8-10 am
* * *	+ Thursday Morning + Senior Citizen Club 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	+ Women's Meeting 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the new church	+ Vespers; Bible Study 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. + Beginners' Deacons- Meeting 6:00 p.m. + Elementary Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
+ Arabic Liturgy 8:00 - 11:15 a.m. (In the Old Church)			
Servants' Meeting + 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 2 nd & 4 th Sunday. + Boy Scouts 12 pm	+ THURSDAY Family Meeting 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Fr. Augustinos	+Arabic Youth Meeting 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Fr. Gawargious	+ College Youth Meeting 7:00- 9:00 p.m.
			High School & J. High Meetings 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.

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1. Apostles' Feast:

On Thursday July 12, the Church celebrates the Apostles' Feast and commemorating the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul. The Liturgy and the Lqquan (washing the feet) will be from 8-11:00 a.m.



2 - Martyrdom of St. James the Apostle:

On Wednesday, July 25, the church commemorates the martyrdom of St. James the Apostle, one of the twelve, author of the letter of good works that bears his name, who presided the first Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15).

3. Martyrdom of 3 disciples from the 70:

On June 4, 13 and 16 we remember the martyrdom of three Apostles, Annanias, Olimpaz and Simon Cluba.

4. The Youth Summer Club:

St. John Church started her youth Summer Club from the middle of June, from 6:00–9:30 pm. The program includes sports, with some social and spiritual activities.

5. The Youth Graduation Party:

On Saturday, June 6, St. John Church held her Annual Graduation Party. The Church priests distributed gifts to Post graduates, College, High School and Junior High students. Our best wishes and prayers to all the graduates to have a bright future, in God's fear and love.

6. Fast and Feast of Virgin Mary (August 7- 22):

On Tuesday, August 7, 2018, the Fast of the Theotokos St. Mary, the holy virgin, starts for two weeks until her Feast on Wednesday, August 22nd. During the second week there will be daily Liturgies and revival meetings.



7. Feast of Transfiguration (August 19):

On Sunday, August 19, the church celebrates the Feast of Christ's Transfiguration. The Liturgy is from 8:00-10:00 a.m.



8. Other famous feasts during July & August:

- 1) July 1: Martyrdom of St. Moses the Black.
- 2) July 10: Departure of St. Cyril of Alexandria.
- 3) July 14: Departure of St. Shenouda the Archimandrite
- 4) July 15: Departure of St. Bishoy, the wilderness star.
- 5) July 22: Departure of St. Ephreim the Syrian.
- 6) July 30 Departure of St. Longinus who pierced Christ by the spear on the cross.
- 7) July 31: Martyrdom of St. Abanoub El-Neheissy.
- 8) August 2: Departure of St. Joseph the carpenter.
- 9) August 4: Departure of St. Mary Magdalene



9. H.H. Pope Tawadros II:

+ Pope Tawadros received the corps of the 22 Martyrs of Libya, and they were buried at the church that carries their names in Menya, Upper Egypt. The Holy Synod decided last year on Pentecost to make the 15th of February each year, (martyrdom day) an Annual Feast of the modern martyrs.

10. H. E. Metropolitan Serpion:



+ On June 2, Anba Serapion and the two auxiliary bishops, celebrated his Anniversary and delivered a talk about the ministry of Diakonia.

+ On June 3rd. H.E. ordained Fr. Joseph Ibrahim a priest to serve the church of "St. Mary the Egyptian" at Santa Clarita. And ordained Fr. David

Benjamin to serve at Archangel Michael in Orange County. He also ordained Fr. Antonious to serve in Visalia, and Fr. George Awad to serve in Pope Kerollos Church, and promoted Fr. Mina Gergis to Senior priest at St. Mouris Church.

+ On June 3rd. afternoon, his Eminence celebrated the graduation of those who got Master Degree in Theology from Claremont University. (Among them two from St. John Church, Alfred Hanna and Refka Estefanos) and delivered awards to them.

11. Youth Mexico Mission of building house for the poor: A group of St. John youth accompanied with Fr. Youhann Moris spent three days in Mexico in a mission of building a house for the poor and preaching.

12. Summer Retreats at the Coptic village in Big-bear: (1) Children: Kids' camp: July 20 – 22.

(2) Family Retreat: from August 3 - 5.

(3) Arabic Youth: September 14 & 15.

13. St. John Annual Summer Festival (Sept. 28-30): St. John Church holds her Annual Grand Festival for three days, around the Feast of the Cross, from Friday, September 28 to Sunday 30, 2018. More details in the next issue.

14. Other Activities:

+ Senior Citizen Club & Fellowship: Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fr. Augustinos leads a Bible Study.

+ Women's Meeting: Saturday 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

+ Arabic Youth Meeting: Friday from 8:00-10:00 p.m. supervised by Fr. Gawargious.

+ The Family Meeting: Thursday from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Fr. Augustinos, Tamer Wadie and Bishay Gabra serve this meeting.

+ Food Bank & Botique service during 2nd and 4th Thursdays, every month from 5:30 p.m.

The 70 Other Disciples

(Luke 10 & Exodus 15:27)

Edited by Fr. Augustinos Hanna



In Luke 10:1ff the Lord appointed seventy other disciples, other than the 12 apostles, to go out as missionaries and apostles. Though not so famous as the twelve, the Seventy carried out their missions with fervor and enthusiasm.

The Tradition of the church confirms that the Seventy remained true to the Lord and their calling, fulfilling a vital role in the spread of the gospel. These were not random choices or accidental volunteers but true disciples, true apostles, whose labors carried the message of their Lord throughout the Roman Empire and beyond.

Though lists of the Seventy vary somewhat, all are remembered in the calendar of the Church and especially in those locations where they labored. To tell the stories passed down in the Church concerning all of the Seventy would fill a book of considerable size, but the compromise of telling the stories of a few, both prominent and relatively obscure members, will relate the conviction and faith of this illustrious body.

Barnabas, a Jew of the tribe of Levi, was born in Cyprus of wealthy parents. He is said to have studied under Gamaliel with Saul of Tarsus, who was to become Paul the Apostle. Originally named Joseph, he was called Barnabas (son of consolation) by the Apostles (Acts 4:36) because he had a rare gift of comforting the hearts of people. He who was the one that sought out Paul, when everyone else was afraid of him, bringing him to the apostles. And it was Barnabas who was first sent by the apostles to Antioch to find out what was going on there (Acts 11:22). Barnabas sent out Paul to work with him, and their long association was broken only when Barnabas was determined to take his cousin Mark, who Paul did not trust just then, on a missionary journey. The mutual relationships among the three were later healed (Col. 4:10). Many ancient accounts say Barnabas was the first to preach in Rome and the first in Milan, but he was martyred in Cyprus, then buried by Mark at the western gate of the city of Salamis.

Among the most prominent of the Seventy were the **Apostles Mark and Luke, the evangelists** who wrote the second and the third gospels.

Also, the **Apostle Titus**, who Paul called his brother in 2 Corinthians 12:18, and called him his son (Titus 1:4). Titus was born in Crete and was educated in Greek philosophy, but after reading the Prophet Isaiah he began to doubt the value of all he had been taught. Hearing the news of the coming of Jesus Christ, he joined some others

from Crete who went to Jerusalem to see for themselves. After hearing the Lord Jesus speak and seeing His works, the young Titus joined those who followed. Baptized by the Apostle Paul, he worked with and served the great apostle to the Gentiles, traveling with him until Paul sent him to Crete, making him bishop of the city. It is said that he was in Rome at the time of the beheading of St. Paul and that he buried the body of his spiritual father before returning home. Back in Crete, he converted and baptized many people, governing the church on that island until he entered into rest at the age of ninety-four.

There are many less prominent among the Seventy who also labored for Christ unto death. **Aristarchus**, who Paul mentions several times (Acts 19:29, Col 4:10, Philem. 24), calling him a "sallow laborer," became bishop of Apamea in Syria. **Sosthenes** (Acts 18:17; 1 Cor. 1:1) became bishop of Caesarea, and **Tychicus** (Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:12; Titus 3:12) succeeded him in that city. **Simeon** (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3), son of Cleopas (who was the brother of Joseph the betrothed of the Virgin Mary), succeeded James as bishop of Jerusalem. **Aristobulus** (Rom. 16:10), the brother of the Apostle Barnabas, preached the gospel in Britain and died peacefully there. The lives of these few are quite representative of the Seventy who were instrumental in helping to plant the Church throughout the world. Many became bishops, but the names of all are numbered in heaven in the Book of Life, as faithful servants of the Lord, apostles and foundations of the Church.

Some additional notes about the 12 and the 70:

(1) The mission of the 12 apostles was directed to the Jews, while the 70 was to the Gentiles.

(2) The mention of the 70 disciples came in St. Luke's gospel only, because he himself was from the Gentiles.

(3) Other than that, the Lord Jesus instructions to both were almost similar.

(4) Both were fulfillment to the type of Elim, in Exodus 15:27, where 12 wells of water and 70 palm trees satisfied the people of God.

[For more information, read the table of the names of the 70 disciples, in the "Orthodox Study Bible", pages 818 & 819].



EXCERPTS FROM BISHOP YOUSSEF'S SPEECH AT CLAREMONT UNIVERSITY

CONGRATULATING THE GRADUATES OF
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES of 2018



We are filled with joy as we stand together, offering our most sincere congratulation to the graduating students. I'm sure your hard work was seen and it is also appreciated.

Some may wonder about the importance of studying Theology, the Bible and Orthodox Ministry and in answer to that, I have few points:

1) God is holding all things by the word of His power, He is Almighty, his greatness no one can fathom, our God is our creator and our redeemer. He is God over all; doesn't He deserve to be known better? Shouldn't the ones who serve Him, seek to serve Him more effectively? Even anyone who chooses to work in any capacity, must be trained for this position. At the University you need to study four years to earn a bachelor's degree. Two or three years of Masters, and another few more years for PhD. And yet, why do some people believe, that they can serve the Lord without studying and preparation?

The Lord Himself trained His disciples for three and half years. And the leading universities of U.S.A. began as Christian institutes. Harvard; is the name of a pastor, Yale; started as a college to train Bible students. Princeton; the founding motto there is "With God we prosper". Same in the U.K. Oxford and Cambridge and even the oldest university in the world St. Andrews in Scotland were all formed for the purpose of training ministers.
2) We need good Bible teachers and ministers.

The world is raising difficult questions, people have opened up to many things and life has gotten too complicated. Atheism is growing, temptation and distractions are arriving from every direction. The Gospel must be delivered honestly and with simplicity. Its relevance must be demonstrated. We must address the issues that are driving people away from the Lord and meet them where they are in their busy rush of their lives. We need equipped Christian leaders in this world. From the dawn of human history, every people group across the world has been struggling with great questions of human existence. Who am I? Why am I here? What am I doing? How do I find meaning and happiness?

Different civilizations and different persons have formulated different answers to these questions. However, all these efforts are insufficient to answer these questions. The great underlying supposition of theology is that; it is only the God who created mankind that can reveal what mankind's purpose is. And show how we may obtain meaning and happiness. If we look for answers to life's deepest questions within ourselves, we will never find satisfactory answers. But if we look to the One who created us, and conform our lives to His words and commandments, then we will find certain answers to all our questions. Riches, fame, power, knowledge and all the other things that humans pursue. Will never finally satisfy us, but as God declared through the prophet Jeremiah, ***"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord."*** Jer. 9: 23-24. Therefore, Theology is not just an interest or hobby that we can add to our list of favorite activities. It pertains to the whole of our lives and must shape and inform our thoughts and activities in every sphere of our existence. Without the knowledge of God, the knowledge of ourselves becomes distorted and futile. And any meaning and upmost satisfaction becomes utterly impossible.

1. The knowledge of Orthodoxy is nothing, if it is not incarnated in the living practice and Orthodoxy becomes united with Orthopraxis ACTS train the graduates, to relay the theology to the practice of Orthodox mission and to relay the practice of Orthodox mission to the theology. These points were clearly addressed in the mission statement of this seminary. The mission of St. Athanasius and St. Cyril Coptic Orthodox theological school. "To provide the participants, with a sound Orthodox Christian Education, which prepares them to become Christian leaders, who are spiritually mature. Biblically and theologically responsible, professionally competent, intellectually a statue deeply committed to share the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and fully equipped for the various ministries of His church. Through Orthodox Christian theological education research and scholarship,





our seminary here seeks to edify the church throughout the world. Directly through the preparation of bishops, priest, deacon servants, scholars and leaders to teach orthodox faith. To teach the Gospel throughout the world, Through mission and evangelism to serve those in need and to heal the historic division of the church through inter Orthodox and inter-religion cooperation.

Now I'd like to share three words of advice with our graduates:

(1) To keep the vision before you, the fact that you joined the seminary and studied theology is not a coincidence, but it is a part of God's plan of your life. Now go and find your own calling, it may not be necessary be in the auspices of the church but perhaps in a school, an organization, or some other place. The Lord may open doors for you to work in one of the usual fields of services or productions and you will use what you learned here in your professional lives. The Lord wants use of faith that knows Him and will live out their faith of all areas of life.

(2) Don't only share your teachings and your information with others but share your whole life with them. Pore out your life and share it with others, just as the Lord Jesus Christ did, who was not only a teacher, but a friend, companion, who shared with His disciples the sweet and the difficult times of their lives. Servants of the Gospel should not work as machines, but as real human being flesh and blood, who can share their lives with others. The

Christian message should always be at the core of their lives.

(3) Don't let this title that you will get today be the last thing you learn, don't settle for what you have already reached. But work hard to continue learning and to join other tracks. Hear the call of God for your life and continue to refine it. Whether you are called to be a priest, Sunday school servant, Bible teacher, or whether you are called for Christian education, a science of ancient manuscript, Christian Counselling or any other field. As we read in the book of Ecclesiastes 12:9-12 "And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright – words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherded. And further, my son be admonished by these. "Let our local culture inside and outside the church be filled with the values of Orthodox Christianity, so that the pure aroma of Christ is diffused to everyone around us. Let there be lawyers, engineers, teachers, construction workers, accountants, doctors, nurses who know the Lord and who have received theological training.

In closing, let our lives be a living testimony to His honor, with the training you have received, may God make you His true and faithful witnesses. Congratulations and Glory be to God forever and ever. Amen!

By Fr. Youhanna Morise

St. Mary's Phrases

During St. Mary's Fast we love to contemplate on St Mary's innumerable virtues. I would like to contemplate on the phrases said by St. Mary; there are seven phrases said on four occasions.

The four occasions and/or occurrences are as follows:

The first occurrence can be found in Luke chapter 1 on two occasions the Annunciation and when St. Mary visited Elizabeth.

The third occurrence is found in Luke chapter 2: when Jesus Christ went to the Temple at age twelve years old.

The last occasion was found in John chapter 2, during the Wedding at Cana of Galilee.

(We can practice during St. Mary's Fast to read these chapters from the Holy Bible.)

St. Mary said very few words, but they are very profoundly beneficial. This shows her deep faith, love, humility and complete submission to God.

1. The first phrase said by St. Mary when Archangel Gabriel told her "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus." (Luke 1:31). Then St. Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1: 34). Although she was initially puzzled her faith never wavered. She did not mean to doubt the issue at all; it is just a wondering as to how this will be fulfilled.

2. The second phrase said by St. Mary when she said to the Angel, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord!" (Luke 1: 38). This shows the humility and complete submission of St. Mary to the work of God in her life regardless of the consequences.

3. The third phrase when she said to the Angel "Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38). Our church fathers say that the holy conception started only when St. Mary said, "Let it be to me according to your word." Because God won't interfere in our lives without our permission. We need to learn from St. Mary and say to God, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

4. The fourth phrase and the second situation were during St. Mary's visit to Elizabeth.

St. Elizabeth was so happy and said, "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1: 43). So, St. Mary answered her with her wonderful praise,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name" (Lk 1: 46-49).

(It will be great if we memorize the praise of St. Mary and take the time to study and reflect on it.)

One lesson that I would like to focus on is wonderful praise, that if God did through me a good deed or a charitable act and people praised me for it, I need to immediately give the credit to God and say, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior."

5. The third occasion was when our Lord Jesus Christ was twelve years old and St. Mary and St. Joseph the elder did not find Him around, so they kept looking for Him for three days till they found Him in the Temple sitting among the teachers listening to them and asking questions. So, St. Mary said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." (Luke 2: 48). What a very kind and pleasant way in dealing with our children especially the teenagers! We need to respect them regardless of what they do. We should not get angry, lose patience, and start yelling at them or even worse avoid talking to them completely. We may win our children by using kind words like those said by St. Mary. We need to repeat this phrase several times and memorize it and learn from St Mary's benevolence.

6. The fourth occasion is during the wedding of Cana of Galilee. She said two phrases: "They have no wine." (Jn. 2:3) and "Whatever He says to you, do it." (Jn.2:5)

St. Mary knew that they ran out of wine which tells us that she was serving in the kitchen. "They have no wine" (John 2:3), St. Mary introduced to our Lord Jesus Christ their need, and she was sure that her Son and Lord is able to fulfill their needs. She brought to our Lord the need or the problem and not the solution.

7. In the meantime, her advice to us and to anyone who has a hardship, tribulation or temptation, "Whatever He says to you, do it." (John 2:5). It is said that this is the shortest sermon in the Holy Bible made up of few words. So, when we have a hardship, tribulation, or any difficult situation, we need to do whatever God asks us to do.

We realize that all the words said by St. Mary especially her praise is taken from the words of the Scriptures. St. Mary read the Holy Scriptures and listened intently to God, but she said very few words. These few words are God's words. St Mary's words are influential and they reflected her immense faith, obedience, and true love.

May the Lord bless us through the prayers and intercessions of our mother St. Mary during these holy days and during all the days of our lives, and glory be to God forever, Amen.



PARENTS AND Adolescents

(2)

by Fr. Gawargious Kolta



Adolescence marks a rapid change in one's role within the family. The adolescent faces the task of increasing independence while preserving a caring relationship with his or her parents. Arguments often concern minor issues of control, such as curfew, acceptable clothing, and the adolescent's right to privacy. Parent-adolescent disagreement increases as friends demonstrate a great impact on one another. New influences on the adolescent may be in opposition to parents' values. Nowadays, the parents have to worry about the threats of social media which became a dangerous place for their children. While adolescents strive for their freedom, the unknowns to parents of what their child is doing on social media is a challenging subject, due to the increasing amount of predators on social media sites. Many parents have some knowledge of social networking sites, and this increases their mistrust.

Relationship of the adolescents with their relatives is a source of conflict and frustration, depending on the relative gender. In same sex relative pairs, intimacy during early adolescence, then remain stable. Mixed sex relatives pairs act differently; relatives drift apart during early adolescent years, but experience an increase in intimacy starting at middle adolescence. Sustaining positive relatives' relations can assist adolescents in a number of ways. Older relatives can give guidance to younger ones, although the impact of this can be either positive or negative, depending on the activity of the older relative.

A potential important influence on adolescence is change of the family dynamic especially divorce. Divorce rate increases and adds great amount of changes in adolescence. Divorce usually results in less contact between adolescents and their noncustodial parents. Some parents think that divorce can have a positive effect on families due to less conflict in the home; however, most research found a negative effect on the adolescents. Children of divorce family have less progress in their math and social studies performance over time. A parental divorce causes adolescent trauma that affect the person in his or her twenties and early thirties. The negative effects of divorce include romantic relationship and conflict style of the adolescents. They try to use the styles of avoidance and competing in conflict management.

Aufseeser and others found that adolescents who have a good relationship with their parents are less likely to engage in various risk behaviors, such as smoking, drinking, fighting, and sexual intercourse. In addition parents influence the education of the adolescents. The study showed that adolescents at the age of 14 who identify their parents as authoritative figures are more likely to complete secondary education, because their parents motivate them to complete schooling, as they avoid disappointing their parents.

Communication with friends increases significantly during adolescence and peer relationships become more intense than in other stages. It is influential to the teen, affecting both the decisions and choices being made. Peer groups are important during adolescence; a period of development characterized by a dramatic increase in time spent with peers and a decrease in adult supervision. Communication may be face-to-face, email, text message, phone or other. Teens are heavy user of newer forms of communication such as Facebook, especially when communicating with peers.

Dobson said that the American entertainment industry shapes the world-wide community negatively through its distribution of movies, TV videos & the internet. They distribute different kinds of immorality day after day. This means that raising kids has become much more difficult. Now, teen pop culture imposes on parent-child relation a vast and enormously influential network of ideas, enticements, sexuality, support, and mostly an articulation of anger that compounds the difficulties of growing up adolescents.

David Bauder said that the parents are too exhausted and harried to care for the adolescent and hardly know what they were doing at home, much less when they are away. He added that the image of family gathered around a single TV set in the family room is fading, and the kids are off by themselves, choosing anything that they want to see. Almost everything they are seeing is essentially going into their minds in some sort of unfiltered way. He urged the parents to get those devices, whether TV sets, computers, DVDs, VCRs out of the bedrooms.

Dobson gave advices to the parents, declaring the way to protect their beloved adolescents from those dangerous devices:

1- Parents must give priority to their children in that period, by shielding them from harmful images and exploitation. They must teach them the difference between right and wrong. They need to hear that God is the author of their rights and liberties, teaching them that He loves them and holds them to a high level of moral accountability.

2- Parents must do everything in their power to reverse the blight of violence and lust that has become now so pervasive. We must know that postmodernism is a cancer that rots the soul of humanity. The creed that proclaims, "If it feels good, do it!" has filled many hospitals with drug-overdosed teenagers, too many prisons cells with fatherless youth, too many caskets with slain young people. We must set for our children the highest standards of ethics and morality, and to protect them from evil and death. Dobson added some ideas and suggestions to the parents that relate to all adolescents:

1-Give teenagers the gifts they hunger for most; respect and dignity. The doubt and feelings of inferiority reach an all-time high at this age. We must build their confidence and self-respect, and never be mean, discourteous, or insulting. If you can communicate kindness to your teenager, many of the usual disciplinary problems of adolescence can be circumvented.

2-Hold any conversation with your uncomprehending teenagers. These moments when you are trying to explain why they must be home by a certain hour, or why they should keep their room straight, or why they can't have their car on Friday night. We must use wisdom to discuss these issues with them instead of using irritable forces. We must remember that their behavior is greatly influenced by hormones, the new chemical that surge in their veins. Parents must not be discouraged when the storms are raging. The adolescent years represent a transition period that will soon pass.

3-Pray open the door of communication with an angry adolescent. It requires more tact and skill than any parenting assignment. Some parents pray open the door of communication with angry adolescent by shouting and screaming and engaging in endless battles that leave them exhausted and without strategic advantage. Dr. James Dobson recommended one of the parents that he or she invite the teenager out to a breakfast on a Saturday morning, leaving the rest of the family at home. It would be best if this event occurred not in the midst of a hassle battle. Dr. Dobson mentioned seven messages that can be conveyed during breakfast with adolescent.

4-Make your energetic adolescent occupied in constructive activities. Unsupervised time after school can lead to some harmful behavior, remembering the old adage warning: "An idle mind is the devil's workshop". Get your teenager into a

youth program in the church and/or in an athletic pursuit, music, hobbies, part time job, or an academic interest. In addition, try to eat dinner with your teenagers at least five times a week. This will make them better in school; least likely to be on drugs or depressed.

5-Parents must use incentives to have good relations with your teens. They can use money, or can share with them some hobbies such as fishing. Parents can use some encouraging words, such as "I feel what you feel" or "I am your friend and I want to help you". In the same time, parents willing to take corrective actions during adolescent years can do it without nagging or groaning. They must find the way to balance between love and firm discipline that ends up winning the heart of teenagers. The parent who screams and threatens but does not love is only going to fuel teenage rebellion.

6-Grant your teenager independence and maturity. Parents' inclination as loving guardians is to hold their kids too tightly, trying to make their decisions, keeping them under their wings, and preventing the possibility of failure. When they do so, they force their young adults into one of two destructive patterns: either they passively accept the over-protection and remain dependent children in their adult life, or they rise up in great wrath to the parents' bondage and interference. Dr. Dobson gave an expression in this concept: "Hold on with an open hand". He said that parents should grant their children independence from their toddler years. They should grant them increasing freedom and responsibility year by year, even to strong-willed children. They can't learn without facing some hardships. Adolescent can't enter successfully young adulthood until we release him from our protective custody. The cage door must be opened to the world outside.

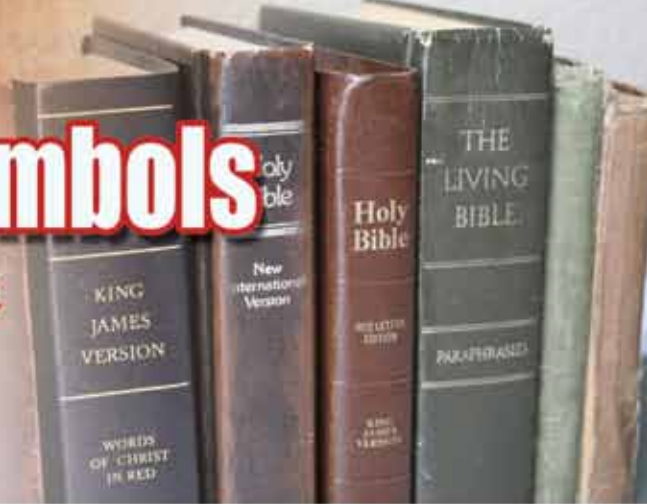
7-Above all else, introduce your kids to Jesus Christ and then ground them thoroughly in the principle of your faith. Dr. Dobson said that this is job # 1. Parents must provide their kids with unshakable faith in Jesus Christ. If the salvation of our children is really that vital to us, then our spiritual training should begin before children can even comprehend what it is all about. They should grow up seeing their parents on their knees before God. They will never forget what they have seen and heard. The seeds planted during that time, will be with them for the rest of their lives. St. Paul said: "Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). He added that in acquainting our children with God's judgement and wrath is very important while they are young. We must tell them the nature of sin and its consequences. They must know that the Lord is both a God of love and a God of judgement. There are 116 places in the Bible where we are told to "fear the Lord". We must be careful to balance the themes of love and justice as we teach our children.

Biblical Types & Symbols

For Christ in old Testament



Fr. Augustinos R. Hanna
(Translated by Mr. Maged Botros)



The study of Biblical types is a complete subject called **Typology**. It is an enjoyable study of the Holy Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament. These types have been defined as establishing a historical link between persons, things, and events in the Old Testament and similar persons, things, or events in the New Testament.

A type is a prophecy but in the form of a person, some object, or an event. The Holy Bible is full of these types. They are instances, foreshadows, diminutive pictures or amazing historical stories given by inspiration of God, to reveal concealed meanings. There are true historical stories that do not only tell us what happened in the distant past, although this is beneficial in itself, but also often teach us things and a prophetic fact about the future and God's plan of salvation for humanity, especially about the Lord Jesus Christ, His great love and redemption. These concealed and unrevealed images are what we call 'types'.

On the road to the Emmaus village, the Lord Jesus gave two of his disciples the greatest Bible study lesson ever heard by a human ear, "and beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures" (Luke 24: 27). Then, a little while later on the same Sunday of His resurrection, He completed the lesson to the apostles in the upper-room, saying, **"These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."** And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures (Luke 24: 44, 45). These parts, which He interpreted to them with His wisdom and power, made their hearts burn within them, and their eyes open to wonderful facts that had never occurred to them.

Through teaching the Holy Bible for over half a century, whenever I talked about these types, many often said to me, "Now a lot of wonderful new meanings have been revealed to us, how couldn't we discover them before?!"

Talk about abstract theology is not easy to understand by an ordinary person, but with the help of these wonderful types the simplest or most ignorant person can understand and learn **"The things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures"**.

Currently, there is a great danger arising from our neglecting to study the Old Testament, limiting ourselves to reading and studying the New Testament only. We often forget the famous words of St Augustine:

"The New in the Old concealed, and the Old is by the New revealed".

There are many parts of the New Testament which cannot be clearly understood because we do not study the Old Testament, whereas, **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."** (2 Timothy 3: 16 - 17)

Studying the Old Testament is a successful and effective remedy that works against any error or doubt, and corrects our concepts of many issues. It proves definitely the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is truly the Word of God.

Biblical types mainly point forward to the Lord Jesus Christ, His coming, His salvation, His redemption and sacrifice on the Cross, His resurrection and ascension to the Heavens, His second coming and eternal kingdom, but some of them refer to the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, and the church of Christ and some of its sacraments, such as baptism and communion, and to the Virgin St Mary.

The Holy Bible scholars divide the Old Testament types into three groups:

(1) Persons, (2) things, or (3) events

In this article I am going to give a general statement only of these three types (amounting to 85). With God's grace I am going to deal with them in more detail in the following issues of the Magazine.

First: Types of Christ; in Individuals

There are approximately 20 individuals in the Old Testament who point forward to the Lord Jesus Christ, but I will mention only the most important fifteen:

1. Adam	6. Isaac	11. Job
2. Abel	7. Joseph	12. David
3. Enoch	8. Moses	13. Solomon
4. Noah	9. Joshua	14. Elisha
5. Melchizedek	10. Boaz	15. Jonah

Second: types of Christ; Objects

The Old Testament is full of many amazing types referring to the Lord Jesus Christ, His work, and His kingdom through objects. **I will mention 30 only of these types, which are:**

(1) **The tree of life** (Gen. 2: 9, compare with Jn. 6:48-51).

(2) **The coats of skins** (Gen. 3: 21).

(3) **Woman's seed** (Gen. 3: 15; Gal 3: 16 & 4:4).

(4) **Abraham's Seed** (Gen. 12:22, Gal 3: 16).

(5) **David's offspring** (Psalm 132: 11, Rev. 22: 16).

(6) **The royal seed** who Pharaoh, Athalia, and Herod failed to destroy (Exodus 2, 2 Chron. 22: 10, Matt 2: 16)

(7) **The ark** (Gen. 6:9, 1 Peter 3: 20, 21)

(8) **The rainbow**, the sign of the covenant (Gen. 9, 10)

(9) **The bread and wine in Melchizedek's offering to Abram** (Gen. 14: 18, Matt. 26: 26-28, Psalm 110: 4)

(10) **Jacob's ladder** (Gen. 28 & John 1:51)

(11) **The wrestling angel** (Gen. 32, Hos. 12: 3-5)

(12) **The lion of Judah** (Gen. 49: 9, Rev. 5: 5)

(13) **The LORD's Passover lamb** (Ex. 12, 1 Cor. 5: 7)

(14) **The four bloody sacrifices** (Leviticus 1: 1 - 7)

(15) **The flour offering** (Leviticus 2)

(16) **The pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire** (Ex. 14)

(17) **The tree of Marah** (Exod. 15:25)

(18) **The manna in the wilderness** (Ex 16)

(19) **The stricken rock in Horeb** (Exod. 17)

(20) **Moses' raised hands** (Exod. 17: 11)

(21) **The tabernacle of meeting, with its components, parts, pieces and colors** (Exod. 25- 40)

(22) **The bronze serpent** (Num. 21, Jn 3: 14)

(23) **Jacob's Star and Israel's Scepter** (Num. 24:17)

(24) **The cities of refuge** (Deut. 4: 41, 19: 2)

(25) **The Rock of Ages** (Deut. 32: 4, 15, 18, Isaiah 26:4)

(26) **The cleft of the rock** (Ex. 33: 22)

(27) **The Urim and the Thummim** (Ex 28:30, Deut. 33: 8)

(28) **The scarlet cord** (Joshua 2: 18 - 21)

(29) **Elisha's stick** which went down into the Jordan River, in the likeness of the Cross, and made the iron float (2 Kings 6)

(30) **The stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and crushed the great image of times in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2: 35, 45)

(31) **Jonah coming out of the belly of the fish alive after three days.**

Third: types of Christ through events

There are more than 41 types of Christ through events, which are as follows:

(1) **The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters typifying** Christian baptism with water and the Spirit in the new creation (en 1:2, Jn. 3:5, Titus 3:5)

(2) **God clothed Adam and his wife with Coats of skins**, typifying sacrifice and being clothed with Christ's righteousness (Gen. 3: 21, Isa. 61: 10, 1 Cor. 1:30, Matt. 22:12).

(3) **Abel's burnt offering** (Gen 4, Heb.11: 4).

(4) **God prepared the ark for salvation of Noah, as a type of God's only way for man's salvation**, through belief in Christ and baptism (Jn. 14:6; 1 Peter 3: 18 - 21)

(5) Return of **the dove to the ark, with the olive leaf in her mouth** (Gen. 8: 11).

(6) **Melchizedek offering the rite of bread and wine to Abram as a symbol of the Eucharist and partaking of God's flesh and blood** (Gen. 14 : 18, Ps 110, Heb. 7, Matt. 26: 26- 28).

(7) **The Sacrifice of Isaac as a burnt offering**

(Gen. 22, Jn. 3: 16, Rom. 8:32).

(8) Isaac's marriage typifying Christ and the church (Gen. 24, Eph. 5)

(9) Jacob blessing Joseph's two sons with crossed hands in the likeness of the Cross (Gen. 48).

(10) God feeding His people with manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16, Jn. 6: 32, 48- 50)

(11) Crossing the Red Sea, and triumph over Pharaoh as a symbol of salvation, and drowning of Satan through belief in Christ and baptism (Gen 32).

(12) Changing the bitter waters of Marah to sweet water by the cross, and satisfying hunger at Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees (Exodus 15 : 22 – 25, Matt. 10, Luke 10).

(13) Victory over Amalik by the raising of Moses' hands in the likeness of the Cross, in prayer. (Exodus 17)

(14) Moses fasting for 40 days before getting the Ten Commandments. (Exodus, 24:12, 33)

(15) Offering of the two birds for the cleansing of the leper (Leviticus 14)

(16) The Day of Atonement and the scape-goat (Leviticus 16)

(17) The Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23)

(18) Service inside the tabernacle of meeting (Exodus 25 – 40).

(19) The raising of the bronze serpent by Moses to heal anyone who had been bitten by the poisonous fiery serpents (Num. 21, Jn. 3: 14)

(20) The Sabbath year and the Jubilee (Leviticus 25)

(21) The red heifer offering (Numbers 19: 2-9)

(22) The Messianic Prophet like Moses, from among his brethren. (Deut. 15 – 18, Jn. 1: 22, Acts 3: 22, 7: 37)

(23) Joshua Crossing the Jordan (Joshua 3)

(24) Boaz marries Ruth (Ruth 1 – 4)

(25) David's victory over Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

(26) David honors Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9)

(27) David wept by the Mount of Olives and in the Kidron Valley (2 Sam. 15)

(28) David loved his enemies and wept for Saul (1 Sam. 24, 2 Sam. 1)

(29) Solomon builds the temple (1Kings 6-9)

(30) Zerubbabel as a type of Christ in returning the captives (Ezra 3 : 2 , 8 , Hag. 1:1, 14)

(31) Nehemiah as a type of Christ in construction work

(32) Job as a type of Christ in patience, tolerating suffering, and prophecies about the Redeemer, Mediator, resurrection and righteousness (Job 9:32, 33 Job 19: 25, 26, 33: 23-28)

(33) Christ, the Eternal Creator and God's wisdom in Solomon's Proverbs (Proverbs 8: 22- 35, 9, 30: 4)

(34) Christ, the heavenly bridegroom of the redeemed bride, the human soul, in the Song of Songs.

(35) One of the seraphim picked a live coal from the altar and touched Isaiah's lips with it, as a type of God's body in Communion (Isaiah 6).

(36) Christ, a Branch of righteousness and maker of a new covenant (Jeremiah 23:5, 31: 31)

(37) Ezekiel illustrates Christ as the Good Shepherd and the New David. (Ezekiel 34)

(38) Daniel illustrates Christ as the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands (Virginal birth), who removed the heathen Babylonian, Persian, Median, Greek and Roman kingdoms, and became a great mountain and filled the whole earth (Dan 2), the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! Equal to the Father in dominion and glory, all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. (Dan 7:13, 14)/ Also the time of His coming, and the sanctuary being destroyed. (9)

(39) Jonah coming out of the belly of the fish alive after three days. He was the only prophet who Christ likened Himself to in His death, burial, and resurrection after three days. (Jonah 1: 17, 2: 10, Matt. 12)

(40) In Zechariah we see Christ in His first and second coming, the precious corner stone that has seven eyes and the King of Peace in His victorious entry into Jerusalem, His wounded side and hands. (Zechariah 9: 1)

(41) In Malachi we see Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, who offers healing, the Messenger of the covenant, and the LORD of the temple (Malachi 1, 3, 4)



By Dr. Emil Goubran



Is submission to God a need or an obligation?

To answer this question we need first to define the meaning of the word “submission” within the Biblical context. Submission, in the Bible, refers to obedience, which in turn refers to keeping/following God’s commandments. In keeping God’s commandments we are expressing our love and trust in Him. The Lord said to His disciples ***“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*** (John 14:15).

Even though God has granted us free will, navigation through life is not easy, and the consequences of some wrong choices/decisions could have grave consequences. However, the most grave of these consequences is spending eternity away from God. The way to eternal life with the Lord requires careful following of God’s instructions and directions for He is the only one who could guide us toward our eternal home ***“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me.”*** (Jn. 14:6).

Let us look at it from an earthly perspective and point to the parallels between it and the spiritual perspective. Imagine you are travelling to a far and distant place for the first time and relying completely on your car navigator to guide you all the way to this destination. If you don’t follow the instructions given to you by your navigator, you will never reach your destination. However, if you missed-up and acknowledged (confessed) that you missed the exit that takes you to the next freeway, you could always make a U-turn (repentance) to correct course.

This incidence of missing the mark (sin) may repeat itself several times through this long trip (earthly life). However, if you realize, acknowledge, and change direction to correct course and continue to follow your navigator’s instructions, you will ultimately reach your destination.

It is really amazing that while we willfully follow our navigator (an electronic machine) without questioning in order to reach our destination, some find it difficult to follow God’s instructions (commandments) that guide us in our long life journey toward our eternal home with God.

Moreover, in this electronic age, we can’t dispense with the navigator function of our mobile phones and we feel more secure when we carry it with us, but we don’t feel the same way carrying the word of God in our journey through life.

What makes it even more challenging is that the road may be dark and requires light to see where we are going, and that is what the word of God provides. The Lord said ***“I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*** (John 8:12); ***“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path”*** (Psalm 119:105).

So to answer the original question, we should ask ourselves whether carrying our electronic navigator (built in our car or carried in our mobile phones) is a need or an obligation. I think the answer is obvious.

The next step after concluding that our submission to God is really a need, we enter into a covenant with God promising and committing that we willfully submit to God’s will. From this point on we are obligated to keep our commitment to the Lord or we will be in violation of our covenant with Him.

In conclusion, we should willfully submit to God’s instructions (commandments) without hesitation for it is the only way we could reach our heavenly home. It is really a need before it is an obligation.

Readers' Corner

Dear FR AUGUSTINE,

A Good Reputation



(For my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7..."

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.(Proverbs 22:1)

A man in the Army of Alexander the Great who was also named Alexander was one day accused of cowardly actions. He was brought before Alexander, the great military conqueror, who asked what his name was. He replied softly, "Alexander."

"I can't hear you," the ruler stated.

The man again said, a little louder, "Alexander."

The process was repeated one more time, after which a very flustered Alexander the Great sternly commanded him, "Either change your name or change your conduct!"

When Scripture tells us about the importance of a good name, it's not talking about a name that's cre-

ative or even meaningful. It really carries the idea of maintaining a good reputation, so that when others hear your name, they associate it with things that are good, honorable, and upright.

Maybe your reputation at some point has taken a hit because of something that may or may not have been your fault. Regardless, it's never too late to begin making a good name for yourself. Conduct yourself in such a way that your good name precedes you. When you do, you'll be a much more effective witness for Christ!

Ask God to help you build a reputation that makes you an effective witness for Christ.

With love & prayers

Mona & Bhupinder Singh

Readers' Corner (2)

In St. John' May/June 2018 edition, volume 30, No. 304, there is a beautiful article regarding mother Maggie. I would like to respectfully suggest to include with such articles additional information on how to help. It will greatly help the cause, if we direct the readers and provide them with the names of organizations or websites so they can help.

I am one of the readers of this articles that wanted to help; yet the article left me with no resources to provide my help. Can you please send me addresses, websites and contact information so I can help this particular mission of "Mother Maggie". Where do I go? Thanks.

Hany Roman

Dear Hany: These are the contact information you need:

Mama Maggie contact Egypt Maha:

+20 100 166 0292

Mama Maggie contact America Jennifer Cramer:

+1 (269) 599-2663 & Mama Maggie contact America

Monique Boutros: +1-323-855-7555



Summer 2018 Contest

I. Famous Women of the Bible

Complete their names:

1. M.....deserved to be called blessed from all generations.
2. E.....was a beautiful Jewish girl who became Queen of Persia.
3. Ly.....was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira.
4. E.....was the mother of John the Baptist.
5. R.....had only two sons, Joseph and Benjamin.

II. Matching: Place the correct letter in the blank at the left:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ---1. Widow of Zarephath | A. Daughter of Laban. |
| ---2. Deborah | B. Visited King Solomon. |
| ---3. Rachel | C. was converted in the city of Philippi. |
| ---4. Hannah | D. Jacob only daughter. |
| ---5. Queen of Sheba | E. Mother of Samuel. |
| ---6. Lydia | F. Elijah raised her son from the dead |
| ---7. Dinah | G. The only O. T. woman Judge. |

III. True or False:

- ___ 1. St. Peter raised the dead son of Nain's widow.
- ___ 2. Mary (Lazarus' sister) dried Jesus' feet with her hair.
- ___ 3. After Sarah died Abraham married Keturah.
- ___ 4. Jezebel was trampled by horses.
- ___ 5. Hagar was the Egyptian mother of Ishmael.
- ___ 6. The "Virtuous Woman" is found in Proverbs.
- ___ 7. Samson killed Delilah.

IV. Name the woman:

- ___ 1. She became an old woman but was never a little girl.
- ___ 2.. St. John saw her in heaven as a woman closed with the sun, with moon under her feet.
- ___ 3. This woman was responsible for Samson's blindness.
- ___ 4. A Moabite woman who accompanied her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem after her husband's death.
- ___ 5. St. Peter raised this godly woman from the dead at Joppa.
- ___ 6. She and her husband fell dead at Peter's feet.
- ___ 7. She was the sister of Moses and Aaron.
- ___ 8. She saw angels and was full of grace despite she was very poor and orphan.

V. Multiple Choice:

Draw a line around the correct answer:

1. There are (A) 66 (B) 40 (C) 72 books in the Bible.
2. The New Testament contains (A) 30 (B) 27 (C) 39 books.
3. The Bible was written by about (A) 20 (B) 30 (C) 40 authors.
4. "Testament" means (A) "a will or covenant" (B) book (C) story.
5. The New Testament age began with at Christ's (A) birth (B) death (C) resurrection.
6. The thief on the cross lived under: (A) the old covenant (B) the new covenant (C) neither.
7. St. John was martyred by (A) sword (B) cross (C) neither.
8. Who said "Whatever He says to you do it?" (A) David (B) Martha (C) Virgin Mary.
9. St. Luke was: (A) fisherman (B) physician (C) tax- collector.
10. Who was the last judge of Israel? (A) Eli (B) Samson (C) Samuel.
11. St. Paul wrote (A) 10 (B) 21 (C) 14 letters
12. We believe in St. Mary's powerful (A) writings (B) preaching (C) intercession.

VI. Church History:

1. Who is the mother whom her children were martyred on her lap and she was encouraging them?
2. Who was the first bishop sent by the church to Ethiopia, Africa, and who was the Pope who sent him?
3. Who wrote the most famous book on the life of St. Anthony the great?
4. Who is the Patriarch whom in his time Mountain Moquattam was moved in Egypt?
5. What is the church (out of Egypt) which was turned into mosque then became a museum now?
6. On what city St. Augustine was ordained a bishop?
7. What church was the first to preach Christ to France, Switzerland and Ireland?
8. Who was the Dean of the School of Alexandria in the second century while he was 18 years old?
9. Who is the saint who used to pray from sunset to sunrise?
10. Mention the names of the most famous five commentators on the Bible in Church history?

+ Send your answers to the magazine before the end of August 2018.

The Egyptian Mother Teresa Minister of happiness and joy

Sabah-Elkheer Magazine

It is a moment in which a person leaves his previous life behind and willingly follows the road to find his restless soul. This is a special gift. It lifts the person by his deeds to the highest heaven and transforms him to be a king walking the earth, more majestic and above all else.

A king whose only desire in life is to be the reason for creating happiness and joy.

In this particular moment, I met MaggyGobran, Maggie Gobran as thousands of children like to call her. Between global and Egyptian press and media, she is given the name "Mother Teresa" as the Indian Mother Teresa who was a beam of gentle light, giving and caring for every person in need. The Egyptian Mother Teresa moves along the same road as the Indian Mother Teresa did, to continue the journey and follow her steps by creating hope and raising the motto "don't let circumstances take away your joy." She continued on her amazing journey for more than thirty years through her ministry "Stephen's Children" to give joy to thousands of unfortunate and restored dignity to those in need by helping them learn a craft to support themselves.

Mama Maggie helped fulfil the dream of more than forty thousand children by providing an education. Training was provided to thousands of mothers to help them care for their children and improve their financial situation.

The change in Maggie Gobran's life was astonishing and sudden. She left her teaching career in the American University in Cairo after her aunt's death. She was then in her mid-thirties, living a comfortable life with her husband and children.

She vowed to help the poor taking her aunt as her role model. She went to the garbage village- Hay El Zabaleen- in Mokattam for the first time. It was there, she understood that it wasn't a passing feeling but she wants to help those people. She was overwhelmed by the number of the poor children who were looking for a life among the garbage.

There, Maggie Gobran stopped and left everything behind. She went to the poorest place in Egypt with more than 1400 volunteers to help about thirty thousand families by monthly visits.

Inspired by Jesus Christ, she made it a habit of washing the children's



feet; every time she met them while singing the national Anthem, one by one, she would wash their feet and bring them a small flip flop of the appropriate size.

After the child had had his feet washed and has sing the National Anthem, he would sit beside Mama Maggie hoping to get some sweets and well wishes from the peaceful mother. The mother who gave him the dream of a life he was wishing for.

When I asked her about how she felt today when she was still limitlessly giving?

She answered me saying that she felt the same feeling of joy as if she was helping the very first time. She continued saying that every child she met she felt that God sent her a gift to grant her peace when she help them. Even if it was something as simple as a pat on the back. She felt human.

It never became a routine but a feeling of joy renewed with every person she helped. She remembered joking with her friends in the past about how they would react to her if she had become a minister. She stated that she felt as such and the reason would be the joy she witnessed in the eyes of

others. The title and the prize were never of value to her, it would be the place she occupied in others hearts.

Today, we are in Farah 1 School, and there is another school in Qaluibia of her founding Farah 2 School in Khousous what are children being taught there?

These are schools starting from kindergarten for children in need who didn't have a chance for education until the secondary education. We try to teach them how to be giving and productive in the environment. There are workshops for girls to teach them needle work, for boys to teach them shoemaking techniques and a clinic available for all people there.

How do you feel when you meet one of your children and he became a successful young man?

Laughing, she said I feel proud once, I was walking down the street and this car stopped suddenly out of it came a young man with big build. For a moment I was afraid because I didn't know him but then he said: "how are you mama/ don't you know me? I am right now, I have a place of my own and a car and I want you to know that there are people who insist on repay what you did to them by helping others as you taught them." This happens every time I meet one of my children somewhere and I feel proud that my effort didn't go to waste.

What is the strangest thing a child asked for?

The strangest thing is when you ask a child what they are hopping for or want and they answer: "nothing" I swear to God this made me cry. For a child to feel that they don't have the right to ask hope or wish for something which is the worst for a child this young.

Young children are supposed to dream and be happy. We try to help them dream and make something beautiful out of their hard circumstances as much as we can. There are millions of amazing Egyptian children who will be remarkable when given the space and opportunity to flourish.

Why do you fear being honored or awarded? And did you go to solitary retreat when you knew about being nominate to Noble Prize for Peace?

Because I don't want any of this, I feel like I am not doing enough and I have to exert more effort. Meaning, I don't look at what I did to help thousands but I focus on what I couldn't offer to millions of children and people in need. That is how I see it. I hope to provide the chance for everyone in need to the right to beauty and rightness to flourish after seeing a different society.

Why did you present President El Sissy a blue locket when he presented order of perfection to you? Did he know that you will do so?

I belief that the blue color protects from evil and envy. That was why I gave him a blue locket. I belief that man did something beautiful for Egypt. No one can deny what he did even his opposed. He didn't know about the Locket but when I offered it, he wore it immediately. And that made me happy.

What was the thing the Egyptian mother Teresa regretted the most?

May be, I regretted wasting the early years of my life before I started helping the poor. I think to myself that if I had another life time, I would have had carried on with the same mission. But I believe after me, my children the ones that I helped and the ones that work with me and help me, will continue the work. If I deserve any awards or honoring, it will be because of the work they are doing. They deserve all the awards and I know they won't let me down. They will follow the same road to find the beautiful treasure inside everyone specially the ones in need.





by Fr. A. Hanna



CHRIST'S NAMES AND SIGNIFICANCE IN THE MUSLIM QURAN

Among all Orientals, but especially among the Semites, a deep significance is attached to names. This is evident not only from the Bible, but from the practice among the Arabs of today. Names, surnames and nicknames, are bestowed upon men and places with the intent of expressing the very character of the person or thing named.

In considering, therefore, the teaching of the Koran and Moslem tradition concerning our Lord Jesus Christ, we begin first of all by mentioning the names that are applied to Him in Mohammed's Book, and most commonly used among Muslims. We give the names in the order of their importance and frequency of usage.

Note that it is not only the Lord Jesus Christ or St. John the Baptist or St. Paul or St. Peter who said that Christ is "above all" and He is Heavenly, but also the Muslim Koran said the same as you see from these verses

1- Isa (Jesus): This name the most commonly used among Muslims, generally with the prefix Nabi (prophet) and often with the addition "Son of Mary" **is used 25 twenty-five times in the Koran.** Here are some examples:

(1) **Surah 2:81:** "We gave Moses the Book and we followed him up with other apostles, and we gave Jesus the son of Mary manifest signs and aided him with the Holy Spirit."

(2) **Surah 2:254:** "We have given Jesus the son of Mary manifest signs and strengthened him by the Holy Spirit."

(3) **Surah 3:40:** "When the angel said, "O

Mary! Verily God gives thee the glad tidings of a Word from him; his name shall be messiah Jesus the son of Mary, regarded in this world and the next and of those whose place is nigh to God."

(4) **Surah 3:48:** "When God said, 'O Jesus! I will make thee die and take thee up again to me, and will clear you of those who misbelieve, and will make those who follow thee above those who misbelieve, at the day of judgment, then to me is your return."

(5) **Surah 4:169:** "The Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, is but the apostle of God and His Word which He cast into Mary and a spirit from him."

2- El Massih (the Anointed One & Purified from sin): This name, the Massih, sometimes joined to that of Jesus and sometimes used by itself, occurs in the Koran 8 eight times in the following passages:

+Surah 3:40

+Surah 4:156

+Surah 4: 169

+Surah 4:170

3- Kalimat Allah (The Word of God):

This is used in the Koran twice in direct reference to Christ as the Word of God and as a Word from God.

+ Surah 3:40 & Surah 4:169

The title given to Moses is Kalim Allah, in the sense that God spoke to him, **but Jesus is the Kalimet Allah, or Word of God, because He communicates God's word, God's will to men.**

4- Roh Allah (Spirit of God or Spirit from God):

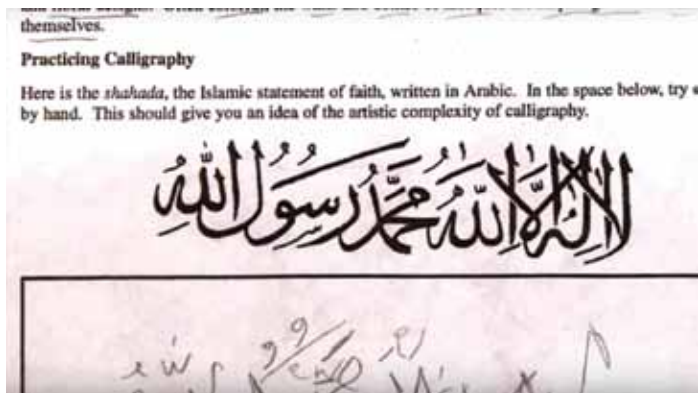
This title is used in the Koran once concerning Jesus Christ (Surah 4:169). All apostles are prophets, but not all prophets are apostles. Jesus was both. According to (Muslim) commentators this is the definition of a prophet: "A prophet must be a male person, free, not slave, of sons of Adam; of sound mind and without bodily defect or disease, to whom has been revealed a revelation which he himself accepts; nor must he come with a message before he is of age." (Note: Maryam, Eve and Sarah are admitted by some Muslims among the list of prophets, but it is contrary to the teaching of the majority).

The most excellent four prophets, according to Koran are Mohammed, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

5. Kaul al-Hak (Word of Truth):

Surah 19:35; calls the name of Jesus as Kalemata Allah as "Kaul al-Hak", which means the Word of Truth, and this agrees with Jesus calling Himself, "I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6). This denotes the expression of what is in the mind of the speaker, who in this case is God Most High. If Christ were a Word of God, it would be clear that He was only one expression of God's will; but since God Himself calls Him "the Word of God", it is clear that He must be the one and only perfect expression of God's will, and the only perfect manifestation of God. It was through Him that the prophets spoke when He sent them His Holy Spirit. It shows that Christ only can reveal God to men. It is clear that He Himself must know God and His Will perfectly.

This means that the Koran has made Christ superior than all other prophets including Mohammed himself.



A Christian parent of a Gerrardstown, West Virginia, student is [outraged](#) after his daughter's school sent home a reported assignment requiring that the students copy the Islamic faith declaration in calligraphy.

What are the details?

According to [The Christian Post](#), Rich Penkoski, who the outlet identified as a "conservative Christian who runs an online ministry called Warriors for Christ," revealed that his seventh-grade daughter brought home the assignment this week.

The purported assignment came from the young girl's social studies class, and included a page that required the students to copy the Islamic faith declaration in calligraphy.

According to The Christian Post, "the packet went into detail about the history of Islam, the prophet Muhammad, and the five pillars of the religion."

Penkoski, however, was most perturbed by the notion that the children were instructed to write the Arabic form of the Shahada.

The Shahada is the Islamic profession of faith, which roughly [translates](#) to, "There is no god but Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

"I saw the assignment of writing the Shahada in Arabic. Their excuse was calligraphy," Penkoski told the outlet. "I was like, 'Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!' First of all, calligraphy was invented in China 3,000 years prior to Muhammad. The fact that they were trying to get my daughter to write that disturbed me."

Penkoski told his daughter that she was not to complete the assignment.

"My daughter told me that if she didn't do the assignment then she was going to get a [detention] slip," he explained.

He called the school the next day, where he was told that the packet was not required, simply "optional reading," according to The Christian Post.

Penkoski doesn't buy the school's explanation that it was

not required homework, and said that the school had previously assigned similar projects concerning Christianity and Judaism — both projects, he said, were compulsory.

"If it was optional, then why was there no option for comparison for Judaism and Christianity?" he asked.

"There was no option to recite any of the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments. There was no option to write Hebrew. Why is it only Islam?"

"I am curious why the other ones were not optional and the Islamic one was optional," Penkoski mused. "It only seemed to be optional after I raised objection."

Did the school comment on the incident?

The Christian Post reached out to the middle school's principal, Ron Branch, who provided the outlet with a statement.

"There were two calligraphy activities in the packet," Branch said, "One involving the Shahada and one that is just English letters in which the students can write whatever they want in calligraphy."

"The teacher told the students that they could do these activities if they wanted. I told Mr. Penkoski that the calligraphy activity was optional, but was not assigned," Branch added.

He continued by noting that the packets were sent home to accompany the classes study of world religions.

"They are reading through the packet as part of the study. The teacher has told her class several times that this is a study of world religions and that she is not trying to advocate for any religion over another," Branch concluded. "She has told her class that if they had questions about religious beliefs, that those conversations should take place with their parents."

What else?

This isn't the first time such an assignment has been handed out.

In 2015, a [Virginia school district sent home the very same assignment](#) and faced so much backlash that the district [shut down all public schools](#) for a day, and cancelled all extracurricular activities for the following weekend.

School officials said that they received a plethora of calls and emails from outraged parents accusing the school of promoting religious indoctrination.

In a statement posted on their website, the district said that they were "concerned over the 'tone and content' of messages they had received," according to a 2015 report by [The Washington Post](#).

Pray for the Holy Gospel

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna



What a great introduction!

In every Liturgy in the Coptic Orthodox Church, and before the Gospel reading, the deacon announces and orders the congregation in a loud voice saying:

PRAY FOR THE HOLY GOSPEL

And then the priest prays the Litany for the Gospel saying, **“O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, who said to His saintly, honored disciples and holy apostles. ‘Many prophets and righteous men have desired to see the things which you see and have not seen them, and to hear what you hear and did not hear it. But blessed are your eyes for they see and your ears for they hear’. May we be worthy to hear and to act according to Your gospels through the prayers of Your saints”** (Matt. 13:16)

What the Church meant here, is to ask all the faithful to pray for opening the eyes and ears and hearts of everyone to listen carefully and understand the gospel reading, do it, and also to persuade them to pray for the spread of the gospel around the world and to make it more effective. So prayer and listening to the gospel are two inseparable twins and of extreme importance. When the apostles prayed using the word of God, Psalm 2, the place was shaken and they all were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly” (See Acts 4:24-33).

What a Great Work do the Bible Societies do Around the World?!

Egypt: Bible Distribution Increases Despite Unrest:

Despite interruptions from curfews, demonstrations and strikes, the Bible Society of Egypt is still providing Scripture resources to poor children and their families. “We have distributed more Scriptures than ever in 2013” says Ramez Atallah, general director of the Bible Society of Egypt. “Undoubtedly, as people feel insecure, they turn more to God’s Word for comfort and encouragement. Pray with us to know creative ways to better reflect what the Prince of Peace would say to Egypt.”

South Sudan: New Translation Brings Forgiveness:

The Shiluk people of South Sudan have experienced more than 22 years of war and conflict. And they endured it all without a translation of the Bible in their language. But now the Bible Society of South Sudan, with support from American Bible Society, has completed a translation of the entire Bible in the Shiluk language. “We need this new Bible to help us forgive,” on Shiluk woman explains. “Then we can move on, living by what we read in the Bible.”

Peru: Literacy Brings Scripture to Hearts

In some rural churches in Peru, 95 percent of believers lack the reading comprehension necessary to understand God’s Word. That’s why American Bible Society is supporting the Peruvian Bible Society’s project to increase literacy through Scripture-based materials. So far, the Peruvian Bible Society has provided materials of language groups in Quechua communities in the Andes Mountains of Peru. As reading group facilitators teach literacy, they also address the application of Biblical themes, such as preventing domestic violence. The success of the program in Peru has led to similar programs in Ecuador, Panama, Bolivia and Chile.

India: Bible for Thousands of Children

In India, the demand for children’s Scripture is so high that the Bible Society of India has published children’s editions of the Bible in 30 languages, including all the major Indian languages. Now, with support from American Bible Society, they are continuing to meet the demand of Bibles in Christian schools, Sunday schools and Vacation Bible School classes. The Bibles often have significant effect on the lives of children. The mother of one 9-year-old said, “My son was so undisciplined and could not be controlled. After reading the Children’s Bible published by the Bible Society, he has completely changed. He has accepted the Lord Jesus as his God. I see a radical change in him. I have bought a full Bible in Hindi to read it for myself.”

Togo: Youth Rooted in Scripture

In Togo, more than 60 percent of the population is under age 25. These youth face challenges, including widespread unemployment, violence, poverty and an increasingly secular lifestyle. The Bible Society in Togo is working to provide the youth of Togo with a framework for spiritual development based on the Bible. Through Bible quizzes, camps, conferences, radio broadcasts and websites, the Bible Society of Togo is working to communicate the life-changing message of the Gospel to children and young adults throughout the country.

Therefore, we need to pray sincerely for the holy Gospel, for its spread and influence in the hearts of billions who have it and those who are still deprived of it.

Congratulations

Baptism

St. John Church Congratulates Dr. Nader, Dina (Zaklama) & Christian Attia on the baptism of

Nathaniel James

May the Lord Jesus bless his life and grant him health, strength and growth in the grace and stature.



حفل الخريجين جامعة كليرمونت

St. John's Young Professionals Mission Trip to Mexico



Easter Carnival





Graduation 2018

Post Graduates



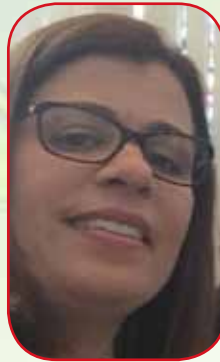
Deacon Dr. Jacob Girgis

Congratulations to Dr. Jacob on graduating from your Psychiatry Residency Program at USC. Your family and loved ones are so proud of you. May you continue to use your talents for the glory of God and His Church -Your wife Christine and family. -St. John Church in Covina, California congratulates her gifted son, Deacon Dr. Jacob Girgis for his great accomplishment, wishing him a bright future and service.



Alfred Hanna

St. John Church and family Congratulate Deacon Alfred on graduating from Claremont University and getting his Master Degree in Theology. May the Lord Jesus Christ grant you every blessing, completing your Ph.D.



Refka Istaphanos

St. John Church and family, congratulate the blessed Sunday School teacher Refka for her graduation from Theological Studies at Claremont University and having Master Degree. May the Lord bless your life and service and grant you more success in your Ph.D.

College



Dr. Marina Mikhail

St. John Church and family congratulate Dr. Marina, On her graduation from the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. She will be coming home to Los Angeles, where she will be starting Anesthesiology residency at UCLA. Marina is very involved in the church, including being a deaconess for many years, serving various youth groups, volunteering at the St. John Medical Clinic, participating in Spiritual Competitions, and serving as an excellent mentor and role model for many young women in the church.



Pavly Abdelmalek

Pavly is graduating from UC Riverside with a BA in Sociology. He wants to pursue a career in Marriage and Family Therapy after graduation. He is a devoted servant and continues to work with various groups in the church.



Dr. Lauren Hanna

Lauren is graduating from the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She will be starting her residency in Internal Medicine at UCLA-Olive View in July. Lauren has served throughout her life at St. John at the Junior High level. She is also a deaconess, has worked in the St. John Medical Clinic, has participated in various global service trips and is an excellent example for young women to follow in the church.

Bavly Botrous



St. John & family congratulate you wishing him more and complete success.



Monica Barzoum

Monica is graduating from UC Riverside with BA in Psychology. She is working towards medical school and has a passion for pediatrics and medical care for the undeserved. She is a devoted youth leader and has been involved with the St. John Medical clinic for many years.

Graduation .2018

St. John Church, Covina congratulates her beloved children, the College, High School and Junior High graduates, class of 2018, praying that the Lord Jesus Christ may bless their lives with continuous success in both spiritual and practical life:

High School



Nathalie Messih



Veroneka Matta



Judy Hanna



Janet Sirob



Yohanna Nasief



John Salib



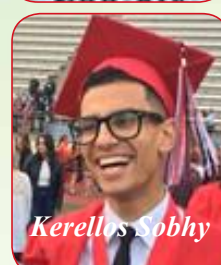
George Ghaly



Peter Attia



Marven Guirgis



Kerellos Sobhy



Mina Shaker

Junior High



Steven Youssef



Merona Hanna



Kirolos Labib



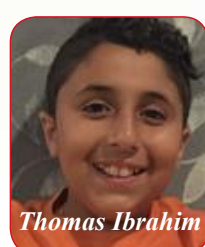
Youssaf Ibrahim



Carole Henein



Carine Henein



Thomas Ibrahim



Mary Ghattas



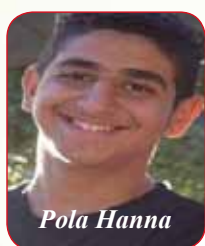
Mena Tawfek



Remon Awadalla



Resmoy Yania



Pola Hanna



Mina gerges



Gebriel Ashenafi

Elementary



Melanie Saad



Mary Reyad



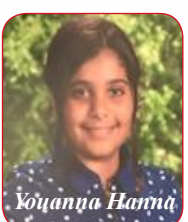
Stephanie Fahmy



Samantha Youssef



Krestina Ashenafi



Youanna Hanna



Matthew Saeed



Angelina Basilious



Michael Bolis



Jessica Gerges



Elena Abdelmalek



Alexandra Iskander



Kerosos Lotfy



Andrew Eshal



Youssef Younan



Jumana Iskander



Maroska Mekhail



Youanna Shokry



Bemwa Girgis



Rola Gargas



Justina Kamel