

Coptic Orphans



...transforming generations

NOV/DEC 2009



Last day with Mina & his sister in Egypt

Between Nothing and Everything

My name is Jimmy Bebawy, a Copt born in the US. This summer, I traveled from Chicago to the Saeed in Egypt for three weeks as part of Serve to Learn. I thought I was there to bring a little happiness to the children. But I quickly realized I didn't know the meaning of the word.

Most days after leading classes, we visited the homes of fatherless families around Tahta. These families could barely afford to offer a bottle of soda, yet they were the

most hospitable people I had ever met. All the volunteers felt a special connection to each child we had visited, and it was obvious the children felt it too. The next day in class, they were so much more engaged in the activities, and smiled a lot more, too.

In fact, most of the children exuded happiness, a happiness I had never known. I began to realize that I had been blinded by my possessions. They had nothing, yet they had everything.

We brought clothing, toys, school supplies and so many other things for the children. But what they valued most was our attention and love. The fact that we cared enough about their well-being to travel halfway around the world to Tahta, Sohag, was what really mattered to them.

Truly, students became teachers, and teachers, students. What I learned was that it wasn't material possessions that these children, or any of us, really needed.

"And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you." (Luke 12:29-31, ESV)

It was only three weeks, but for Mina and I, it was enough to change our lives. It was hard to say goodbye:

Mina: Ya Mister Jimmy, can I come with you to America?

Me: Sorry, ya *habibi*, but I'm taking a plane and there is no ticket for you!

Mina: What about if I ride in your suitcase?

Me: Oh, but your mama can't leave you!

Mina: Let's go ask her!

And off he ran to ask his mother if he could come to America with me in my suitcase. I truly felt that I was leaving behind a lifelong friend.

When I came home, I decided to do something more for Mina. I will help him change his future to a better future. There are thousands of Minas in Egypt. My Christmas wish this year for my friends and family is to sponsor a child today and make the change happen.

More Good News

I recently got a call from a sponsor saying, "when the world around me seems so dark, I often call you to hear news that really encourages me." It's true, we always have good news to share: like the phenomenon of new churches being built in small villages of Egypt; like Hala who got an extra donation from her sponsor and requested that she gives it to the younger girls who may need it more (the Rep thanked her and asked her to keep it); and finally like the group of mothers who let out zaghareet (joyful ululation) upon entering the Cairo zoo - seeing it for the first time in their lives. However, the greatest news is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and as a child, He honored us with his presence in Egypt. Consider sponsoring another child in Egypt - to celebrate the Holy child.

Merry Christmas from all of us, and please, keep the calls coming.

—Nermien Riad

Nov. 21st: Gala in Toronto

"Sowers of Seeds: Our 21st year in the 21st Century."

Join us in in the Richmond Hill area as we come together for Egypt's children. Special guests to be announced! Tickets on sale now for \$75.00. Contact the Canada office at (450) 736-0975 for more information.

December 5th: Australia Contigo

Contigo Carnivale, Sydney: "Building Bright Futures Together"

Fun for the whole family! All proceeds go to the Coptic Orphans Housing Fund to meet the urgent housing needs of children who need a safe, secure and stable place to call home. Contact Oz office at (02) 9787 - 9777 .

Coptic Orphans

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All donations are tax exempt: 54-1637257

Gift Reply Form

I want to make a **one-time Christmas** contribution in the amount of:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other \$ _____

I want to sponsor a child with **monthly payments** of:

\$100 \$75 \$60 \$50 Other \$ _____

Yes, I want to pray for the children and the work of Coptic Orphans. Sign me up to receive praises and prayer requests weekly by email.

Email address: _____

Payment Info (kindly note that direct debiting helps us reduce administrative costs)

Please find my check enclosed. (**note: not for new sponsorships**)

Please debit my bank account for the amount specified above. (**ENCLOSE VOIDED CHECK**)

Please charge my credit card. **Number:** _____ **Exp Date:** ____ / ____

For New Sponsors: I authorize Coptic Orphans to set up a monthly contribution using the information I provided above.

Signature: _____ **date:** ____ / ____ / ____

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