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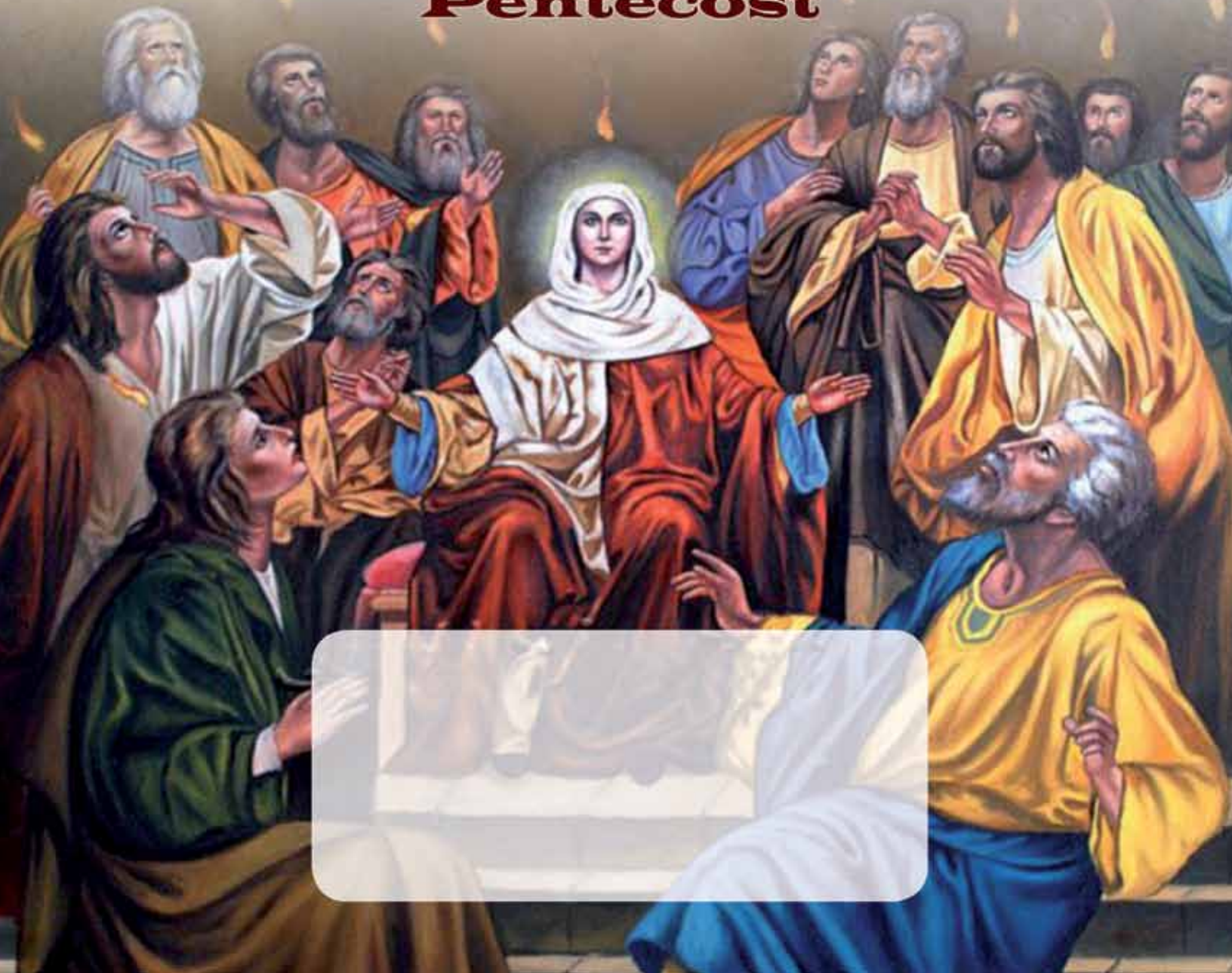


JOHN



A COPTIC CHRISTIAN BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE
COVINA, CA

Pentecost



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*Verse
of the Month*



**"He raised us up and made us
sit with Him in heavenly places"
(Eph. 2).**

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**SCHEDULE of MEETINGS and EVENTS
for the MONTH of NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2014**

SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
+ English Liturgy 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. *** + Arabic Liturgy 8:00 - 11:15 a.m.	+ Liturgy 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. + Thursday Morning + Senior Citizen Club 11:00 - 4:00 a.m.	+ Liturgy 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	+ Liturgy from 8-10 am + Vespers; Bible Study 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. + Beginners' Deacons- Meeting 5: 00-6:00 p.m. + Elementary Meeting 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Servants' Meeting 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 2 nd & 4 th Sunday.	+ 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 - 8:00 p.m. + Catechumens' meeting by Fr. Daniel 7-8 p.m.
TUESDAY English- Bible Study 7:30 pm			High School & J. High Meetings 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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Fax : (909) 592-5088 / Tel: (909) 592 - 0475 / Church Tel: (909) 592-8847

Church Book Store: (562) 900 -2694 & (909) 730 - 9976

1. The Feast of Ascension (May 21):

On Thursday May 21, the church celebrates the Lord's major feast of His Ascension, after 40 days of His resurrection. The Liturgy will be celebrated from 8:00- 10.00 a.m.



2. The Feast of Pentecost (May 31):

On Sunday, May 31, The Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost, which is considered the "Birthday of the Christian church" (Acts 2). We celebrate it also after noon of the same day by the "Worship Service" from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. asking for being filled of the Holy Spirit.



3. The Feast of the Lord's Entry to Egypt (June 1):

On Monday, June 1, the Church celebrates this minor, Lord's Feast, in which 4 important prophecies have been fulfilled from Isaiah 19:1, 19:19 and 19:25; with Hosea 11:1. (It is a good home-work to review these references).



4. The Fast of the Apostles (June 1):

The Church starts the Apostle's fast on Monday, June 1 until the Apostles' Feast in July 12. Its period this year is 41 days. May the blessings of our fathers the apostles be with us.



5. St. John's Ninth Book Fair: (May 27):

St. John church in Covina holds her annual 9th Book-Fair in the occasion of the feasts of Pentecost and Christ's entry into the land of Egypt, from Wednesday, May 27 until June 1, 2015.

7. Mother's Day (May 10):

The church celebrates Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10, by hosting dinner at 5:30 p.m., in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$15.00. For more information and reservations call : Teresa at (562) 900-2694.



8. H.H. Pope Tawadros:

+ His Holiness was granted an honorary Doctorate from Benisweif, Egypt University for his distinguished role in supporting the Egyptian National Security.

+ Pope Tawadros asked Bishop Marcos (the founder of the youth TV channel of CYC) to establish a new TV channel named KOGY, which is a Coptic word means little child, to serve our children.

+ In the last week of April, he had a pastoral visit in Europe.



9. H.G. Bishop Serapion:

+ On April 15, His Grace travelled to New York to do the proper arrangements for the regional Cleric Council of America.

+ His Grace will also travel to Egypt from May 21-23 to attend the Convention of "The Future of Ministry in the Land of Immigration."



10. H.G. Bishop Tadros:

On April 26, Bishop Tadros of Port-Saied blessed St. John Church in Covina by celebrating the Sunday Liturgy.

11. The 28th Anniversary of Fr. Shenouda:



St. John Church, priests, deacons and congregation congratulate Rev. Fr. Shenouda Ghatas on his 28th anniversary of ordination in priesthood, wishing him health, strength and long life filled with fruitful ministry.

13. Senior Citizen Cruise to Mexico:



St. John Senior Citizen Fellowship holds its annual cruise to Mexico for 8 days from November 8 to 15. The cabin for two people is \$865.00. For reservation call Maher Saleh: (626) 222-6558

14. St. John's 26th Annual Family Convention
at Hyatt Hotel New Port Beach during Memorial Day long weekend May 23 to 25, 2015. For more information call Dr. Salwa Mikhail at (909) 730- 9976 or the book store at: (562) 900-2695 (see also the middle pages).

Paschal Message for the Feast of the Resurrection 2015

By Bishop Serapion



**“Always Leads Us in Triumph in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14)
My Beloved, the Blessed Children of the Holy Church,**

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen

It is my pleasure to wish all of you the blessings of the Glorious Feast of the Resurrection, in which we celebrate the resurrection and victory of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as our liberation from the bondage to evil and death.

During the feast of this year, we remember our beloved, who were martyred in Libya, and we ask for their prayers on our behalf. We also pray for their blessed families so the joy of Christ's glorious resurrection may always fill their hearts.

I wish to reflect with you on a verse, which St. Paul the Apostle wrote to the Corinthians, “Now thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.” (2 Cor. 2:14)

The procession of Christ's victory is the procession of His suffering, by which He was triumphant over Satan. Our Lord Jesus Christ walked the road of the Passion, which began with His arrest on the eve of Friday. It was followed by his trials and sufferings, which He endured until the crucifixion. From the outside, it all appeared as if the following was happening: the soldiers were leading our Lord Christ, Pilate sent Him to Herod, the chief priests and scribes judged Him, Pilate ordered to hand Him over to be crucified, the soldiers scourged Him and mocked Him, and then took Him to Golgotha to be crucified. However, this sorrowful but joyful procession was not under human control; it was truly under divine control, because Christ, the Incarnate God, accepted suffering by His own will. Pilate said to Christ, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?” Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.” (Jn. 19: 10-11) Our Lord Jesus Christ said about Himself, “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.” (Jn 10:18) The procession of the Passion of Christ is the procession of His victory, because by death He trampled down death, rose from the dead victorious over death, and liberated mankind from Satan's dominion. Christ is calling us to walk in the procession of His triumph, and indeed He is always leading us in this joyful procession. We saw Christ leading our martyrs in Libya in the procession of triumph. In the video, which showed the procession of the martyrs, it appeared that a group of evil men were leading a group of innocent men to death by the seashore. However, when we closely observe the procession and see it with the eyes of faith, we see the hand of Christ holding His children and leading them to Paradise and to victory over evil. Therefore, when we carefully

look at the martyrs' faces, we see their calmness and peace, with their heads lifted and their faces bare, like joyful children in the bosom of their Heavenly Father. As for the wicked men, we see their faces covered with black, fearful of showing their faces to the world lest their uncovered faces reveal the fear that fills their hearts. Whereas, the criminal is the one, who covers his face for fear of facing society, the courageous, strong, and righteous person leaves his face uncovered, not fearing anything, and always has his face lifted up and looking towards heaven.

This scene of our martyrs reminds us of St. Steven the first martyr. As the evil men were cut to their heart and they gnashed at him with their teeth, he did not look at them and did not lower his head nor was fearful to cover his face. The Book of Acts says, “But he full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:55)

Indeed, the procession of the Coptic Martyrs by the Mediterranean seashore is a procession of triumph, led by our Lord Jesus Christ as part of the procession of His triumph. Christ diffused the fragrance of His knowledge everywhere through them. The video of the martyrdom of the Copts in Libya carried a message to the whole world testifying to the power of the Christian faith, as revealed in the martyrdom of those heroes, who refused to deny their faith and held fast to their Christian faith till the last breath. As they were led to martyrdom, they repeated the Name of our Lord Jesus. We ask for their intercession and prayers on our behalf, so God may support us to complete our struggle on earth.

Let us rejoice in our Living Christ, Who always leads us in the procession of His triumph, regardless of the surrounding circumstances. We are always peaceful and assured that our life is not in human hands, but in the hands of our Living, strong, and powerful Christ, Who died, resurrected, and lives to rule over the living and the dead. Let us remember the saying of St. Paul the Apostle, “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.” (Rom. 14: 7-9).

Let us pray for the peace of the Holy Church.

Let us pray for our beloved father, H.H. Pope Tawadros II.

Let us pray that our Living Christ may fill our hearts with the joy of His Glorious Resurrection.

*Wishing you many happy returns.
Bishop Serapion*

Did Jesus advocate blind belief?

By Dr. Emil Goubran



To answer this question we need first to define “blind belief”. Blind belief is simply to believe things to be true without evidence.

A lot of believers misinterpret what Jesus said, in His encounter with Thomas who wanted to see evidence for Jesus’ resurrection, “Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). Some believers think that with this statement Jesus advocates blind belief.

However, Jesus knew that after 33 days from His encounter with Thomas He will ascend into heaven. Therefore, the kind of evidence that Thomas demanded will not be available any longer for other people.

Since God does not leave Himself without evidence, He left His disciples and other people, to whom He revealed Himself after His resurrection, as reliable witnesses to His resurrection. As mentioned in the book of Acts “He also presented Himself living after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them through forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God (Act 1:3). The Lord did not only ask His disciples to preach the gospel, He also told them that they will be His witnesses before the world.

That is what apostle Paul did when he wanted to witness to the Lord before a crowd saying:

“But God raised Him from the dead, who appeared for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people.” (Act 13:30-31).

In another citation of the bible as apostle Paul was witnessing in Corinth he said “He (Jesus) was seen by Cephas, then by the Twelve. Afterward He was seen by over five hundred brothers at once, of whom

the greater part

remain until this present day, but also some fell asleep. Afterward He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. And last of all He was seen by me also, as one born out of time. (1Co 15:6-8)

As in our court system, the accounts of reliable witnesses are admitted as evidence to the true nature of the events. The remaining issue would be the reliability of the witnesses, which is ascertained by evaluating the character of the witnesses and the degree of agreement between their accounts of the event.

The disciples and apostles have witnessed to the truth of the resurrection both verbally and in writing in the four gospels and some epistles. Regarding the reliability of the disciples and apostles as witnesses to the event of the resurrection, is judged by the fact that the majority of them were persecuted for their belief and witnessing to the Lord.

It defeats logic to think that any one is willing to die holding on to a lie. It is the disciples and apostles own conviction with the truth of the resurrection and the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ that made them willing to die for it. That should be enough to ascertain their reliability as witnesses and the true nature of the resurrection account.

In conclusion, the Lord Jesus was not advocating blind belief since the evidence is available through reliable witnesses, whom He assigned to witness for Him. His blessing was simply extended to those who would believe without seeing the direct evidence but rather through the written witness of the authors of the gospels. In either case the belief is based on evidence whether direct or indirect through reliable witnesses. This is what is known as intelligent faith, which is based on knowledge and understanding.



By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

The Ascension & Pentecost

1. Both are Lord's major feasts (two out of the seven which are: The annunciation, Christmas, Epiphany, Palm Sunday, Easter, the ascension & the Pentecost).

2. The Pentecost was depending on the Ascension, as the Lord Jesus explained saying, "It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you" (Jn.16:7).

3. In the Ascension, Jesus disappeared away from our sight and He never deals with our Physical senses anymore.

*** But in the Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to us and dwelt within us; and since then we became able to deal with Christ through the Holy Spirit who lives inside us and abides in us forever.**

That is why the Lord Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, "Do not touch Me." He meant that from now on, you cannot touch Me with your hands neither see Me, but our relationship will be through faith not by sight and through the Spirit and not by the flesh.

4. In the Ascension, Jesus proved His Divinity, that He is Lord and God. He said in today's gospel, "I came forth from the Father. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father" (16:28).

3000 years ago, Solomon the wise king and prophet asked, "Who ascended to heaven and descended?" (Prov. 30:4). The only Person, who could answer this puzzle, was Jesus Christ who said to Nicodemus, "NO one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven." (Jn.3:13). So, Jesus by His ascension proved that He is heavenly and of heavenly origin and after He finished His redemption, He went again to His Royal and Divine residence in heaven (see Eph. 1:21).

*** In the Pentecost,** the Holy Spirit has come to reveal the hidden mystery of Christ and that He is equal to God the Father and without the Holy Spirit, no one can say that Jesus is Lord" (1 Cor. 12:3). "No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit".

5. In the Ascension, Jesus said, I will not leave you orphans, I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper that He may abide with you forever... He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said, to you"

***Before the ascension, Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you", But the means of having this peace is through the Holy Spirit.**

6. Before the ascension, Jesus said to His disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Sprit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). He added, He (Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you" (Jn. 16:14).

The last words in St. Mark's gospel says, "Jesus was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And the apostles preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen" (16:19).

*** So, all the power of Christ and his signs, after the ascension, were working in his servants by the Holy Spirit.**

7. In the ascension, Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you, and then I come back to take you that where I am, you will be also" (John 14).

*** While the last words in Revelation complete, "The Spirit and the bride say come...Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus"**

Spiritual People

By St. Gregory of Nyssa

Courage and confidence are our weapons to deflect the enemy's surprise attacks. Hope and patience are the staffs to lean on when we are worn out by worldly trials. And we must stock up on sorrow and be ready to apply it, if need be, when we repent of our sins.

At the same time, we must believe that it is only useful for serving our repentance. Righteousness will be our straightedge ruler, guarding us from stumbling in word or action, guiding us how to use our spiritual abilities, and teaching us to be considerate towards everyone we meet... But someone who doesn't properly use these spiritual abilities, but uses them for opposite reasons...is inexpressibly strange and unnatural. Imagine someone putting on his armor the wrong way: reversing the helmet so that it covers his face, putting his feet into the breastplate, fitting the shin guards onto his chest, putting everything on the right side that belongs to the left and vice versa. How would such a soldier be likely to fare in battle? So then, this gives us an idea of the fate awaiting those who use their spiritual abilities contrary to their proper use.

"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation." (1 Thessalonians 5:8).



"Guarded Souls"

By St. Athanasius

Let us dwell on the fact that while the Lord is with us, our enemies can't hurt us. When they approach us, they conform to the state they find us in. They adapt their delusions to the condition of our minds. Therefore, if they find us timid and confused, they will attack us like robbers, finding our minds unguarded. They think of us as we think about ourselves. For if they find us to be weak and cowardly, they increase our terror by delusions and threats; the unhappy souls are then tormented by these things. But if they see us rejoicing in the Lord, contemplating future bliss, mindful of the Lord, regarding all things to be in His hand, and knowing that no evil spirit has any strength against Christians, nor power over anyone - our enemies are defeated and turned backwards by the strength of these thoughts. Seeing Job fortified in this way, the enemy withdrew from him. But finding Judas unguarded, the enemy took him captive. Therefore, if we want to look down on the enemy, we must always think about the things of the Lord. Our souls must always rejoice in hope. Then we will see that the devil's snares are like smoke and the evil ones will flee rather than pursue us.

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Romans 8:6).



God is with you upholding you

"Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isa. 41:10)

It is easy to say, "Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!" when times are everything is good. It is easy to believe that God loves you when you are on the mountain top enjoying the sunshine. But what happens when you are down in the dark valley surrounded by your enemies?

Perhaps today, you are in the valley of marital, financial or bodily trouble, and you are asking, "Where is God?"

My friend, He is right there with you. The God of the valleys says to you, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

When King Jehoshaphat was surrounded and outnumbered by his enemies, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel and he said to the king, "Don't be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you. Don't fear or be dismayed. Tomorrow, go out against them for the Lord is with you." (2 Chron. 20:14-17)

What King Jehoshaphat did next was brilliant. He acted with wisdom from on high. Instead of putting his commandos in front, he put worshipers in front!

What did the worshipers sing? They sang of God's love for them—"Praise the Lord for His love endures forever!"

And God utterly destroyed their enemies! (2 Chron. 20:21 -23 NIV).

Beloved, it is not the trials that make us strong, but our responses in those trials. The devil wants us to respond by asking, "Where is God?" But God wants us to respond with faith in His love for us. We are more than conquerors not because of our love for Him, but through Him who loves us. (Romans 8:37)

So whatever valley you are in today, don't be afraid. God is there with you strengthening and upholding you. Just sing of His love for you and let Him fight your battles for you!





How to build a lasting and successful marriage (10)

by Fr. Gawargious Kolda



21- Affection and intimacy:

In successful marriage, husbands like to make their wives happy by showing affection to them all times. They know that affection is necessary and important for women, and they love to make their wives happy and content. They show their wives that they are caring about them. Husbands create affectionate habits by showing appreciation to their wives. They know that **women always need affection** through certain attitudes such as hugging, hand-holding, sitting close together and kissing. They know that kissing their wives expresses emotional attachment and commitment.

Willard Harley in his book "**His needs, her needs**" gave an affection inventory that may identify acts of affection that are important for women. Affection consists of two parts:

1- Affectionate habits that must be created by the husbands include the following **TEN** actions:

- + Hug and Kiss your wife every morning while both are still in bed.
- + Talk with her and tell her that you care about her during having breakfast together.
- + Hug and kiss her before you leave for work.
- + Call her during the day to see how she is doing and to tell her you care about her.
- + After work, call her before you leave for home, so that she can know when to expect you.
- + When you arrive home from work, give her a hug and kiss and spend few minutes talking to her about how her day went, and of course she will ask you how your day went too.
- + Help her with dishes after dinner.
- + Hug and kiss her for at least five minutes when you go to bed at night, and tell her that you care about her.
- + Bring her flowers once in a while as a surprise and be sure that it includes a card that expresses your care for her.
- + Remember her birthday, your anniversary, Christmas, Mother's day, and Valentine's Day and give her a card and a gift that is sentimental. Learn how to shop for her.

He added that husbands must try to learn to be more affectionate by **practicing those behaviors until they become habits**.

2- Affectionate habits that must be avoided by the husbands, including the following:

- + Do not tell her how attracted you **only about her body**,

when you express your affection. It means that you only love her body, and you do not care about her as a person.

- + Do not touch her body when you are helping her in house-keeping, especially when you are washing the dishes together.

This does not mean that you do not admire her beauty, but women usually are starving for affection, because it is one of their most important emotional needs. Men must not only **know** the needs of their wives, but they must also transform this knowledge into **action**. Harley also advised husbands not to build their wives' hopes with their good intentions, but to go further and learn the habits of affection.

The easiest habits to learn are those that the husbands enjoy performing and the most difficult are the ones the husbands tend to find uncomfortable. Some habits of affection are not spontaneous or smooth, but husbands must not give up too quickly, because after repeating a behavior a number of times, it will become natural and spontaneous. Those habits are not motivated by the husbands' needs, but by their desire to meet their wives' needs; and that makes them enjoy performing those habits.

The sacredness of sex:

In successful Christian marriage, the couple consider the words of St. Paul: "**Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge**" (Heb. 13:4). In Christian marriage, the potential blessing of sex becomes dangerous if it is entered in isolation of God, who created it. In successful marriage, sex is the union of our minds, emotions as well as our bodies, and it must be performed with passion, tenderness, mutual self-giving, and without vulgarity. Both husband and wife believe that sex was created as a wonderful gift from God and it must not lose its noble quality and its reverence.

Lenore Buth said in her book: "**Sexuality: God's Precious Gift to Parents and Children**" (P. 19) that in marriage, God designed our bodies to give and receive pleasure with each other. Our sexual natures are gifts from God; to be enjoyed without shame or embarrassment. Thus, King Solomon said: "**Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well.... Let your fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of your youth**" (Prov. 5:15-18). She added that we must reverence God in our marriage, by submitting to one another, because husband and wife in all ages need each other's fervent love and emotional support, even without sex.

Jean Vanier in her book "**Man and Woman He made**

them” said that sex is most sacred, most intimate, and most vulnerable in the human heart. In Christian marriage, sex is guided by more than desires of each partner; **it is guided by the love that binds both partners together**. When each partner gives himself in complete surrender to the other, it will not be just physical love; it will be the expression of fulfillment of total love, and an act of unconditional giving and deep satisfaction, for both husband and wife.

Johann Arnold in his book “Purity, sex, marriage & God” said that anyone who uses his partner merely to satisfy himself insults his own dignity and the dignity of his spouse. He is using sex for a selfish purpose. This is why the Bible regards it as sin, when a man withdraws from his wife before satisfaction, and allows his semen to fall on earth (Gen. 38:9-10). For the same reason, oral and anal intercourses are also sinful, because they are driven only by selfish desire for sexual excitement. He added that sexual fulfillment is found in mutual submission. The husband should be patient and initiates sexual union only when his wife is ready, and he should be aware of his wife’s discomfort.

Johann Arnold also said that the true husband will have enough love for his wife to consider her state of readiness and not hurry intercourse because of his own impatience. He added that a good husband is concerned not merely with his satisfaction; he would be sensitive to the fact that often more time is needed for a woman to reach satisfaction than for a man. After intercourse, he would not go happily to sleep while his wife lies awake of feelings of deep frustration. Even if his wife did not reach climax, simply being together with her beloved may give her the deepest sense of fulfillment.

Sex and affection:

In successful marriage, sex begins with affection. Affection is the environment of marriage, a way of life, a convincing expression of love and an umbrella that covers and protects marriage. Husbands must not only speak to their wives with affectionate words, but also they should treat them with respect and tenderness. In most cases women need to feel emotionally bonded with their husbands before having sex.

Willard Harley, as a marriage counsellor said that most affairs start because of a lack of affection for the wife, and lack of sex for the husband. He added that a husband can meet his wife’s affection first; then she usually becomes much more willing to meet his need for sex. Because men tend to translate affection into sex so readily, Harley emphasizes learning sexless affection. If the wife is tired or not in good mood, her husband must not fight, considering that she does not care about his needs, abusing the words of St. Paul: “**The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does**” (1 Cor. 7:4). The husband should practice sexless affection and he must not be a stumbling block to her.

Johann Arnold said that as a woman approaches middle-age, it is not unusual for her to have less joy or interest in sexual intercourse. This can be hard for the man, yet he must see that his love for his wife does not decrease or grow cold. Wives, for their part, should give themselves in love to

their husbands as they are able, even if their joy in doing so is not the same as it was earlier years. The main thing is that there is always unity of spirit and soul before physical relation and there must be some time of abstinence, as St. Paul said: “**Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control**” (1Cor. 7:5). Arnold added that abstinence should be during menstruation and for at least six weeks before and after the birth of a child.

Lenore Buth said in her book (previously mentioned) that affection and loving words should be assured before, during, and after physical relations. She added that husbands must not roll over and just go to sleep right after the relation. It will be a kind of sexual convenience, to be enjoyed and then ignored. This will be terrible for their wives. In successful Christian marriage, husbands show affection a lot, feeling that their wives want to be loved all the time before, during, and after physical relations. We must continually ask the Lord’s guidance and then trust our physical power.

Willard Harley said in his book “His Needs, Her Needs” that sex begins with affection. Affection is the environment of marriage, while sex is an event. He added that in most cases, women need to feel emotionally bonded with their husbands before they have sex with them. Sex for them becomes a physical expression of that emotional bond. They achieve these feelings through the exchange of affection and undivided attention. Their need for this one-spirit unity is important for sexual satisfaction.

Conflicts caused by sex:

Sex can be a very important agent of marital destruction. Sex, like everything in marriage, must be mutually beneficial; otherwise it becomes a cause for erosion of love between the married couples.

Willard Harley said in his book “Marriage Insurance” (P. 139-153) that when sexual problems arise, the first policy to be violated is **honesty**. Sex is often a hidden area from a spouse, which complicates and magnifies sexual differences that already exist. The solution to most sexual problems begins with removing the shame. **Protection** is the second policy to be violated. Sex that benefits one spouse only, instead of mutual satisfaction, can take the form of rape. This bad attitude is common in marriage. The third policy which is violated is care. Ignorance is usually the reason of dissatisfaction and both husband and wife need guidance to know how to achieve sexual fulfillment.

Harley suggests that couples who have conflicts in sexual relations, **must seek CHRISTIAN SEX THERAPIST** or firstly read the book “A Guide to Sexual Satisfaction” by **Garber & Garber, Warner Books**. It is important that married couples share the sexual feelings that give them pleasure and satisfaction. To keep the policy of care, a husband and wife must learn habits that bring sexual pleasure to their spouse as well as themselves.

(To be continued)



How to Worship & Serve God with our Money

1. "OUR CHURCH COSTS TOO MUCH!"

A certain Christian once said to a friend, "Our church costs too much. They are always asking for money."



"Some time ago a little boy was born in our home," replied her friend. "He cost me a lot of money from the very beginning: he had a big appetite, he needed clothes, medicine, toys, and even a puppy. Then he went to school, and that cost a lot more; later he went to college, then he began dating for marriage, and that cost a fortune! But in his senior year at college he died, and since the funeral he hasn't cost me a penny. Now which situation do you think I would rather have?"

After a significant pause she continued, "As long as this church lives it will cost. When it dies for want of support, it won't cost us anything. A living church has the most vital message for all the world today, therefore I am going to give and pray with everything I have to keep our church alive."

2. HOW MUCH DO YOU OWN IN THAT DIRECTION?

A rich native son of Texas who made much money in producing oil from his land brought his pastor to the top of a tall building in one of the Texas cities. With a wide sweep of his hands and a tone of boastful pride in his voice, he said, "Pastor, everything you see to the south I own. Everything you see to the north I own. Yes, and everything you see to the west with its field on field of waving grain I own, too."



The pastor did not seem too impressed. Pointing his hands heavenward he asked, "How much do you own in that direction?"

WHAT IS GIVING?

IF YOU GIVE WHAT YOU DO NOT NEED, IT ISN'T GIVING.

MOTHER TERESA

3. COPPERS OR GOLD?

The story is told that one day a beggar by the roadside asked for alms from Alexander the Great as he passed by. The man was poor and wretched and had no claim upon the ruler, no right even to lift a solicitous hand. Yet the Emperor threw him several gold coins. A courtier was astonished at his generosity and commented. "Sir, copper coins would adequately meet a beggar's need. Why give him gold?" Alexander responded in royal fashion, "Copper coins would suit the beggar's need, but gold coins suit Alexander's giving."



This is an example of how God gives to us. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32). Such a God deserves not my "coppers but my gold!"

4. STANFORD LIVED FOR OTHER'S CHILDREN

Leland Stanford lost his only son. It was a crushing blow. "I have nothing to live for." He said mournfully. He thought he might find satisfaction in building himself an expensive new home. It cost over a million dollars. But it did not bring him happiness. One night he had a dream. He saw his son coming to him and saying, "Father, never say again that you have nothing to live for. Live for humanity. Live for other people's children." That was the message Stanford needed to hear. He built Stanford University at an initial cost of twenty million dollars. He and his wife dedicated themselves to serving the poor and the suffering. They left all their property in trust so that it might go on serving the poor for generations to come.



Readers' Corner



DIVORCE IS AN IMMINENT DANGER

Salam to all,

The following is an email received from a servant at St. Mark church in Montreal.



Unfortunately, it's true, among other imminent danger facing the church and society.

As divorce was once AN ISSUE in the church and society, nowadays, it's an acceptable fact and it's spreading like fire among the new generation!

I am concern of course about the new generation (grandchildren) to be precise, cause of media and TV programs even Sesame Street, which used to be benign, they are feeding the society that this is a common life style, our kids will later ask, why do I have a mom and a dad, and other kids have 2 moms or 2 dads, as if it is a fact of life.

I am concern, but have no solution.

My friend in service H. F. is asking to introduce this issue into Sunday school programs to fight back. and I believe that is a good start, if not done already. Forgive me I have been away from Sunday school and what is taught, but thought to share this email to be active rather than passive.

Mona Tanious

Dear FR AUGUSTINE,

Does it seem tests are getting harder?

"Confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God". (Acts 14:22).

I don't know about you, but it seems that the tests we are going through are getting harder and harder.

Do you remember when you took tests in high school? At the time they may have seemed hard. But imagine if you had to take an elementary school test when you were in high school. You would probably think - oh this is so simple.

So if it seems that the testing of your faith is more intense these days - it simply means that you are graduating to new levels of faith! Our faith is being tested all the time and as we pass each "faith" test, we undergo different means & methods of being tested again. I suppose in a few years, we will look back and think to ourselves - wow that was a hard test but now it does not look so difficult!

When our situations are difficult to handle and downright impossible to explain, we need to remind ourselves that God said, "I know the plans I have for you." Through these situations we discover how faithful and sovereign He truly is. He knows what we can handle and He will never give us more.

If you are going through a tough time right now, be encouraged because it simply means that God is graduating you to new levels of faith! The harder the tests & the greater difficulty - the greater the reward & an increased blessing awaits you! Stay focused, stay alert and remember that God is trying to stretch your faith so that you can accomplish even more for His Kingdom!

The Prudent Wife is from God

"House and riches are the inheritance of fathers; but a prudent wife is from the Lord"

(Prov. 19:14)

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna



If you have a good wife, you got her from the Lord. You ought to thank the Lord for her, by the way. Have you ever done that? Thank the Lord for your good wife, because He is the One who gave her to you.

Young men, this should tell you something. Do you want a good wife? The one who gives away good wives is not the father of the bride, but the heavenly Father. Keep in touch with Him, and He will lead you to the right one. He wants to give you the right kind of wife you need. This is a very practical proverb.

That is why it is said, "If you are traveling by ground pray once. If you are traveling by sea pray twice. If you are travelling by air, pray three times. But if you are planning to marry, pray seven times."

It is a matter of life and death, to live in a bliss or miserable in earthly hell the rest of your life.

H.G. Bishop Moussa used to say to the youth that seek marriage:

"PRAY, THINK AND FEEL"

Pray, to seek God's will. God is the only One who knows the future, the hidden things and the only one who has the good wives (and husbands) in His store.

Think deeply, compare, weigh and balance everything. Do you have a lot in common? What about the manners, ethics and behavior?

Feel, watch your feelings and emotions to see whether the outcome of the three agrees to-gether?

Seek the guidance of parents, spiritual fathers, experts, wise friends and counselors.

Make sure that the other partner is a believer, who has a good spiritual life. This is one of the most important safeguards of happiness, security, stability, peace of mind and comfort.

Finally, memorize by heart these verses:
(2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

The Reason for the Resurrection

«He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification». (Romans 4:25)

The Bible tells us that Christ was delivered up for our sins and raised from the dead for our justification. You may already know why Jesus died for our sins, but do you know the significance of God raising Him from the dead?

Let me give you an illustration to help you understand the significance of Jesus' resurrection.

Let's say that you are living in a foreign country. One day, you happen to break a major rule of the land. You appeal to the king for mercy. He says, «A rule is a rule. I cannot bend the rule for you. What will others say about my integrity? However, if you can find a substitute to take your punishment - three months in jail - I will allow it.»

By God's grace, you find a willing substitute. He goes to prison on your behalf and you don't see him for some time. Days, weeks and months pass by.

Now, how or when will you know that your crime has been fully paid for? When will you be able to rest easy regarding your crime? It is when you see your substitute walking free again! When you see him out of prison, you will know that the sentence has been fully served. You will know that you are now justified and no one can bring a charge against you for your old crime. No longer will you be afraid of the king or his guards coming after you because you know that the one who was punished in your place is now walking free.

Beloved, Jesus, your substitute, paid the debt you could not pay. On the cross, He bore the sins of your entire life. God put it all on Jesus and then He punished Jesus for every single one of those sins until He was fully satisfied. And because He was so pleased with what Jesus had done, He raised Him from the dead.

Today, Jesus' tomb remains empty. He is not there for He has risen! His resurrection and empty tomb will forever be our assurance that we have been fully justified. You no longer have to be afraid of God judging you for your sins. His justice is on your side today!

100th anniversary of the genocide against the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire



Call it what it is: The destruction of Christian life must be recognized as genocide against the Armenians!

On occasion of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the genocide against the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire (April 24, 1915) the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) would like to ask the German Bundestag to officially recognize the crimes as such. More than 1.5 million Armenians and at least 500,000 Assyrians/Aramaeans/Chaldeans were murdered back then. The deportations of Ottoman Greeks in Eastern Thrace and Ionia were later continued in the region of Pontus during the First World War. Tens of thousands lost their lives.

On behalf of our human rights organization, I would like to appeal to you to urge the federal government to act on the government in Ankara.

The destruction of Christian life, which took place in 1915 and the following years (in a region which belongs to Turkey today), must be officially recognized — as a step towards reconciliation with the Armenians, the Assyrians/Armineans/Chaldeans and the Greeks of Asia Minor.

In addition, we would like to ask you to condemn the defamation of Christian minorities in Turkish textbooks. By order of the Turkish Ministry of Education, the Armenians and Greeks

are still described as spies, traitors and barbarians.

In opinion of our human rights organization, this education policy is an attempt of the Turkish government to prevent a reappraisal of historical events.

Even today, the Syrian Orthodox Christians are not recognized as a minority in Turkey. Now, 100 years later, the Turkish government has obviously not learned much. By providing logistical support for the “Islamic State” (IS) in neighboring Syria and in Turkey itself, it is once again involved — at least morally — in the persecution and extermination of Christian communities.

Apparently, Turkey has taken sides with Islamist extremists who persecute Kurds, Yazidis, Armenians, Assyrians/Aramaeans/Chaldeans, Ismailis and other minorities in Syria. Thus, IS fighters are able to cross the Syrian-Turkish border freely, while humanitarian aid supplies for the Kurdish and Christian regions of the neighboring country are blocked.

Please keep in mind that the European Parliament made a decision in 1987, according to which Turkey will only be allowed to join the Union if the genocide against the Armenians is officially recognized.

Tilman Zulch, Secretary General of the STP

The Midas Touch and Christ's Touch

by Fr. Augustinos Hanna



The Midas touch:

AN OLD FABLE SAYS THAT A KING NAMED MIDAS kept praying to his gods to grant him a certain gift that everything he touches turn into gold. The story says that his request was granted.

The king was so happy to be the richest man over the face of the earth. He spent long hours touching everything changing all things to gold until he made hills of gold in his palace and stores.

Finally, when he felt hungry and thirsty, the king touched the bread and immediately it became gold and when he touched a cup of water it changed to gold. The king panicked and lost his mind.

The story ended up with a tragedy that king Midas died hungry and thirsty among his mountains of gold, which could not benefit him!

Although, this story is not real, but it has a real significance. Dale Carnegie says that the four richest millionaires in the world some of them spent his last days in a mental hospital and the others committed suicide!

Jesus said, "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Also, the rich, man in Lazarus' story, who was clothed in purple and lived a luxurious life, went to hell and complained of severe eternal thirst (Luke 16:19).

Many people who neglected their salvation because they were busy in investing money, lost their money when banks got bankrupt and stock market crashed!

The touches of Christ:

On the contrary, the Lord Jesus Christ has His wonderful touches that give life, healing, blessing, and power.

1. The touch of life:

The daughter of Jairus died and Jesus took her by the hand and raised her (Mark 5:41). Also, the only son of the widow of Nain died and was carried out to the tomb, but the Lord Jesus had compassion on her and touched the open coffin and said, young man, I say to you arise And he who was dead sat up and began to speak" (Luke 7:11). Praise the Lord, by His touches He gave life and turned funerals into great joy.

Yet Christ gives more than the physical life; He offers spiri-

tual and eternal life. The Bible tells us that the sinner is dead as in parable of the prodigal son, "My son was dead and now is alive, he was lost and now is found" (Luke 15:24). Jesus said, "Let the dead bury their dead" (Matt. 8:22); 'You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead" (Rev. 3:1). Thanks be to the Lord Jesus who granted us life and said, "The hour is coming and now is, when the dead hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). Through His living word and Spirit, He touches the hearts of the sinners and gives them life and life abundantly (John.10:10).

2. The touch of healing and health:

The four gospels are full of the miracles of Christ's healing touches. He touched the leper and healed him (Matt. 8:3); He also touched the hand of Peter's mother in law and healed her from her fever (Matt. 9:20).

It is written that, "They brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well" (Matt. 14:35, 36, see also Luke 22: 51).

God said, in the Old Testament, "I am the Lord who heals you" (Exod. 15:26); and prophesied, "To you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings" (Malachi 4:2). And in the New Testament we can see clearly, the fulfillment of these prophecies in Christ, the Incarnate God, who healed by His touch the souls and bodies of great multitudes, every- one who touches Him by faith.

3. The touch of blessing:

Jesus touched the children and blessed them (Matt. 19:13-15). He also touched the five loaves and two fish and blessed them and could feed more than 10,000 people (Matt. 14:17; 15:22; John 6:1-15). The Midas touch looked for a moment as a blessing; but in fact it was a curse and led to death; but the touches of Christ are always full of blessings, joy, peace and satisfaction. The psalmist says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy."

4. The touch of creation and recreation:

The Lord Jesus created new eyes to the born blind man (John 9; see also Mark 7:33-35). He also created thousands of loaves and fish and created wine out of the water (Jn.2). But the greatest of that all, is creating a new heart and a clean heart and a new creation from every sinner who believes in Him. As He

created and formed Adam of the dust of the ground by His Divine hands, He still recreates sinners and gives them a clean heart and a holy life, as St. Paul says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away and everything became new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

5. The touch of power:

Both Prophet Daniel and St. John experienced Christ's touch of power. St. John the beloved when he saw a glimpse of the glory of His divinity, he fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on him and strengthened him (Rev. 1:17; Dan. 8:18; 10:10). When the bleeding woman touched Him, He said, "Who touched Me, because Power came out from Me" (Lk.8:46).

Did you experience these blessed touch that has the power to change your life and saves you from all kinds of sins and bad habits and break the bonds of addiction to smoking, drugs, sex and lusts and hatred? You can touch Him by faith, through daily prayers, studying His word, having communion and serving Him.

6. The touch of purification (Isa. 6: 6, 7):

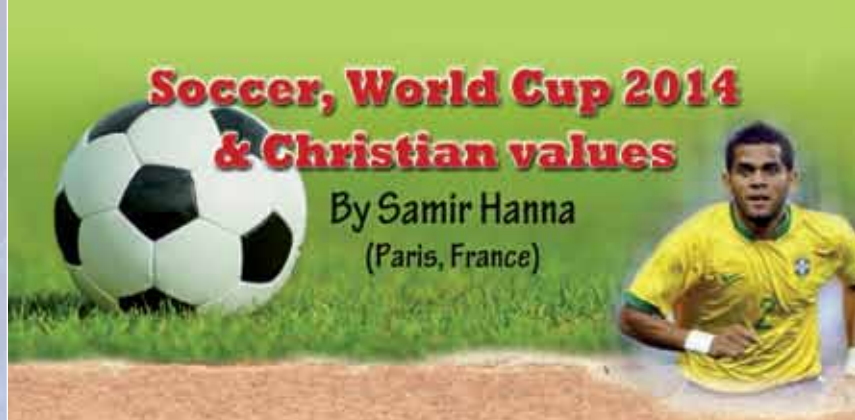
When the prophet Isaiah saw in his vision "the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the seraphim; each one had six wings....and one cried to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and house was filled with smoke...." he adds, "Then I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

He completes, **"Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it and said: Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."**

After Isaiah confessed his sins, the Archangel touched his unclean mouth and cleaned and purified it.

All nominal Christians who swear, revile, insult others gossip and judge others, need to repent, confess their sins and they need this divine touch to their lips with live coal which symbolized the body of Christ and His blood in the sacrament of Communion to grant them holy new lips that bless and edify and don't curse anymore. We need the touch of purification.

We all need these vital touches of Christ which are far better than the Midas fatal touches. Ask the Lord to touch you, these great touches of the new creation, salvation, purification, life, healing, blessing and power. Amen.



The Brazilian team (the "Auri-verde") is the best throughout soccer history. Its players are world class stars. When Brazil hosted the game's World Cup of 2014, connoisseurs expected it to win again. Instead, the Auri-verde collapsed in the semi-finals. They lost to Germany by an unprecedented score: 1 to 7! The Brazilians who played that match lost their credit in the eyes of all football fans...except myself!

There was a player on the field that day that remained in my eyes a star. Daniel Alves had gained my respect 3 months earlier.

He is an African Brazilian, playing in Barcelona's team. During a match, a racist spectator, exciting collective jeering at Alves, threw at him a banana; intending to show he considered him a monkey.

Danny did not react to the insult as ordinary players do. He did not scream back in protest or gesticulate or even complain to the referee. He reacted with cool gentle humor, peeling and swallowing the banana before kicking "the corner" as he was called by his team to do. He normally continued the match.

The Barcelona football club did not let go. With the help of cameras they identified the offending banana launcher. He was an employee of their club. They fired him. Danny publicly appealed to the executives of his club: "He did not correctly behave. But he has a family to feed. What will become of his children, during the present hard times, if you fire him. Don't do that!"

Danny Alves' behavior sounded here as a beautiful application of a teaching from the sermon on the Mountain, a very high Christian ideal, so hard to reach in everyday life : "...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you" (Mathew 44). No need to score exceptional goals to be a star in the field which matters most.



A HIT-AND-RUN MOUTH

By Fr. Anthony Coniaris
Edited by Gigi Tadros



After a broad yawn, a truck driver didn't get his mouth closed again for four hours. The 21-year-old Englishman yawned "really long and hard" while driving. Then he heard a click. His jaw was stuck open. Driving on for 10 miles, he found a policeman and scribbled a message: "Please help me. Where's the nearest hospital? I can't close my mouth."

The policeman started laughing. The embarrassed truck driver drove another 27 miles until he found a hospital where a doctor manipulated his jaw.

"It was very painful – but then we heard another click and my mouth shut at last," said the truck driver. Fortunately, being physically unable to close our mouth is rare. But how often do we fail to keep our lips sealed, to refrain from a harsh or cruel word?

With God's help, even a little thought before we speak can prevent a great deal of heartache and regret. The following item appeared in the Wall Street Journal a few years ago: It topples governments; wrecks marriages; ruins careers; busts reputations; causes heartaches; nightmares, indigestion; spawns suspicions; generates grief; dispatches innocent people; to crying in their pillows. Even its name hisses. It's called gossip. Office gossip, church gossip, shop gossip, party gossip.

It makes headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself; is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary? If not, shut up.

- United Technologies

"Opened by mistake" applies more often to mouths than it does to mail. A person usually gets somewhere when he develops a brake for the tongue and an accelerator for the brain.

A TONGUE DEPRESSOR

I recently came across the expression "a hit-and-run mouth." It is the mouth that feels compelled to

talk about other people regardless of how well it knows them. These people who have a hit-and-run mouth remind me that it is a constipated mind that causes diarrhea of the mouth.

A constipated mind is a closed mind that thinks it knows it all; a mind that speaks but will not listen.

Francis Bacon said once, "Impatient people are like the bees; they kill themselves in stinging others."

I think what we need at times is a tongue depressor – that little piece of wood used by the doctor to hold down your tongue as he examines your throat. It seems that every part of the human body gets tried eventually except the tongue. *It is no accident that the Bible describes the tongue as sharp (Psalm 140:3), biting (Prov. 25:23), and untamable (James 3:8). St. James calls the tongue the hardest thing in the world to tame (James 3:7, 8).*

Demons in the Mouth

Certain icons show Jesus healing demon-possessed persons. The demons are shown coming out of their mouths. This is certainly not what we want in our families.

Ruel Howe in his book "The Miracle of Dialogue" gives the word "dialogue" a deeper meaning when he says, "Dialogue is to love, what blood is to the body. When the flow of blood stops, the body dies. But dialogue can restore a dead relationship. This is the miracle of dialogue..."

True dialogue requires a willingness not just to talk but also to listen, and listen and listen again, to get both sides of an issue.

Thus, the tongue along with the ear, are essential ingredients if we are to have true dialogue and if we are to avoid a hit-and-run mouth. Tender and sweet, for tomorrow I may have to eat them."

Lips Sealed With the Blood of Jesus

When we receive Holy Communion, our lips are sealed with the blood of God's Son. The Precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus enter our being through the mouth. Out of such a mouth that is sealed with the blood of Jesus should proceed only words that glorify God, not careless words that hit and run, that kindle strife and wreck a life, but gracious words that smooth the way, that lessen stress, that heal and bless.

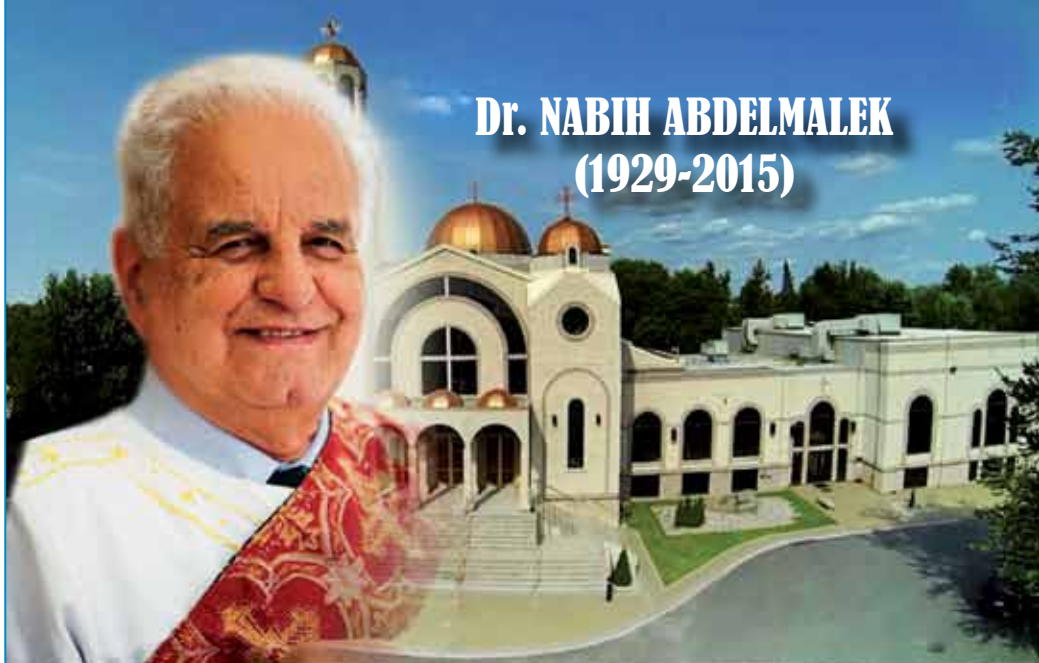
Eating Your Words

There is a little prayer that says, "O Lord, let my words be tender and sweet, for tomorrow I may have to eat them." I would like to add to this prayer these words, "Tomorrow I will not only have to eat them, but I will also have to answer to God for them." For the Lord Jesus told us that we must answer for every idle word we have spoken. "I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-27).

Gracious Words

Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." What fills our hearts will flow out from our lips. If Christ is filling our lives, we cannot keep it in. It will come out; it will control what we say. I pray that what was said of Jesus maybe said of us, "They wondered at the gracious words He spoke." Let's start hearing some of those gracious words that are so much needed to bring healing and peace.

Prayer: O Lord, open Thou my lips that my mouth may show forth your praise. Let my words be words of love, peace, understanding and patience, gracious and grateful words that glorify You. Amen.



**Dr. NABIH ABDELMALEK
(1929-2015)**

Dr. Nabih Abdelmalek was born in Egypt on September 1, 1929. He had an older sister A fifa, who was a second mother to him, as his own mother died when he was a boy.

He graduated from the Department of Electric Engineering. Cairo University in June 1951. He became a lecturer at the same University. Later, he went to England for his Doctorate Degree. There, he met his future wife Jean. came back together to Egypt where his two children. William and Carolyn, were born.

With his wife and two young children, he emigrated from Egypt in 1965. In Canada he continued his carrier as a Senior Research Officer at The National Research Council. He authored a textbook in 2010. Which is now available in libraries around the world.

He was one of the pioneers in organizing the first Coptic Orthodox church services in Ottawa and the great motivator of the construction of the first two Coptic Orthodox Churches in Ottawa. Saint Mary's and Saint George & Saint Antony's. Over the years he was active towards the betterment of Copts in Ottawa and worldwide, through his dedication and tireless service.

He founded the Christian-Canadian Coptic Fund a non-profit charity through which innumerable poor Christians in Egypt and around the world were helped financially.

His Tireless service to the Christian Communities, whether visiting sick people, driving patients to their appointments, and counseling people indifferent needs, all in silence. were greatly appreciated. He was always present to answer any request from any one when ever asked, and immediately. In short he was a GREAT PILLAR of the Church, on whose shoulders the Church leaned on. His BIG SHOES will be very difficult to fill. He was greatly loved by The Coptic community as a Deacon. Father figure. Servant. Church Elder and Leader.

He left Egypt. but Egypt never left him.

REST IN PEACE DR.NABIH and pray for us.

ISIS FIGHTER CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY AFTER ALLAH REFUSES HIM 'ENTRANCE TO GATES OF HEAVEN'



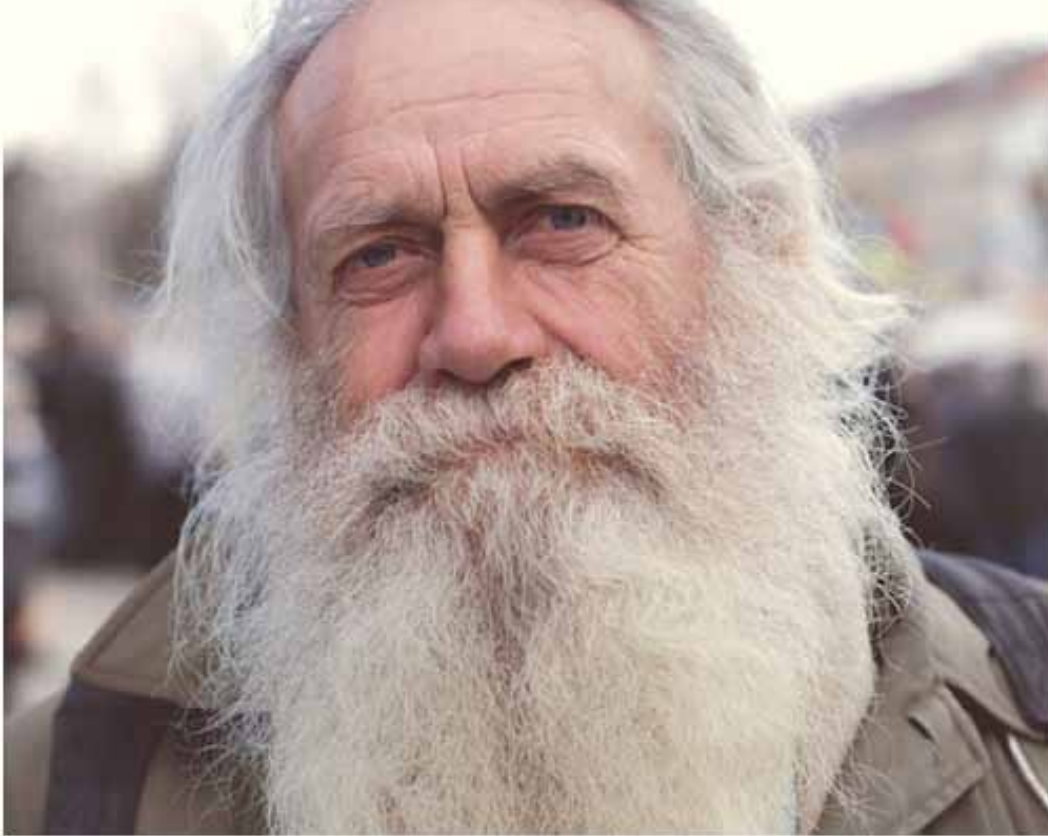
Aleppo | An ISIS jihadist has recently converted to Christianity after being left for dead near the Eastern border of Syria where he was finally rescued by Christian missionaries from the region, reports the Aleppo Herald this morning.

The man, that has miraculously survived multiple gunshot wounds after an altercation between ISIS and Syrian Army forces, was rescued by members of the Saint Dominican Catholic Presbytery of Ayyash hours after the conflict had erupted.

The members of the Christian organization wanted to give the man a proper Christian burial and carried him over 26 kilometers before the man miraculously came back to life as he was believed to have died from his wounds.

The man was believed to be dead for hours before he suddenly came back to life, recalls priest Hermann Groschlin, who discovered the body of the young man

As the man came back to his senses, he reported to priest Hermann Groschlin of the visions he had whilst in the afterlife, an event



that profoundly changed the 32-year old jihadist and eventually led to his conversion to Christianity days later.

“He told me that he was always taught that to die as a martyr would open him the Gates of Jannah, or Gates of Heaven” recalled the priest. “Yet, as he had started to ascend towards the light of the Heavens, devilish entities, or Jinns he called them, appeared and led him to the fiery pits of Hell. There he had to relive all the pain he had inflicted upon others and every death he had caused throughout his entire life. He even had to relive the decapitations of his victims through their own eyes”, images the jihadist claims will haunt him for the rest of his life, admits the priest. “Then Allah, or God, spoke unto him and told him that he had failed miserably as a human soul, that he would be banned from the Gates of Heaven if he chose to die, but that if he chose to live again, he would have another chance to repent of his sins and walk along God’s path once again”

The young man claims he was brought back to life moments later and eventually converted to Christianity days later, believing he had been misled throughout his religious life under the worship of Allah. The young man, whose wounds have surprisingly healed in a very short time, has chosen to live amongst the members of the Catholic presbytery who rescued him from the desert and hopes his story will help other ISIS fighters change their ways and convert to the one and only true God, the priest told local reporters.

تكملة التعازي

كنيسة ماريوحنا تودع علي رجاء
القيامة الوالد العزيز



عبد النور عبد المسيح

والد السيدة عفاف زوجة الدكتور
يوسف عوض وعادل عبد النور المحاسب
وماجد عبد النور وجد الدكتور بول
ومارك وجون وجورج عوض. ونلتمس
نياحة لنفسه الطاهرة وعزاء للأسرة.

انتقلت الي الفردوس لتكون مع المسيح
السيدة الفاضلة



أنعام أسعد

والدة المهندسين فادي حنا زوج السيدة
جاكلين وألفريد حنا زوج السيدة رانيا
وألبير حنا. وكنيسة ماريوحنا تلتئم
لها رحمة ونياحاً في احضان القديسين
وتعزيات الروح القدس للأسرة.

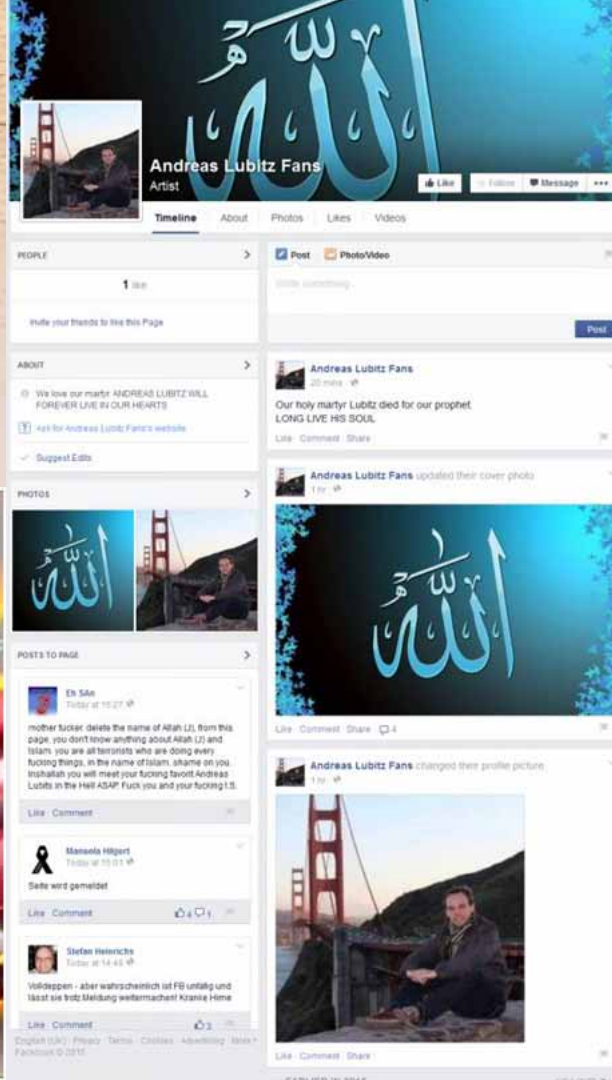
GERMAN NEWS REPORT:

Co-Pilot of German-wings Airbus Was MUSLIM CONVERT... 'Hero of Islamic State'?

Posted by Jim Hoft on Thursday, March 26, 2015, 9:48 PM



28-year-old German Andreas Lubitz trained in the Phoenix, Arizona and is pictured here in San Francisco



GERMAN REPORT—HE WAS RADICALIZED! GERMAN CO-PILOT WAS MUSLIM CONVERT—

— STAYED AT Bremen Mosque

Police have reportedly found an “item of significance” at the apartment of the co-pilot who crashed the Germanwing passenger plane into the Alps this week.

The item was NOT a suicide note.

A German news website claims Andreas Lubitz was a Muslim convert.

Speisa.com reported:

According to Michael Mannheimer, a writer for German PI-News, Germany now has its own 9/11, thanks to the convert to Islam, Andreas Lubitz.

Translation from German:

All evidence indicates that the copilot of Airbus machine in his six-months break during his training as a pilot in Germanwings, converted to Islam and subsequently either by the order of “radical”, ie. devout Muslims, or received the order from the

book of terror, the Quran, on his own accord decided to carry out this mass murder. As a radical mosque in Bremen is in the center of the investigation, in which the convert was staying often, it can be assumed that he – as Mohammed Atta, in the attack against New York – received his instructions directly from the immediate vicinity of the mosque.

Converts are the most important weapon of Islam. Because their resume do not suggests that they often are particularly violent Muslims. Thus Germany now has its own 9/11, but in a reduced form. And so it is clear that Islam is a terrorist organization that are in accordance with §129a of the Criminal Code to prohibit it and to investigate its followers. But nothing will happen. One can bet that the apologists (media, politics, “Islamic Scholars”) will agree to assign this an act of a “mentally unstable” man, and you can bet that now, once again the mantra of how supposedly peaceful Islam is will continue. And worse still, the attacks by the left against those who have always warned against Islam, will be angrier and merciless. But Pamela Geller captured a screengrab of the page before it was removed.

Congratulations

Baptism



St. John Church congratulates, our beloved servants,
CHRIS & HIS WIFE MAGI
 for the baptism of their daughter
ELIZABETH

May the Lord Jesus bless her and grant her growth in
 health, stature, knowledge and spiritual life.



St. John Church congratulates, our beloved servants,
DR. JOHN & HIS WIFE DR. NANCY
JOSEPHSON AND FAMILY
 on the baptism of their daughter
ELIANA

May the Lord bless her life and grant her health, and
 grows in the grace.



St John Spritual Day



What Could We Have Done to Save the 21



Coptic Orthodox priests in Amman, Jordan, remember 21 murdered Egyptian Christians during a Divine Liturgy February 18. The Copts are Egypt's largest religious minority.

A five-minute video released February 15 on a pro-Islamic State website showed the mass beheading of 21 Coptic Christians by Islamic State militants in Libya, reported Catholic News Service (CNS). The 21 Egyptian Copts, migrant workers and members of Egypt's largest religious minority, were captured in December and January. A caption in the video referred to the victims as "people of the cross, followers of the hostile Egyptian Church." At the end of the video, one of the militants pointed a knife in the direction of Italy and, in English, said, "We will conquer Rome, by Allah's permission." Pope Francis reacted to the slayings on February 16 while holding an audience with representatives from the Church of Scotland. Deviating from prepared remarks, the pope spoke in his native Spanish. "The blood of our

Christian brothers is a testimony that calls to us. Regardless of whether they are Catholic, Orthodox, Coptic, Lutherans—this does not matter, they are Christians," the pope said. In the final moments before execution, some of the captives invoked the name of Jesus, repeating the words Lord, Jesus Christ. Speaking to the Fides news agency on February 17, Bishop Antonios Aziz Mina of Giza spoke about the massacre. "The name of Jesus was the last word on their lips. . . . That name, whispered in the last moments, was like the seal of their martyrdom," said Bishop Mina. In honor of the slain Coptic Christians, the Egyptian government called for seven days of national mourning. There are also plans to construct a church using state funds in the Egyptian city of Minya, where many of the victims were from.

President Carter and his wife, visited children suffering



President Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, visited children suffering from schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease, during their 2007 trip to Nasarawa State in central Nigeria.

«We are all neighbors in a global community,»



President Carter once said. He put that concept into action during a visit to Mosebo, Ethiopia, where he commended the efforts in the Amhara Region to prevent trachoma, a painful disease that causes blindness.

هذا التاريخ والشاهد يجب ان يحفظهما كل قبطني (١ يونيو - اشعيا ١٩)



Date & Reference June 1st - Isaiah 19



“Sorrow comes in great waves...but it rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us. It passes and we remain.” - **Henry James**

My Gedo's generosity, work ethic, humility and selflessness are all qualities that I admire him for, and qualities I myself aspire to.

My Gedo was a humble man; he never liked to be the center of attention. In life and now in death, he wouldn't want us to focus on him.

He wouldn't want us to focus on the sadness of his death, but instead focus on the happiness in our lives.

He would want us to appreciate each other and our future.

I'll never forget the memories we created together. Afternoons spent bathing in the warm sun and playing cards as he shared recollections of his past. Gedo loved painting a picture of his life. His hardships and tribulations, and trying to pass his wisdom down to us through his stories.

A man as humble and loving as Gedo will always be remembered by those of us who knew him and loved him. Although we will miss him, his smile, his jokes, his love, we take consolation in the good feelings of our memories.

Gedo always said that his grandchildren kept him youthful. That made us feel proud. I can see that my father got his fun loving spirit from gedo. He was a great teacher to have, not only for my dad and us, but also for everybody. He was selfless and kind. He loved being a parent and grandparent. It was his calling in life.

Gedo, I will constantly miss you. But I have so many astonishing memories to hang on to. You were a role model, and a friend. Your guidance and love will carry me through to the end of my days. I love you Gedo, until we meet again.



المقدس وليم نسيم يعقوب

د.ساهر و د. ماري ميخائل والاسرة يودعونه علي رجاء القيامه
الرب ينجح نفسه في فردوس النعيم ويعطي عزاء للاسره

* * *

Gedo William

Dad and grandfather, your life was a blessing to us and your memory will always be treasured. You're loved and missed beyond words- **Emad and Heba Yacoub**

* * *

Dear Dad you were and still is an icon of sacrificial love taught us God's love in your own simple life. You will always be in our hearts and minds, and will never be forgotten. Our condolences are that you are in God's bosom praying and interceding for us-**Your children Adel, Magda, Joseph and Jonathan Yacoub**

We never lose the ones we love, For even though they've gone, Within the hearts of those who care, Their memory lingers on- **Atef and Norma Yacoub**

* * *

Safe in the arms of Jesus, and free from pain. Rest in peace Gedo William till we meet again - **Timothy and David Yacoub**

* * *

No matter the years goes by. We'll never forget your love and care that you always gave us and your faith in the Lord. You will always be remembered in our hearts. May the lord repose your soul in Paradise.

- **Odette and Hany Zaki**

* * *

“**Geddo,** you will be missed until we meet again.” -**Sara and josh**

* * *

Grandpa, God saw you getting tired. So he put his arms around you and said “come to me.” A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us he only takes the best. Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I will miss you until we meet again! -**Summer Yacoub**

* * *

“**Geddo** William was a good-hearted and generous man. He was the beacon that led a family from Egypt to America. He invested heavily in the good nature and faith of his children who now serve as his future embodiment. He is the reason we have the opportunities that we do now. May his legacy live on forever; and may he rest in peace.” -**Chris Zaki**

* * *

“**To geddo,** you will be missed and remembered more than you know. The way you took pleasure in the simple things in life. The way you lightened up the room with your presence. Thank you for showing us all how to walk in faith, to always be loyal, and to love wholeheartedly. Until we meet

* * *