



MINUTE FOR MISSION

August 15, 2004

Training Egypt's Leaders

Emil Brunner once wrote, "The Church exists by mission as fire exists by burning." What the church says and does reflects the reality of its being. Without the burning, the fire does not exist. In spite of what is often perceived in the United States, the small percentage of Egyptians who are Christians burn bright with the good news of the Triune God. As we reflect on this year's theme, "O sing to the Lord a new song," we hope that others will hear and rejoice in the songs Egyptian Christians are singing throughout the Middle East with their words and actions.



The president of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Dr. Rev. Atef M. Gendy, talks with students between classes.

Psalm 96 goes on to say, "Declare his glory among the nations; his marvelous works among all the peoples." We have the privilege of teaching at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC), and we yearn for Americans to hear of the marvelous works God is doing through our graduates and the people with whom they work. Just as they proclaim God's love and grace in the Middle East, so we hope you will praise God for his work throughout the world.

In the five short years we have worked at ETSC, we have seen graduates serve in a wide variety of ministries. Emanuel ministers with Sudanese refugee children in Cairo. Ashraf works at the Bible Society. Safwat serves in a church with a school for the mentally retarded, while his wife runs a church-sponsored health clinic for the poor. Venice writes and edits Christian publications. George has moved to Cyprus where he serves with a multimedia ministry. Sherif is starting a new church development. Tharwat, Medhat, and Yusef have collaborated and organized seminars to empower lay leadership through day-long seminars taught by older pastors and seminary professors. Through teaching, caring, and preaching, our graduates are leading others to sing God's praises.

These are just a few among thousands of Egyptian Christians who are singing God's praises for all to hear. Many of them sing under difficult social, contextual, and economic conditions. Many do not have our graduates' education or skills. But they have experienced God's goodness and want to sing it to God for all to see and hear. We praise God for the mission of the Egyptian Church as it burns bright throughout the land.

Darren and Elisabeth Kennedy, PC(USA) Mission Workers
Cairo, Egypt

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted every two weeks.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-228-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.