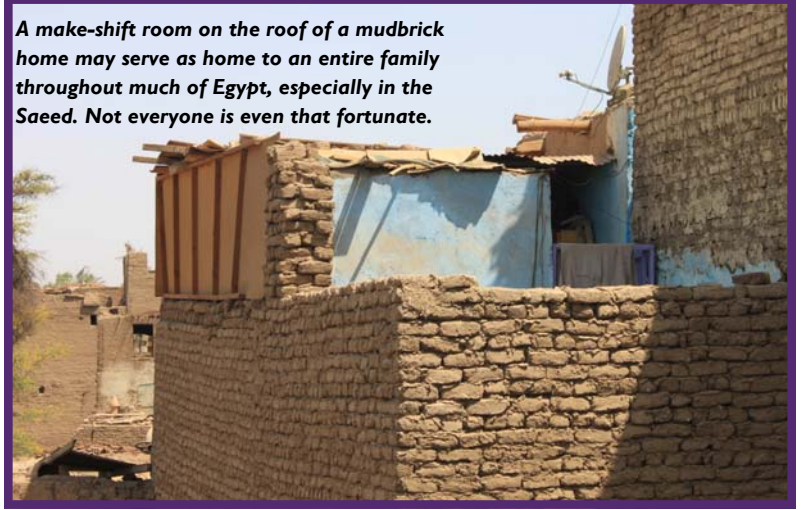


# Coptic Orphans

...transforming generations



A make-shift room on the roof of a mudbrick home may serve as home to an entire family throughout much of Egypt, especially in the Saeed. Not everyone is even that fortunate.

## A Roof Over Their Heads

Samantha Ghali of Coptic Orphans Canada funded her own trip to Egypt to see the impact of our work for herself. She shares one of the stories here.

I climbed up the neat cement stairs behind Marina\* and Madonna,\* sisters who were leading me to their newly constructed bedroom. Before joining Coptic Orphans' Not Alone program, the sisters had no place to study or sleep except the roof, with no walls to protect them from the scorching sun during days, and all manner of creatures at night.

"There are 10 people in our family," they told me, "and only two bedrooms. We had no choice but the roof."

As a result, the girls suffered from insomnia and anxiety, unable to concentrate in school. With the help of Coptic Orphans, Marina and Madonna now have the security of a proper room and the peace of mind to study.

**"I feel like I can breathe now; I was always holding my breath before because I was so scared,"** Marina told my group as we said our goodbyes.

Marina and Madonna's housing situation is far from rare. Of Egypt's population of nearly 80 million, 20 million live in inadequate, slum-like housing.

I heard from several families who do not have toilets in their homes and are forced to go in open fields or rooftops, a humiliating and often dangerous experience. One mother I met, waiting her turn for housing, pointed to her walls saying "I have to cover my walls in plastic bags to prevent insects from crawling through holes in the crumbling bricks."

While the housing needs of Not Alone's 7,400 children are increasing, Coptic Orphans can only address the most urgent needs as they arise. Many families must wait, sometimes for years, before they have the luxury of a place that feels like home should.

Marina and Madonna have already overcome many of the obstacles that come with growing up without a father. We all know that it takes more than a room with a light for children to succeed in life, but the future for these sisters does seem brighter today.

*\*names changed to protect privacy*

## The First Forty Pounds to God

When I was in Egypt this summer, I sat in on one of our workshops for widowed mothers in Aswan. The topic was household management. The mothers were each asked how they would spend a monthly income of LE400 (about US \$72). Without hesitation, several women exclaimed, "the first forty to God."

Let's be honest; how many of us, if we were in their shoes, would do the same?

So many of us think about sharing what we have only after we are sure we have everything we need. But these women have something that all of us desperately need more of: trust in God. I often wonder which of us is really poor?

—Nermien Riad

## Sponsorship: Did you know

Over 400 children in the Not Alone program wrote letters to their sponsors this summer. For some of them, it was their first time to write a letter. All of them are looking forward to getting a letter in return.

Over the next few months, you will start seeing our new logo in materials and on our website. We updated it to reflect our position of unity with the children. We are all one in Christ.

## Coptic Orphans US Headquarters

P.O. Box 2881, Merrifield VA 22116  
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 info@copticorphans.org www.copticorphans.org  
 All donations are tax exempt: 54-163725

*I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know. Job 29:16, ESV*

- I want to make a **one-time** contribution in the amount of:  
 \$500  \$200  \$100  \$50  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:** \_\_\_\_\_

09/09

**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. (**Attach a VOID check** for authorization)
- Please charge my credit card. **credit card number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **exp:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**For New Sponsors:** I authorize Coptic Orphans to set up a monthly contribution using the information I provided above.  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*Please include your phone and email in case we need to contact you about your contribution:*  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Coptic Orphans – US**  
 P.O. Box 2881  
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**Donate Online (and help us save administrative expenses!)  
 www.copticorphans.org**