

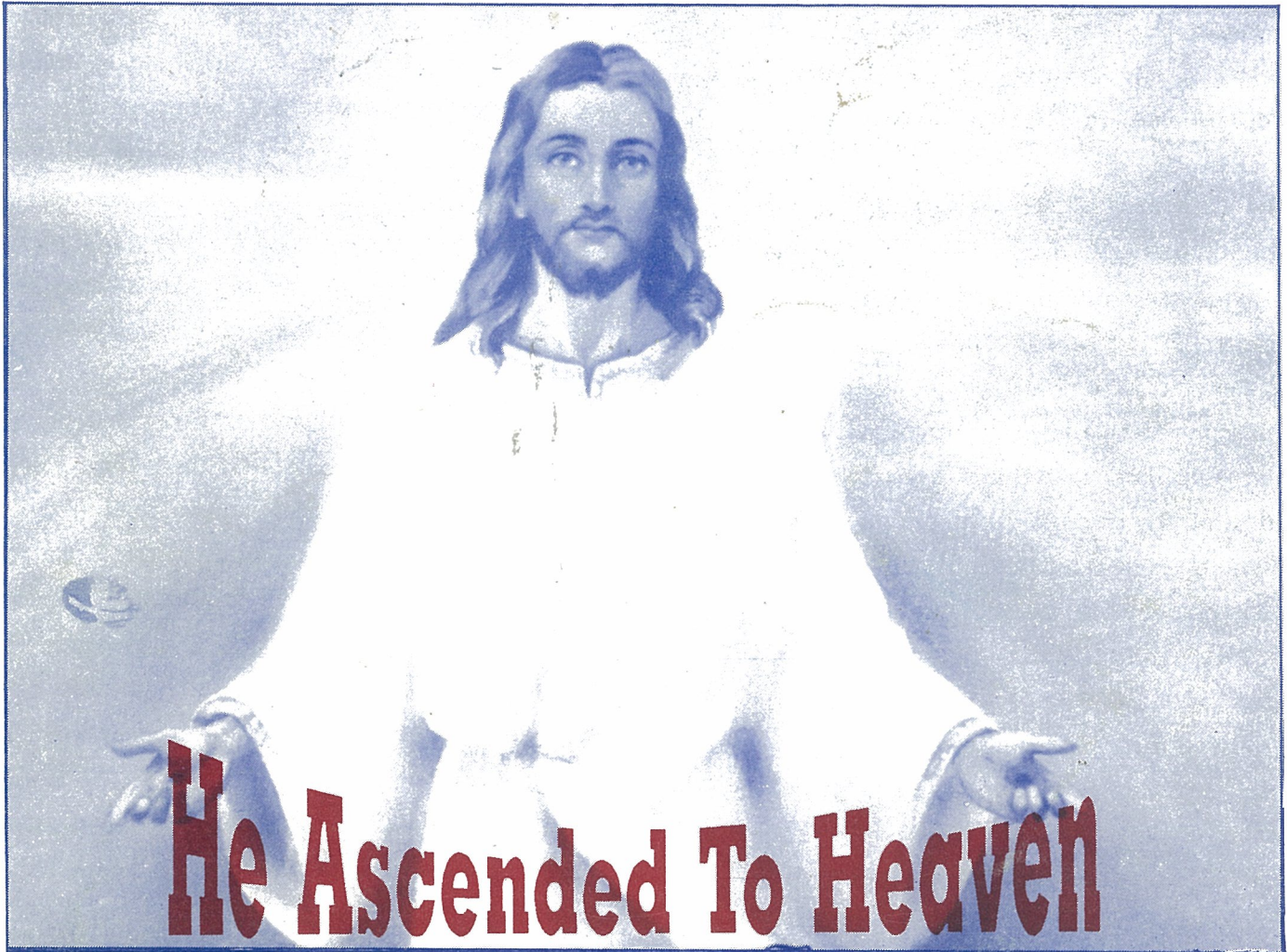
ST. JOHN

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

JUNE 1992

VOLUME 4, NO.30

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St. John Coptic Orthodox Church

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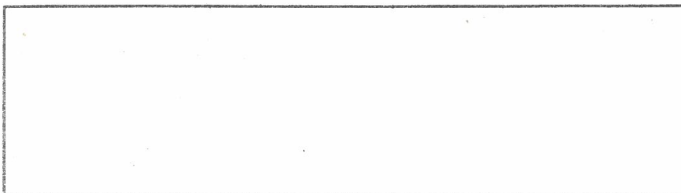
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THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Christ remained on earth for forty days after His Resurrection. His stay was of a provisional character; He already belonged to a glorified form of existence. During these forty days He made the final preparations for the founding of the Church.

The Church

This preparation was hardly complete at His crucifixion and burial. The disciples, who were to be the pillars of the Church, sitting on thrones "judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Lk. 22:30), were pitifully scattered and discouraged. Peter, the eldest of the disciples, had denied Christ. Doubt reigned, as attested to by the words of the two disciples along the road to Emmaus:

"We had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel" (Lk. 24:21).

His appearances changed all this. They confirmed the fact of His Resurrection and restored the shattered faith of His followers. St. Paul says that He was seen by "more than five hundred brethren at one time" (I Cor. 15:6).

He continued to teach about the Kingdom of God and about His own special identity. To Mary Magdalene He said:

"... I Am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God" (Jn. 20:17).

The distinction made between "My" and "your" is but another indication of the unique character of His relationship with God the Father. He is His Son by nature; we become His adopted sons by Grace.

future Church. On appearing to them He said:

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn. 20:22-23).

He made them apostles, i.e., men commissioned with a special task. He instructed them to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). He informed them of the signs that would accompany them as true believers:

"In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mk. 16:17-18).

Christ also rehabilitated the fallen disciple, Peter (Jn. 21). Three times He asked him: "Do you love Me?" Three times Peter answered: "Lord, You know that I love You." At each reply the Lord Jesus instructed Peter to "...Feed My lambs ... Tend My sheep ... Feed My sheep." In this dialogue Peter was reconfirmed as the Lord's disciple and one of the twelve pillars of the Church, a function which he exercised immediately after Pentecost (Acts. 2-4).

Through His appearances, words and actions, Christ completed His preparation for the founding of the Church. Everything was made ready for the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Doctrine

The Ascension was the final act of the earthly mission of Christ. It represented the ultimate restoration and glorification of humanity: its being enthroned at the right hand of the Father in the realm of the Divine existence known as heaven. The human Christ and potentially all of humanity in Him were accepted into the life of the Holy Trinity.

Christ gave the disciples special power within the

Without the Ascension there could have been no descent of the Holy Spirit, no Church. Christ had to unite man completely with God in the heavenly realm before that unity could be brought to each man in a personal way by the Holy Spirit.

"It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (Jn. 16:7).

A Time of Decision

The Ascension is the decisive proof that Christ cannot live in triumph in the world. The world killed Him.

"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own, and His own received Him not" (Jn. 1:10-11).

The Kingdom of God is not of this world. Therefore, on the Feast of Ascension, each of us is called upon to remember the words of Christ and to make a decision about our own destiny.

"Therefore do not be anxious, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and Your Heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6: 31-33).

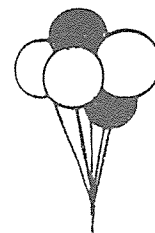
**St. John Invites You
To Celebrate the Graduation
Of Our Youth Sat. June 20/92
8:30 P.M. In the Hall**

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

The Graduates for 1992 beginning from Junior High to Medical School are a total of 20. St. John's Church is very proud of every single one of them, especially Mark Alfred Malik who graduated as Valedictorian of his High School. We pray for them that they may grow in every good deed and Glorify the name of the Lord through their achievements.

JUNIOR HIGH:

- John Iskander
- Marisa Kolta
- Nevine Said 9th
- Jackline Sawiros
- Tina Sedky
- Nancy Selim



HIGH SCHOOL:

- *MARK MALIK*
- Germine Elias
- Silvia Farag
- Percilla Iskander
- Peter Iskander
- Nathan Kolta
- Nayer Mekail
- Rita Moussa
- Gada Saad
- Karam Salama
- Marcos Soliman
- George Tadros
- John Salib



COLLEGE:

- Hany Wassef UCLA
- Monsef Sedrak CSUP

MEDICAL SCHOOL:

- Lisa Guirguis U. of Vermont

THE COPTIC CHURCH & THE DAY OF PENTECOST

by
MARK HANNA

Many people in reading their Bibles, read past very significant details which might seem unimportant. As Copts, we take pride in a very significant setting description. When the time had come for our Lord to celebrate the final passover with His disciples, they asked Him where would He like to celebrate it, He said, *“Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. And wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”’ Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us.”* (Mk. 14:13-15 & Lk. 22:10-12). Now, this not the last time one reads about the *upper room*. It is also known that it was in the upper room that the disciples hid after the crucifixion of the Lord. When the resurrected Lord appeared to the disciples and the women, it was in the upper room. By now the picture should be becoming clear that this upper room was a noteworthy description and not an insignificant detail. This upper room not only had the blessing of the institution of the Sacrament of Eucharist (Communion), the place where the Lord Jesus breathed on the disciples and told them, *“Receive the Holy Spirit”* (Jn. 20:22), but this room was also the actual location wherein the promised Comforter (The Holy Spirit) descended upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1). Finally, in chapter 12 in the book of Acts one reads the story of St. Peter’s miraculous escape from prison and in verse 12 specifically, *“So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were*

gathered together praying”. No the upper room was not mentioned, but the identity of the owner proves that this house in fact is one in the same wherein all the other events had occurred; the house of St. Mark.

The Day of PENTECOST

The day of Pentecost today is called the Birthday of the Church and truly so. Without the descension of the promised Spirit of Truth and Comfort, there would be no Church in existence.

Immediately on the same day of Pentecost the apostles did wonders, converted and baptised about three thousand men with one sermon and the Lord’s farewell commission was being carried out. In the following days, weeks, and years, it was even more evident that His words *“will by no means pass away”*.

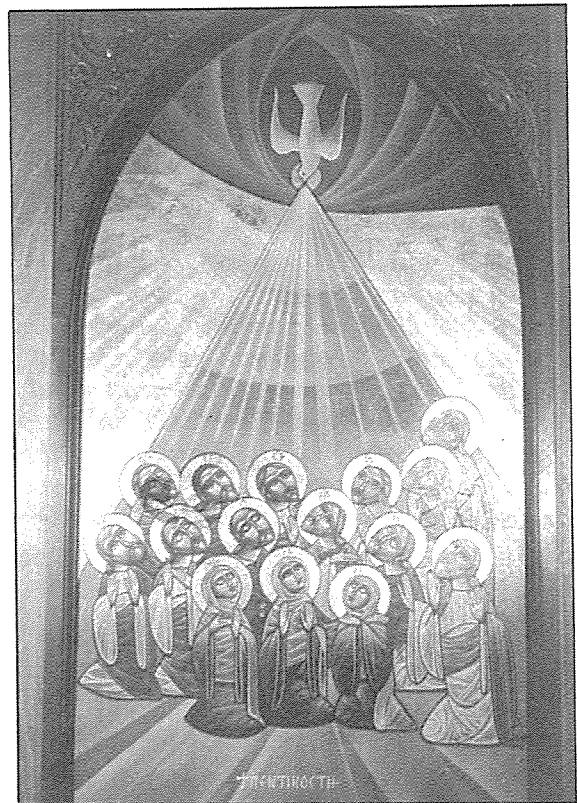
As all these events took place, St. Mark must have been an eye witness, for all that occurred took place in his house. The Holy Spirit did not solely descend upon the twelve, but on all that were present: *“...altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty...”* (Acts 1:15). St. Mark, the owner of the house must have been there, although he must have been no more than 16 years of age at the time. As a youth during Christ’s time, St. Mark must have followed the Lord and there is one instance where he wrote of himself in his own version of the Gospel, *“Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he*

left the linen cloth and fled from them naked ” (Mk. 14:51). This young man is indeed St. Mark as tradition teaches. Used to following our Lord and watching Him rebuke the Pharisees and Scribes, he must have been terrified to see the army that came upon the Lord Jesus in the garden to arrest Him. St. Mark at the time of the arrest was scared for his life and fled naked, but three days later when Mary Magdaline came to his house bringing the news of the resurrection, an entire change came over him. After becoming filled with the Holy Spirit, he set out to preach with his uncle Barnabas, St. Paul the new convert, and St. Peter who wrote concerning him in 1 Peter 5:13, calling him “My son ”.

The Guidance of The Holy Spirit

After many missionary journeys with his uncle, the Spirit guided St. Mark to go to North Africa and shed the light of the true faith upon the inhabitants of those lands. Libya, Pentapolis, and finally Egypt. St. Mark was the Lord’s chosen one who was to bring Christianity into Egypt and thus fulfilling that which was said by the Lord through Isaiah the prophet saying, *“In that day there will be an alter to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border ” (Isa. 19:19).*

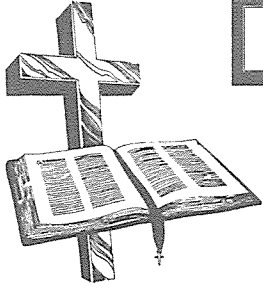
As an individual, walking with a torn sandal in a foreign land he established the third Christian See, in a land inhabited by many different cultures and religions. Amazingly, this is the same boy who ran naked in the garden a few years back, the difference is the work of the Holy Spirit. The testimony of St. Mark was a very powerful tool in confirming so many in the faith, for he eye witnessed the beginning of Christ’s work on earth, His Ascension



and the descent of the Holy Spirit. Fear was taken from him and replaced with courage, and determination. At his martyrdom on Easter eve, he set an example for all the Copts of all generations, who then set an unprecedented record to all the world and the Coptic Church became known as the Church of the Martyrs.

The Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the day of Pentecost as a feast equal to all the major Lord’s feasts. As Coptic Christians we take pride in the fact that the Lord Himself blessed our native land and caused His prophets to prophecy concerning her and her establishment. St. Mark the Pillar of our Church was himself present in the upper room when the Lord sent down His Holy Spirit in the day of Pentecost.

“Hail to the Church, the House of the Angels ”.



DID ELISHA KILL 42 CHILDREN?

By
Fr. Augustinos Hanna

*"And Elisha went up from there unto Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up you bald head; go up you bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two female bears out of the wood, and tare forty two children of them."
(2 Kings 2:23)*

At first, this account seems foreign to the nature of God, and his prophet Elisha, who was a type of Christ. That He who said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" should ever fulfil a curse in allowing wild animals to slaughter innocent boys and girls, such thing never happened this way. And in order to understand we better notice the following remarks:

1. The Language of the Bible:

The word used in the Hebrew text is not exclusively used to describe adolescents, and there is reason to believe that a more correct translation would be "youths", as it has been already translated in the New King James Version. The idea that the prophet was being followed by a crowd of mischievous children, who playfully teased the stranger, is very far from the truth. This rabble was composed of unruly young men who had banded themselves together and had

followed the prophet along the road. They hated righteousness, and resented interference from any spiritual leader. They recognized that the teachings of Elisha were diametrically opposed to all their sensual delights. So they wanted to fight and resist him.

2. The Scene of the Accident:

That tragic accident had taken place in Bethel, the house of God which had degenerated into a center of heathenism where men worshipped idols and backslided to satanic evils. Jeruboam the son of Nabat put two golden calves in the temple he built and asked the people to worship them. Then Ahab killed the prophets of God and destroyed His worship, and the city of Bethel became a big center of idolatry, and that brought the wrath of God unto it.

3. The Dastardly Remarks:

"They mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, you bald head." It is well to consider that unless misfortune had robbed the young prophet of his hair, it was most unlikely that at this stage of his life he was bald. Yet the crowd repeated the cry, and found in their taunts a certain amount of pleasure. To the casual reader, it would appear that the man of God was somewhat irritable that day, and to be teased by the young men was more than he could endure. But the young men were referring to the homecall of Elijah, mocking the story of his

ascension and expressing their disbelief, as well as their hatred to the new prophet Elisha. They would probably know that the worst blasphemy may be found in their cries. It has been said that a fair translation of the text would be, "Go up, go up to heaven with your master, you baldheaded prophet of Jehovah." They were cursing him; and however unpleasant it may be even to read such words, it is necessary to do so in the crowd of sinners. The dispicable mob resented Elisha's presence in the vicinity; they cursed him and scorned his authority, and probably contemplated violence. Then suddenly the prophet turned and looked at them to stop them or make them feel shameful or guilty, but in vain!

4. The Devastating Response:

"But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy" (2 Chronicles 36:15,16).

The time of the Old Testament was the age of the Law and of the Judgment. "And he cursed them in the name of the Lord." And the Lord approved his curse. He knew that these great sinners would become the fathers of the next generation, and realized also that the whole of his ministry was in jeopardy. Elisha had only recently succeeded to his master's office, and the nation had yet to be taught that he was the Lord's anointed. Such

blatant sin demanded rebuke. Yet apart from any curse announced by Elisha, the young people were personally responsible for the disaster which overwhelmed them. The two bears had been frightened of the noise and went forth to attack the crowd. Panic spread among the screeching crowd and, utterly confused, the youths rushed in all directions. "And the bears tare forty two of them." Elisha watched the scene sadly and bowed his head in holy reverence. The God of Elijah was with him; there was no need to fear.

5. Was the Number 42 Actual or Symbolic?

Numbers in the Scriptures have many meanings. In the Jewish tradition, number 42 stands for a disaster or calamity of which many persons will be killed in. And we find that same number is mentioned in many similar incidents, such as Jehu killed 42 of ahab's sons, and the Gileadites killed 42000 of the Ephramites, and St. Mary will escape to the wilderness 42 months (1260 days or three and half years) and the beast will prevail 42 month, and the like (Judges 12 & Revelation 11:3 ,12:6 &13:5). So, it is not necessary to take it as literal number, but rather a symbolic that means a big number of victims in a sad accident, and they did deserve it as a punishment to them and to their parents who neglected raising them up in a good way, in the fear of God respecting and honoring His commandments, prophets, messengers, and saints.

"I Will Never Leave You Nor Forsake You"

(Josh. 1:5)

by

Dalia Atalla

What can change a fearful person's state from one of fear, alarm, confusion and doubt, to one of certainty and strength in a firm faith, giving him the ability to take on the world with a steady heart? The only answer is a secure and acknowledged relationship with God.

Often times we don't realize God's everlasting presence among us and thus we feel that we are distant from Him. Yet, if we meditate on the verse "...and they will call Him Immanuel - which means 'God with us'" (Matt. 1:23), we can see that God is never far from us, in fact "those who obey His commandments live in Him and He in them" (1 Jn. 3:24).

"I am the vine and you are the branches; no branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine; neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me" (Jn. 15:4,5). The branch and the vine must live together in order to produce fruit, without the vine, the branch does not receive its life giving nutrients and dies. We too need a strong relationship with God, in order to receive our spiritual nutrients and produce fruits.

Being in the presence of God is accompanied by many feelings. First of all, we must have faith that God is always with us, even during hardships and tribulations. God's presence in our lives should be looked upon as something permanent and not temporary. Jesus said, "I am with you always to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). We must also train our senses to the point that we will gradually be able to perceive His presence directly. What is even more important that God's presence with us, is our presence with Him, with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Finally, our feelings and actions must be appropriate and proper for one who is in the presence of God. One example is in Exodus 3:5, when Moses

the prophet removed his sandals when the Lord spoke to him from within the burning bush.

Many other feelings are experienced as a result of being with God. Realizing God's presence gives us strength and confidence that nothing and no one could harm us, not even the most powerful enemy. Such firmness and stability was present among the three young men in the fiery furnace, who were saved by their faith and security, since the Lord was actually with them. To those who savor God's presence, the concept of fear does not exist. "The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?...Though war break out against me, even then I will be confident" (Ps. 27:1-3).

Love, joy, and peace are also beheld in the presence of the Lord. "If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love" (Jn. 15:10). Those who truly love God with all their hearts, enjoy being with Him and feel great joy and peace in their lives. "There is no peace 'says the Lord' for the wicked" (Isa. 48:22), but "in Me you may have peace" (Jn. 16:33). "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice" (Phil. 4:4), for He proclaimed "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you" (Jn. 14:27).

Sin is the blade that cuts our relationship and all our ties with God. Those who are truly feeling the presence of God in their lives, experience a sense of shame for their sins, and thus they are less likely to commit any. However, those that do commit sins are not aware of God's presence and consequently, they are cut off from God because "What fellowship can light have with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14). Even during such times in our lives, the Lord is always with us trying to save us from our sins.

EL KIRAZA

A Brief Explanation

By Mark Hanna

“*EL KIRAZA*”? What in the world could that mean? These are two of the many questions which are asked when a non Arabic speaking person looks at the famous magazine. Finally once he/she is told what the title means, they ask yet another question, “Why did they call it that?” For starters, I would like to answer the questions that were asked concerning this magazine and its title. My next goal is to explain the history and role of this magazine in our Coptic Church.

“*EL KIRAZA*” is the Arabic term which means the Preaching. Literally translated, the title of the Pope of Alexandria is Pope and Patriarch of the Preaching of St. Mark. The title which is more commonly used in English is Pope and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark. This title differs than the Arabic in meaning, for the word See means the Seat of a bishop or his territorial jurisdiction; diocese. Perhaps if this magazine was titled in English, it might have been called the *Voice of the See of St. Mark*, for this title captures the essential meaning. Although it is true, that if called *The Preaching* it would mean more than the current title, there are circumstances which don't allow this magazine to bear another name. The main reasons for not changing the title, is that in Egypt, every publication must be registered and in order to register this magazine, it would cost a large sum of money and enter into an endless web of formalities.

The history of this magazine is a great one. His Holiness Pope Shenouda, as Bishop of Christian Education, began publishing it and made it another important tool in educating the Copts about their God and their Church. His Holiness has dedicated a large amount of time to this magazine ever since the day he

started it in the year 1962. This publication soon became the voice of the Coptic Church. Many of the bishops, priests, and laymen, participated in its publication by contributing their articles, stories, contemplations, studies, and if one were to put a price on the quality of the works, the amount would exceed the treasures of the world. This should be no surprise to any one familiar with the history of the Coptic Church, any one who knows that historically Egypt has led the world in its belief in a Supreme Being, and in the belief in the after life. But that was pagan Egypt, the Christian Egypt was much greater. It is well known and documented historically that the See of Alexandria was the greatest See in the Universal Church, for it was the source of education for the whole world. It is no wonder that such men as Clement, Origen, Heraclas, Didymus the Blind, Peter the Seal of Martyrs, St. Athanasius the Apostolic, St. Cyril, St. Dioscoros, etc., came from her. All these men are but a few of Alexandria's fruits, although if one looks to the Egyptian deserts, it is obvious that the See of Alexandria reaches far out, for it is the Children of Alexandria who consecrated the deserts and turned them into a paradise.

Today the Church continues to flourish and shine from one end of the world to the other. Under His Holiness Pope Shenouda, the Church still seems as though it was back in the fourth century under the Papacy of St. Athanasius. This magazine is the voice of our Church today. Its message has not changed one bit. It teaches the correct Orthodox Theology which has been in it ever since St. Mark walked through Egypt in the 1st century.

I would like to encourage everyone to take part in this magazine. If anyone can help out in writing articles to be published in it, then do it. If anyone is given the talent to write stories, poems, then write



and send them. If anyone is too busy to contribute to this magazine then at least read it. This magazine is the voice of the Coptic Orthodox Church, from its Pope to its youth. It is cover to cover of priceless treasures, a full treasure box which is full of keys, keys which can unlock virtually every door that this world and its ruler can put between us and our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

The Summer Club

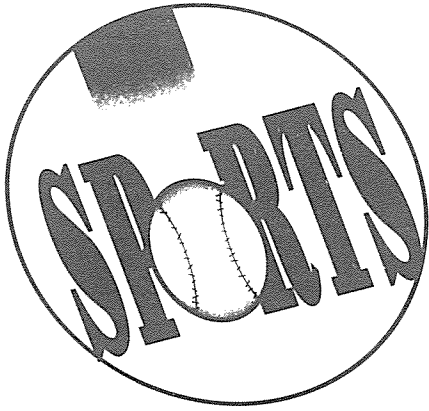
- The Church summer club will start on the 15th of June (1) for children of ages 4 - 12 in the morning, (2) for the youth from 5:00 - 10:00 P.M. The club will have rules and a useful schedule including spiritual activities, arts, entertainment, and sports.
- Saturday, June 20th will be a spiritual day for the youth starting with the Divine Liturgy from 8 - 10:00 A.M.



SMILE & LAUGH

**"Our mouth was filled with laughter"
(Psalm 126:2)**

1. John: Mother's Bible must be more interesting than yours.
Father: Why do you say that?
John: She reads it more than you read yours!
2. Student: Does a good beginning and a good ending make a good sermon?
The seminary professor: If they are close enough together!
3. Sunday School teacher: In the story of the Good Samaritan, why did the Levite pass by on the other side?
Student: Because the poor man had already been robbed!
4. Jack: Do you know Pete Wilson?
Mack: I sure do. We slept in the same church pew for over fifteen years. (See Eutychus who was sinking in a deep sleep and fell down from the third story in Ephesus - Acts 20:9-12).
5. A preacher once asked an actor why he had such large audiences and he, the preacher, had only a small audience at his church?
- "I act as if I believe in what I say." said the actor, "while you preach as if you did not believe what you preached.
6. Surgeon: I think the medical profession is the first profession mentioned in the Bible.
Engineer: No, engineering was first. Just think of the engineering job it was to create things out of chaos.
Politician: That's nothing...Who do you think created chaos?!
7. Sunday School teacher: And where can you find the Beatitudes?
Pupil: Have you tried the Yellow Pages?
8. A layman is someone who lays in bed Sunday morning instead of going to church.
9. Joe: There's really no devil.
Moe: I know what you mean. It's just like Santa Claus. It's your father.
10. A lawyer sent an overdue bill to a client attaching a note which said, "This bill is one year old."
By return mail the lawyer had his bill back. To it was attached another note: "Happy Birthday."!



Good Sports and Bad Sports

Discussing What's Good and Bad about Sports Competition

The Greek philosopher Plato wrote, "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."
Sports competition seems to expose us for who we really are. For some, sports bring out discipline, teamwork, and endurance. For others, sports spotlight pride, irresponsibility, even violence. Since sports has become such a well-established institution, most teenagers probably haven't even thought about examining their involvement biblically.

How is it beneficial? Detrimental?
This session will help your kids think about the role of sports in their lives. Whether your students are mostly sports-minded or not, you can help them see how lessons learned about competition carry over into other areas of their lives.

Have someone read I Timothy 4:7, 8. **Based on this verse, where do you think the apostle Paul would have stood in the lineup we just did?** (Perhaps he would have stood near the middle, or a little left of center. Physical training through athletics does have some value, but training for godliness is more important.)

What kinds of "training for godliness" do you think Paul thought were more important than sports? (The list would be long. It might include prayer, Scripture study, serving others, working on relationships, and evangelism.)

Hand out copies of "Good Sports and Bad Sports" (Student Sheet 2), saying something like this:

At the top of this sheet there's a list of some good and bad results of sports involvement. Let's go through it item by item. I'd like you to tell whether you agree that each one should be on the list. Then give an example to show how that result might happen in real life. Try looking at these from the viewpoints of players and spectators. This list of advantages and disadvantages of sports has been adapted from *Competition* by Gary Warner (David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1979.)

As needed, use these comments and questions to keep the discussion moving:

Advantages:

Responsibility. Sports can help a person understand commitment and develop priorities. These can happen through faithful attendance at practice, hard work, and competing against oneself and not just against others. Think about the amount of self-discipline needed to compete in the Olympics. What kind of self-discipline is required for the sports you compete in?

Self-control. Physical and emotional control are generally required to be a competitor. Throwing a racquet or swearing at a referee shows a lack of self-control. Do you think some sports are better suited to teach self-control than others?





team members remind each other that they have value?

What other advantages of sports can you think of? (Some possibilities: health or fitness, fun, and getting rid of tension or anger.)

Disadvantages:

Pride. A proud athlete might think he or she is better than someone else who has less skill or strength. Other problems include school pride that leads to putting others down; showing off; feeling you won in your own strength; and being overly proud of your physical appearance. How can you keep from getting a big ego? (Knowing how to laugh at yourself, having other interests besides sports, and staying close to the Lord would help.)

Not growing up. Sports can produce a “lifelong adolescence.” Think about the person who spends every Sunday watching sports, neglecting other responsibilities—or the aging ex-athlete who refuses to admit that his or her physical prime is past.

Hero worship and idolatry. Society is quick to place sports champions on pedestals, though other aspects of their lives may not be exemplary. One professional athlete may use drugs; another may think it’s OK to have several sexual partners. People tend to overlook immorality if a player excels at his or her sport. Who are some people in sports who provide good and bad examples?

Greed and exploitation. Some parents force kids to play organized sports and put too much pressure on them to win; then there are betting, score-fixing, college recruitment scandals, and salaries and profits that many feel are unjustified. Can you think of some other examples?

Violence. Former president Dwight D. Eisenhower said, “The true mission of sports is to prepare young people for war.” Whether or not that’s true, many sports are marked by physical and psychological violence. Many people cheer as the benches clear for a fight; fans from one team yell insults at the referees and the other team; some coaches instruct players to “hit ‘em where it hurts.” What school cheers have you heard that seem to promote violence?

What other disadvantages of sports competition can you think of? (Health risks from injuries or using steroids; not caring about those you play against; failing to develop non-sports interests.)

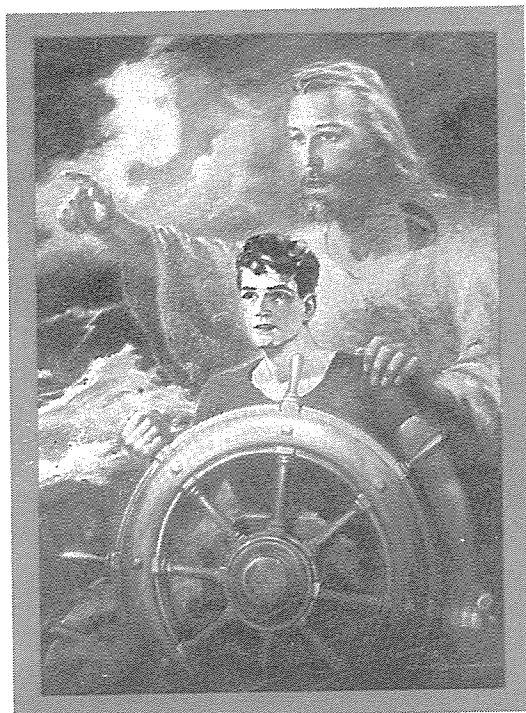
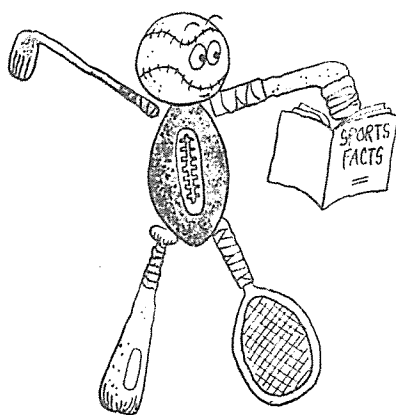
Endurance. Making sacrifices causes pain, and pain produces growth. Think of the marathon runner, or football practices that start in August. Endurance needs to be tempered by common sense, though. Some people become fanatics about their sports and push themselves so hard that their bodies can be damaged. What are some things you’ve had to endure in sports?

Lessons learned from winning and losing. Winning can show you the value of hard work; losing can prove that life goes on despite setbacks. What lessons have you learned from winning and losing?

Builds relationships. Sports can pull people together. Team sports often show how to work together, how to support and encourage others. Friendships developed through sports can also lead to witnessing opportunities. How could watching sports bring people together?

Affirms self-worth. Many people feel better about themselves because they participate in sports. This isn’t necessarily wrapped up in winning. Think about the Special Olympics, for example, where each competitor gets a hug—win or lose. There’s something satisfying about just finishing a race or reaching the next small goal you’ve set.

We don’t need sports to prove our worth, though, because our value comes from God Himself—because He made us and loves us. How could



Bible Contest (with rewards)

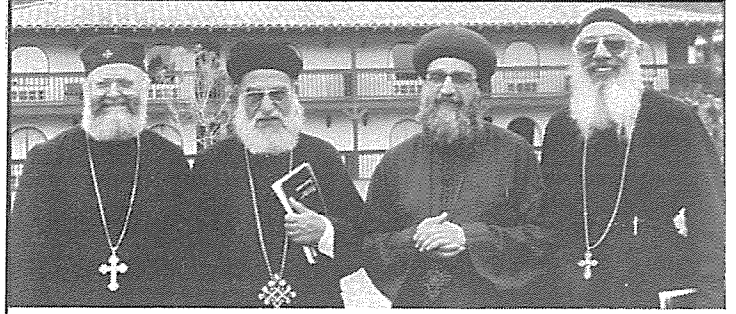
Where ???

1. Where was the first Church established in the New Testament (where in, the Sacrament of Communion was first celebrated, the Holy Spirit descended and believers had gathered for prayer) ?
2. Where was the Temple of Solomon built?
3. From where did the idea of the first house of God come in the Old Testament?
4. Where did Christianity begin and to where has it reached according to the book of Acts?
5. Where was the first alter to the Lord, found outside the Temple of Solomon which was in Jerusalem?
6. Where were the first two Christian martyrs suffered martyrdom ?
7. Where, in one Old Testament Book, were mentioned Christ the Son of Man, the two archangels Michael and Gabriel altogether?
8. Where the story of the fall of Satan, was mentioned in both the Old and the New Testaments ?
9. Where do the souls of the believers and the wicked go right after death ?
10. Where will Christ come from in His second coming ?

To help you in study and answer, look the upside-down references up

1. Mk 14:10-25, Acts 1:13, 14 & Acts 12:12
2. 2 Chron. 3:1
3. Gen. 28:10-19
4. Acts 1, 2, 28:16, 30
5. Isa. 19:19
6. Acts 6:7,8 & 12:1
7. Dan. 7:13,14 & 9:21 & 12:1
8. Isa. 14:12-15 & Ezek. 28:14-19 & Lk 10:18 & Jn 8:44 & 2 Pet. 2:4 & Jude 6 & Rev. 12:7-9
9. Lk. 16:19-31
10. Matt. 24:27, 30 & Rev. 1:7.

Send your answers to the church
C/O Fr. Augustinos
(The address is written on the cover)



مؤتمر الكنيسة بكابسترنو لقي نجاحاً من جميع النواحي سواء لجمال المكان والنزهة والراحة والخدمة أو تحقيق اهداف المؤتمر وأهمها الثبوت قى المسيح والكنيسة والنمو في المعرفة الروحية والمحبة. وقد خدم ضيفا المؤتمر نيافة الأنبا رويس والقمص صليب سوريال وكاهنا الكنيسة فى العشية والقداس ودرس الكتاب المقدس وندوة الأولاد وقدم الشباب تمثيلية طريقة فى حفل السمر بالإضافة للمباريات الرياضية وقد عبر بعض ضيوف المؤتمر عن سرورهم بطلب الحجز مقدماً فى جميع مؤتمرات الكنيسة ورحلاتها المقبلة.



القمص صليب سوريال يعطى الشباب كلمة روحية
بمؤتمر الأسرة بكابسترنو

