

A Message From Bishop Mouneer
to
The Members of the Egypt Diocesan Association
June 2019

My Dear Friends,

I am writing to express my deep gratitude to you all. Your prayers and support mean a lot to us. I am especially grateful for the support I personally receive from Bishop Bill Musk. He frequently writes to encourage me. I also call him to seek his advice and counsel.

This year we chose the theme “Becoming like Christ” to be the theme in our whole Diocese. We are aware that we need a lot of grace in order to attain this goal. Please keep us in your prayers.

As you can imagine, this past year was as busy as ever. I was trying to find a replacement for Bishop Grant in the Horn of Africa. We now thank the Lord that we have Bishop Kuan Kim Seng from Singapore who is unfortunately unable to join you this year. God also sent us Archdeacon Rajan to look after the Gambella region in the lowlands of western Ethiopia, and also to teach in St. Frumentius. I am so happy that he is with you this year. Bishop Kuan, Archdeacon Rajan, and myself agreed that we need to develop local leaders in the Horn of Africa. As we believe that training of leaders is the key to development, we are focusing on the training of local Ethiopian leaders. It is my dream to also see people who are skilled in peace-making and reconciliation in this area, which is often hit by tribal conflicts and violence. We are grateful for all those who worked in the Horn of Africa in the past 19 years. We are now harvesting the seeds they have sown, and sowing some more new seeds.

We thank God that, although we are a small church in Egypt, we have a great impact in our society through our many projects and initiatives, which help us to engage with the society. Please pray for us, that the Lord will use us for His Glory and for the expansion of His Kingdom. Please also pray for me, as I am preparing to hand over my responsibilities next year.

As for North Africa, we thank God for the return of our property in Algiers after 21 years of tough negotiation. I especially thank Canon Alexandra Wakid for her hard work in this matter. I must also mention Canon Huw Thomas, who is carrying the burden during this critical time in the life of Holy Trinity Church in Algiers. I am grateful to my colleague Bishop Samy who is looking after this Area and is the driving force behind St. Cyprian in Tunis. Again, I believe that the training given by St. Cyprian will impact the church in North Africa.

I am happy to share with you that the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, as well as the Anglican Communion Standing Committee, now support the idea of transforming our Diocese into a Province. There will be an exploration committee that will visit the Diocese in October to

find out if this is possible or not. I am sending a booklet titled *Sowing and Reaping* that will share with you all the news of the whole Diocese.

Once again, thank you for all your love and support.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Mouneer Egypt*