

St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church Newsletter

Delivered to you by **Saint Moses the Strong Fellowship**

2500 Hansen Rd. Hayward, CA 94541

Logos Newsletter

July 2008

Volume 2, Issue 7

Church News

Holy Baptism- The Church Congratulates:

- ❖ Sherif and Ghada Girgie for the baptism of their blessed son, Anthony.

Newcomers- The Church Welcomes:

- ❖ John Azmy who lives in Hayward.
- ❖ Mina Gwanny who lives in San Francisco.
- ❖ Essam Aziz, his wife Nermine and their children David (b. 4/26/95) and Nardin (b. 2/1/98), they live in Hayward
- ❖ Emad Hakim, his wife Mona, and their children Pavly (b. 5/24/98) and Verina (b. 9/16/01), they live in Hayward.
- ❖ Rafik Makraam and his wife, Ranya along with their 2 children, they moved here from Los Angeles.

Blessed Marriage- The Church Congratulates:

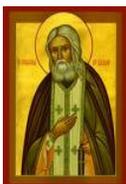
- ❖ On Saturday, June 6, 2008, the marriage of the blessed son, Curtis Allen and the blessed daughter, Mary was celebrated at St. John Coptic Church of San Ramon by Fr. John Ragheb, the priest of the Church, along with Fr. Matthias. Congratulations and best wishes.

Condolences:

- ❖ Nagy Moussa and his wife Mary, Suzy and her husband Maher Abdelmalek and Dora and her husband Bassem Banoub for the departure of their cousin, the Late Ihab Adel.

God is a fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. Hence, if we feel in our hearts the cold which comes from the devil - for the devil is cold - let us call on the Lord. He will come to warm our hearts with perfect love, not only for Him but also for our neighbor, and the cold of him who hates the good will flee before the heat of His countenance.

St. Seraphim of Sarov



BIBLE WORDSEARCH

A	R	B	G	F	I	L	D	C	B	F	C	B	N
T	I	U	R	M	W	A	I	W	M	U	T	P	E
C	L	O	A	K	C	T	S	O	R	L	E	G	B
J	B	G	H	O	M	C	C	F	A	Q	M	O	U
R	C	N	A	C	Y	T	I	W	N	C	P	I	C
N	B	O	W	V	I	M	P	E	B	R	L	U	H
P	E	B	Q	A	X	R	L	X	P	A	E	Y	A
I	B	M	C	N	T	B	E	H	J	Y	D	Z	D
L	D	T	R	G	F	L	S	J	E	I	Q	R	N
A	F	B	A	E	P	N	O	M	O	L	O	S	E
T	L	D	W	L	H	C	K	P	A	C	T	E	Z
E	W	X	T	B	W	S	V	A	U	D	B	S	Z
Q	D	G	H	A	R	P	I	D	F	G	L	O	A
A	T	Q	K	S	L	T	C	F	K	A	B	M	R

1. Who was the Lord speaking to in Exodus chapter 25 verse 1?
2. To which city did Joshua send two spies? (Joshua chapter 2 verse 1)
3. With what did Elijah cover his face? (1 Kings chapter 19 verse 13)
4. Who did David command all the leaders to help? (1 Chronicles chapter 22 verse 17)
5. For what building had the men started to lay the foundations in Ezra chapter 3 verse 10?
6. Who did the Lord say He was sending for in Jeremiah chapter 16 verse 16?
7. Which king is mentioned in Daniel chapter 4?
8. Who came to Jesus to ask why He used parables? (Matthew chapter 13 verse 10)
9. Who asked "Is this man a Galilean?" (Luke chapter 23 verse 6)
10. May the ----- who has rescued me from all harm, bless them. (Genesis chapter 48 verse 16)

Life of Thanksgiving

H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III



He who lives the life of thanksgiving is a noble person, acknowledges and does not forget a favor. NEVER forgets any good offered to him, and expresses his thanks. Thanksgiving is in his heart and on the tip of his tongue, for God and men.

The Lord Jesus blessed the one of the ten lepers who were cleansed, when the only one returned to Jesus *“and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks.”* So Jesus answered and said, *“Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”* (Luke 17:15-18)

Therefore, when you give thanks, you are glorifying God, acknowledging his loving kindness to you. If God has done something good to you through anyone, you give thanks to God and also to this person, who was the mean in receiving such goodness.

Most people give thanks to God at the beginning and end of the each day, and on occasions like new year, feasts and certain important events in their lives, but the life of thanksgiving has its characteristics, perhaps in the first place is the saying of the apostle, *“Giving thanks always for all things”* (Eph. 5:20).

Giving Thanks Always

Then our giving thanks to God has no specific occasions but it is “Always.” And as long as it is continuous, it covers the whole life and therefore the expression “Life of Thanksgiving” applies to it.

The same teaching was explained in the first epistle of the Thessalonians, *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.”* (1 Thess 5:16-18). On account of this, the Prayer of Thanksgiving precedes all Prayers, all the church rituals and masses begin with the prayer of Thanksgiving, also the seven prayers (in the Agpeya) either in the morning or at night. We always give thanks to God “evening and morning and at noon.” Also we says the Psalmist *“at midnight I will rise to give thanks to you, because of your righteous judgments.”*

In addition to the general prayer of thanksgiving, we give thanks in absolutions of the hours,

- ❖ ***In the first Hour we say:*** “We thank you O Eternal King, for you permitted us to pass this night in peace and brought us to the day break,” we thank Him for keeping us safe during the night and giving us a new day in life.
- ❖ ***In the Third Hour we say:*** “We give you thanks for raising us up to pray at this holy hour, where you poured Your Holy Spirit in abundance, upon your disciples and honorable apostles like tongues of fire.”
- ❖ ***In the Sixth Hour, we say:*** “We give thanks to you O our King The Almighty, Father of our God and Savior Jesus Christ, we glorify you because you made the time of suffering of your Only Begotten Son, a time of prayer and comfort.”
- ❖ ***In the Sunset prayer we say:*** “We thank You, O our Compassionate King, for you granted us to pass this day in peace, and brought us thankfully to the evening, and made us worthy to see the light until sunset.”

We thank God for every hour that passes in peace. Then, it is a continuous thanksgiving either at the beginning of every prayer or at certain occasions.

Have You Got an Empty Chair?!

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28
 Brennan Manning tells the following story of an old man who was dying of cancer. The man's daughter had asked the local priest to come and pray for her father. When the priest arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed. The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.



Priest- "I guess you were expecting me, "I see the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

Man- "Oh yeah, the chair ... Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the priest shut the door.

Man - "I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter but all of my life I have never known how to pray. At the Sunday Mass I used to hear the priest talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head.. I abandoned any attempt at prayer, until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now." "So, Father, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm.

The priest was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed for him, anointed him with oil, and left him in God's care. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the priest that her daddy had died that afternoon.

Priest - "Did he seem to die in peace?"

Daughter- "Yes, when I left the house around two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The priest wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that"

Happy July Birthday To:

7/1 Christine Soliman

7/1 Daniel Beskalis

7/1 Maged Badir

7/1 Maged Ghobrial

7/1 Tedros Tokleab

7/1 Tiaisti Kifle

7/2 Kerolos Soliman

7/2 Sylvia Hilmy

7/3 Cassandra Ekdawy

7/3 John Abdou

7/3 Yasmine Alfred

7/4 Angye Rizkallah

7/4 Michael Khalil

7/5 Anna Symone Michel

7/6 Mark Botros

7/6 Sylvia Gabriel

7/7 Amir Hanna

7/7 Mariz Elzahr

7/8 Christopher Botros

7/8 Mary Mankarious

7/8 Natalie Sleem

7/9 Anthony Khalil

7/9 Mark Habib

7/11 Grace Hanna

7/11 Tiffany Girgis

7/12 Theresa Ishak

7/13 Maggie Azer

7/13 Mark Kamal

7/14 George J. Metri

7/15 Michael Abu El Saad

7/17 Christopher Hanna

7/17 Marina Ebeid

7/17 Mina Agib

7/18 Fouad Dahdah

7/18 Georg Masdary

7/18 Mike Abed El Messih

7/19 Diana Mikhail

7/19 Shady Messiah

7/20 Mina Sentaws

7/21 Jessica Badrous

7/21 Sennai Kaffl

7/23 Amara Boules

7/23 Hiyab Desta

7/23 Marlene Sadek

7/24 Aron Kifle

7/26 Amy Khalil

7/26 Kyrollos Sawiris

7/27 Julia Iskander

7/27 Samuel Habib

7/28 Christine Demian

7/28 Christopher Massoud

7/29 Eden Habtay

7/29 Fady Tawfik

7/30 Phelopatir Badawi

SMS speakers schedule for the month of **July**:

7/18/2008 Fr. John Mikhail

7/25/2008 Ash Botros

SMS Meeting Agenda

6:30 – 7:30 pm Agape

7:30 – 8:00 pm Praises & Songs

8:00 – 9:00 pm Lecture, Q &A

Feasts of the Month:

- ❖ **July 1, Paoni 24:** Martyrdom of St. Moses the Black
- ❖ **July 10, Epip 3:** St Cyril I, the 24th Pope of Alexandria
- ❖ **July 12, Epip 5:** Sts. Peter & Paul, the Apostles
- ❖ **July 17, Epip 7:** St. Shenoute, the Archimandrite
- ❖ **July 15, Epip 8:** St. Pishoy
- ❖ **July 27, Epip 20:** Martyrdom of St. Theodore of Shotep
- ❖ **July 30, Epip 23:** Martyrdom of St. Longinus
- ❖ **July 31, Epip 24:** Martyrdom of St. Abanoub
- ❖ **August 7, Messori 1:** Beginning of St. Mary's Fast

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همسة في أذنك

حياة القداسة في رسائل القديس أناسيوس الفصحية (رسالة ماجستير للقمص متياس)

الخلقة والسقوط

لكي نفهم عمل المسيح في تقديس الانسان بصورة أفضل، يلزم لنا أن نناقش أولاً خلقة الانسان وسقوطه.

1:3 الخلقة

3:1- أصل الانسان

تؤكد الرسالة الثانية أن الانسان قد خلق على صورة الله، إذ تقول أن الانسان منذ البدء خلق عاقلاً مميزاً بالفهم، وخلق على صورة الله. ونقرأ بعد ذلك في نفس الرسالة "نحن نحمل صورته". وهذه العبارة تبين أن الانسان مخلوق على صورة الله، وأن له نفساً عاقلة يتميز بها عن الحيوانات. ويشرح كتاب "تجسد الكلمة" أن صورة الله يمكن أن تفهم على أنها نوع من انعكاس صورة الله الكلمة، لأن الله أعطى الانسان "تصبيلاً حتى من قوة الله". ولكن من الناحية الاخرى، يرسم القديس أناسيوس خطأً فاصلاً بين الله الخالق والانسان المخلوق، رغم أنه يحمل صورة الله. لذلك فإن عبادة الكون أو أي جزء منه مرفوضة تماماً.

كما يرفض القديس أناسيوس أيضاً أية رتب إلهية. فلا يوجد شيء، وبين الله والخلقة يمكن أن يسمى إلهياً. فالذين ينادون بكائن إلهي ليس مساوياً للأب يعتبرون أنهم عبدة أوثان. لذلك فالأريوسيون متهمون بالوثنية شأنهم في ذلك شأن الأمم الوثنية، وذلك لأنهم يعبدون مخلوقاً بدلاً من الواحد الذي خلق كل شيء.

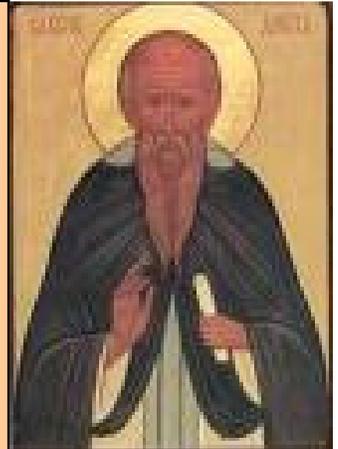
3:1- ب الوحي ومعرفة الله

إذ يقرر القديس أناسيوس أن الانسان قد خلق "عاقلاً وعلى صورة الله" فهو يعني أن عقل الانسان إنما هو صورة لعقل الله. وهذه الحقيقة تتضمن أن الله قد أعطى الانسان، ولو جزئياً، إمكانية الحصول على وحي حقيقي ومعرفة حقيقية عن الله نفسه. أي أنه في إمكانه أن تكون له معرفة مباشرة عن الله، وذلك بواسطة عقله المخلوق على صورة الله. أما إذا فشل في معرفة الله بالعقل، فإنه يستطيع أن يعرف الأب من خلال الله الكلمة. فإن الرب هو الذي يعلن الأب لمن أراد (لو 22:10).

ولكن تاريخ الوحي يبين أن الانسان قد فشل في الحصول على معرفة صحيحة عن الله. فإذا كان العقل البشري يمكن أن يتجه إلى الطريق الصحيح، ولكن الانسان عادة لا يسير وراء عقلة. لذلك فهو يسقط في الخطية، وتتعرض سفينة للدمار في البحر العاصف الذي لهذا العالم.

We believe that the divine presence is everywhere and that "the eyes of the Lord are looking on the good and the evil in every place." But we should believe this especially without any doubt when we are assisting at the Work of God. To that end let us be mindful always of the Prophet's words, "Serve the Lord in fear" and again, "Sing praises wisely" and "In the sight of the Angels I will sing praise to Thee." Let us therefore consider how we ought to conduct ourselves in the sight of the Godhead and of His Angels, and let us take part in the psalmody in such a way that our mind may be in harmony with our voice.

St. Benedict



The Importance of Goals in Life

By H.G. Bishop Moussa



Life without goals means being totally lost. This is a fact most people would concur with. When the hedonists in olden times said; "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die" (1Cor. 15:23), they met with strong opposition throughout the ages. Man does not consist merely of a body and senses; he consists of also a soul that prays, a mind that thinks, and a social being with relation-ships that have the potential for love, happiness, sacrifice, and responsibility.

1- Why should we have goals in life?

- ❖ Give life meaning: A person who sets a particular goal has chosen this goal out of a spiritual reason or a certain way of thinking, confirming the fact that life has meaning and is not as some atheistic existentialists say, "an unnecessary and useless existence". Life, for those who have noble aims, consists of days spent in rejoicing in God and in making other rejoice in Him. Otherwise, how can man bear suffering, evil, and catastrophes if he does not live in eternity while still on earth, hoping to attain it after death and to enjoy a happy immortality with God? In fact, he considers the suffering of this age "an eternal weight of glory" (2Cor. 4:17) and very beneficial. Suffering impels him to wean himself from the world and leads to repentance, surrender, and purity, just as fire purifies gold. Also the suffering God allows protects man from pride (St. Paul's thorn) and renders God's devout men precious (Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac).
- ❖ Provides man with a path: When the goal is clear and well-defined, there is a path that we have to follow in order to attain it. Man thus knows how to order his steps and what direction to take in order to reach his noble goal.
- ❖ Gives man enthusiasm: When the goal is visible, we are encouraged to make an effort to reach it. Our enthusiasm helps us to overcome obstacles and deal with them. If we cannot see our aim, we lose our courage and feel perplexed and anxious, maybe even fearful and lost.

2- The importance of having a clear goals results in the following:

- ❖ A short path: Having a clear goal helps in drawing a straight line between two points, the beginning and the end. A straight line is the shortest distance between two points. Having a clear goal helps me to move immediately towards it while without it I would blunder around; I might even leave the right path and end far from my ultimate goal.
- ❖ Less energy expended: It is evident that the shortest path to one's goals means that less energy is required. In contrast, without a clear goal, man expends far more energy without reaching it.
- ❖ A greater return: It is well-known that expending a limited amount of energy to reach a goal leaves a surplus of energy to be expended in other areas in which we could achieve success as long as our aims are sound and clear.

Thus, having a clear goal makes me take the shortest route, expend the least energy and get the greatest returns with the grace of God.