

BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS



Ministry Report: Our Mission Trip to Egypt

Carol and I recently had the privilege of traveling to Egypt to serve alongside a group of dedicated young volunteers with the ministry Hope for the Persecuted. What we witnessed during this trip was both humbling and deeply encouraging as we saw the Lord at work among churches, leaders, and children across the country. Our team of young volunteers arrived in Cairo two days before Carol and I did. From there, they traveled to various regions across Egypt to distribute Christmas gifts to impoverished children in rural villages, especially in the area of Beni Suef. Their joyful service brought smiles and hope to many children who otherwise would have had no Christmas celebration. Carol and I left the United States at 8:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, which meant we welcomed the New Year aboard our flight to Cairo. We intentionally chose this travel time because it allowed us to obtain the lowest airfare. Every dollar saved on travel meant more resources available to serve the children and families in need. During our stay in Cairo, Carol and I, along with four other members of our team, stayed in an apartment owned by one of our dear brothers in the Lord. This gracious arrangement allowed us to avoid hotel expenses and direct those funds toward ministry, especially toward helping the children we had come to serve.



January 2 – A Full Day of Ministry Begins

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We arrived at the apartment in Cairo at 2:00 a.m. on Friday, January 2. Despite the long journey, there was little time to rest. Only six hours after our arrival, we began a one-day retreat with pastors, ministry workers, and youth leaders from across Egypt. Approximately 400 people attended the meetings. I had the privilege of speaking three times throughout the day, each session lasting more than an hour. It was a blessing to share encouragement and biblical teaching with so many servants who are faithfully ministering in difficult circumstances.



January 3 – Returning to My Birthplace

On Saturday, January 3, we traveled to the city of Suez to distribute Christmas gifts to children at a local church. This visit was especially meaningful for me personally, as Suez is the city where I was born and where I spent my childhood until the age of twelve, when my family was forced to leave as refugees during the 1967 war.

Suez sits at the junction of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, the vital waterway connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

At the church we held two gatherings. The first was with Sunday School teachers and children, where we distributed Christmas gifts. The second meeting was with high school and college students. After I shared my testimony of how I came to know Christ as my personal Savior, many of those present responded and gave their lives to the Lord.



January 4 – Ministry Among Refugees and in a Dangerous Neighborhood

On Sunday morning, we visited a Sudanese ministry in the area of Ain Shams, where we distributed Christmas gifts to Sudanese refugee children.



Later that afternoon, our team visited a church in an area known as Om Bayoumi. This neighborhood has become notorious for drug trafficking and violent crime. The situation is so severe that even police officers often hesitate to enter the area to confront the dealers who openly sell heroin, crack cocaine, and amphetamines on street corners in broad daylight.



The small church building we visited was originally a one-bedroom apartment with a small living area on the first floor of a four-story building. The rented apartment has been adapted into a simple but vibrant place of worship. As the children gathered for Sunday School, they sang Christmas hymns with joyful voices that filled the room. Afterward, we distributed the Christmas gifts to them. The believers in this small church are incredibly committed. Even though many struggle financially, everyone contributes what they can. Some members even donated their wedding rings to help purchase land for a church building. By God’s grace, they were able to buy the land and construct the basic frame of the building. They are now praying for the funds needed to complete it so the church can accommodate at least 100 people. **Hope for the Persecuted** would love to assist them in finishing this project so that a strong Christian witness can continue in this very difficult area. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact us for additional information.

January 5 – Ministry in Upper

On Monday, January 5, we traveled south to the cities of Luxor and Aswan, where we continued meeting with believers and encouraging local ministries. I returned to Cairo on Friday morning, January 9. Only two hours after arriving, I attended a meeting of the Christian Medical Fellowship in Egypt, where physicians, pharmacists, and dentists gathered for fellowship and encouragement. I had the privilege of delivering the message at the meeting. During the gathering, Dr. Wagih Besta presented me with a commemorative gift in recognition of my role as one of the founders of the fellowship and my eight years of service as its Vice President.



Januray 11 – Safe Return Home

I departed Cairo in the early hours of Sunday, January 11. By the grace and protection of the Lord, I arrived safely back in the United States later that same evening. This trip reminded us once again that God is powerfully at work in Egypt, through pastors, young leaders, and faithful believers who are shining the light of Christ even in the most difficult places.

Hope in the Children’s Cancer Hospital

In Minya Governorate in Upper Egypt, an area where Christians often face significant challenges due to prevailing religious dynamics, including a strong presence of Salafi Muslims and Muslim Brotherhood influences, the Lord has graciously opened a meaningful door for ministry through outreach at the Children’s Cancer Hospital.

During the celebration of Christ’s birth, we had the privilege of spending time with children battling cancer and their mothers. In this special setting, we shared the love of Christ and the message of salvation with everyone present, both Muslims and Christians, offering hope, encouragement, and the light of the Gospel in the midst of suffering.



A Christmas of Joy and Compassion in Iraq

A special Christmas outreach was held at a center for deaf and nonverbal children in Iraq, where nearly 30 children gathered for a warm and joy-filled celebration. Through the generosity of our church, each child received a thoughtfully prepared gift package that included lunch boxes and personal items for daily use.

Our time together was centered on building connections, showing kindness, and simply being present with the children. Though words were few, love was clearly expressed through shared smiles, attentive care, and meaningful moments.



Fun activities and light entertainment brought energy and laughter, creating a welcoming and joyful atmosphere for everyone involved.



This outreach was a beautiful reminder that Christ's love can be shared in simple yet powerful ways. Through small acts of compassion and genuine care, we were able to reflect His heart and bring encouragement to these precious children.

2026! The Year of the Spirit of Elijah

COULD YOU BE AMONG THAT FAITHFUL REMNANT WHO REFUSED TO BOW THE KNEE TO BAAL?

Since the dawn of 2026, I have carried a deep conviction that the Lord has spoken plainly to my heart: this year is to be the Year of the Spirit of Elijah.

God is seeking true believers who are willing to be used, men and women ready both to be and to do what the prophet Elijah did in generations past. This calling is especially for those who are filled with the Holy Spirit, who can discern the reality of the spiritual warfare taking place in the heavenly realms. They recognize that this battle is waged against them, their families, and their churches, and they are determined, through faith and obedience, to stand firm and overcome Satan and all his forces.

How many false prophets surround us today, much like the prophets of Baal and the prophets of Asherah, the 850 who once ate at the table of Queen Jezebel and the wicked King Ahab. Yet just as the Lord dealt with them in those days, He is still seeking men and women of faith today, people He can use as He once used the prophet Elijah.

By the grace of God, I will continue in the coming issues of this newsletter to share what the Almighty is revealing to me about the **Year of the Spirit of Elijah**.

If you would like to learn more, I warmly invite you to contact me at 619-449-0702, or reach out by email at *hopeforthepersecuted.com*

A Testimony of True *Transformation*

During one of our recent visits to a local church, we were introduced to one of its leaders, a man whose life story is nothing short of remarkable. As we sat together, he began to share his story, a testimony of how Christ had radically transformed his life.

He told us he was born into deep poverty, in a family with four children. From a young age, his father would say to him and his brothers, “When will you grow up so you can defend me against the drug dealers who mistreat me on our street?” Those words took root in their hearts. As boys, they made a quiet but firm decision: one day, they would take revenge.

For him, the path seemed obvious. The easiest way to fight those men was to become one of them. And so he did. As he grew older, he began using drugs, and before long, he became a dealer himself, eventually gaining a reputation as one of the most feared and notorious figures in his area. He lived without fear. Not of rivals. Not of the police. When he walked down the street, people would step aside. No one dared come near him.

But God had already begun a work in his family. In time, he noticed something remarkable: his brothers had changed. These were the same brothers who had once shared his anger and fearlessness, yet now they were different. They had accepted Christ as their personal Savior and had become true Christians. Curious and unsettled, he discovered that a young pastor, only 30 years old, had led them to Christ. Their lives were completely transformed. They no longer stood beside him in wrongdoing. They left behind trouble, drugs, and the life they once knew.

Instead of joining them, his heart grew harder. Filled with anger, he resolved to kill the pastor who had “taken” his brothers from him. He began watching for an opportunity. Whenever he saw the pastor on the street, he responded with hostility, threatening him and making his intentions clear. Yet the pastor never responded with fear or anger. Instead, he patiently and persistently invited him to talk and to come to church. Then came a moment he would never forget.

One day, he saw the pastor speaking with his brothers about Christ. As he watched from a distance, something unexpected happened, something he had never experienced before. Fear gripped his heart. Not fear of a man, but a deeper, unexplainable fear. Confused and shaken, he turned away and went home, asking himself, *Why am I afraid? I am stronger than he is. I was planning to kill him, so what is this fear?* Not long after, when the pastor once again invited him to come and talk, he found himself unable to refuse.

That conversation changed everything. The pastor shared with him the love of Christ, a love that forgives, restores, and transforms. For the first time, he saw a different path. He accepted the invitation to attend church, and there, he surrendered his life to Jesus. From that moment on, his life was never the same. Today, he faithfully serves the Lord in that same church, a living testimony of God’s redeeming power.

He told us, “In the past, when I was dealing drugs, I earned 1,000 Egyptian pounds a day. Now, after accepting Christ, I work as a tailor and earn less than 200 pounds a day. But whatever was gain to me, I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ that I may gain Christ and be found in Him.”

Through your prayers and support, our ministry is working to establish a small garment workshop for him and for other brothers and sisters in the church. This project will help them provide for their families and support the work of the church. If you would like to learn more about this ministry opportunity, we warmly invite you to contact us.



Urgent Needs- Your Support Can Make a Difference

Help a pastor program

You can make a lasting impact by helping a pastor and his family in Egypt. With a monthly gift of \$200, you can cover 60% of their living needs, allowing them to continue serving their community faithfully. At HFTP, we intentionally provide partial support to encourage pastors to continue trusting Jesus for their daily provision, deepening their faith and dependence on Him. Your partnership helps sustain their ministry and strengthens the body of Christ in Egypt.



You can make a life-changing difference in the life of a Christian university student. Many bright and dedicated young face overwhelming financial challenges. Your support of \$100 a month can cover a student’s college expenses, giving them the opportunity to complete their studies, grow in faith, and build a better future.

You can support “Don’t be conformed but transformed” a series of meetings pastor David and his team are planning across Germany, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Turkey, and Egypt in 2026.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Muslims need Christ as much as anyone else. Prayers are the keys to unlock the spiritual closed world of Islam. Here is how to pray for them:

- *Jesus commanded us to go into all the world and proclaim the Good News; Muslims are included in this command. *Christian prayer warriors must understand that Islam is a spirit, not only a bunch of teachings.
- *Our struggle and our fight are spiritual, and we have spiritual weapons.
- *Pray that God opens the Muslims’ eyes and minds to know the reality of the spirit of Islam.
- *Pray that God protects our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East who work hard to reach Muslims for Christ.
- *Pray that God provides the resources to reach Muslims for Christ.
- * Pray that God send financial support to the pastors who travel from village to village to share the gospel. Some of them don't have the money for transportation to the poor villages.
- *Pray that God sends the needs of the Christian children so they can go to schools to be educated and get better jobs to support themselves and their families.

WHO WE ARE

Hope for the Persecuted has developed a support network in the Middle East to assist Christians who are suffering persecution, victimization and hostility, because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

What We Do - We help in 3 areas:

- Physical** – food, clothing and safe houses. Many are persecuted by their closest relatives and suffer at the violent hands of family members, who are angry sat their conversion from Islam to Christianity.
- Mental** – We publish the only Christian newspaper in the Middle East, All Tareek Wa AL Hague – The Way and the Truth.
- Spiritual** – We share the Word of God throughout the Middle East by broadcasting Christian radio and TV programs estimated to reach an average of 4 million viewers at any given time in the day.

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS

We thank everyone who contributed to drawing a smile on the faces of the children on the birthday of the Lord of Glory. We thank you and we wish you were with us to see the joy of the children whose families did not have enough to eat, but the Lord used you to help. Here is a simple report on what was distributed and in which cities.

THE BLESSING OF A GIFT

The pictures below display the children receiving gifts and the hope and joy that comes from being remembered. A simple act of kindness that displays the love of the Father and His care for the little things in their live. Thank you for joining us in extending this act of kindness to so many.

We are deeply grateful for God’s grace, protection, and provision, which enable us to serve His people and strengthen His Church throughout the Middle East. May His light continue to shine through all who call on His name.
With gratitude and love,

Dr. David & Carol Joseph