



Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria

Supporting churches in Egypt, North Africa, Horn of Africa and Gambella

Registered Charity 1181201



FAPA NEWSLETTER – Lent 2023

Dear members and friends, greetings to you this Lent!

When we lived in Lebanon in the early 1970s, I worked in a Christian publishing house, situated in West Beirut, as a researcher. Whilst there, I grew to greatly appreciate the life and ministry of Rev Fouad Elias Accad who at that time was leading the Bible Society in Lebanon. He was a gracious, peace-seeking, Evangelical pastor and theologian, and he took pioneering steps in helping Christians share their faith with Muslims in a non-hostile and non-judgmental manner. Over recent weeks I have read a major work written by Fouad's grandson – Martin Accad – who appears to have developed and deepened his grandfather's approach.

Martin Accad's aim in his *Sacred Misinterpretation: Reaching across the Christian-Muslim Divide* (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2019) is to promote a scholarly, Arab Evangelical approach to handling Christian/Muslim theological differences. He seeks to enable a less polemical interface between Muslims and (Protestant) Christians. His search for, and interrogation of, major Qur'anic commentaries (*tafsîr*) on the subjects of God, Jesus, the Bible and Muhammad highlight the underlying intentions of the various Muslim theologians in writing as they did on those subjects. As a result, Accad proposes some potential, positive ways around historical "deadlocks" in Muslim/Christian relating. He describes his recommended approach as "kerygmatic interaction", suggesting that it lies a healthy halfway between the extremes of "syncretistic" and "polemical" interactions.

Sacred Misinterpretation is quite a tough read – especially the details of the many commentaries mentioning specific Qur'anic verses or phrases and so on. But Accad helpfully stands back from the investigation of his four major "contention subjects" to summarise what he has unearthed. He then suggests how what he has discovered might contribute (negatively or positively) towards finding a more irenic way of interacting as convinced Muslim and Christian believers in dialogue together.

It is refreshing to read Martin Accad's scholarly, Arab Evangelical contribution to this sensitive task. I must say, also, that reading Fouad Accad's grandson's tome made me feel old!

In this Newsletter, we are focusing especially upon the Diocese of Egypt, featuring a few of the many aspects of ministry flourishing there!

Archbishop Emeritus Mouneer is busy in retirement! In this edition we bring you news of the Centre of Christian - Muslim Understanding (CCMU) and the interfaith 'engagement' projects promoted by our former President. It is most encouraging to learn how Christian - Muslim relations are being nurtured, especially with younger people of both faiths, offering hope for fruitful partnerships.

Many members will know that ++ Mouneer was a medical doctor before taking holy orders... we are pleased to report that he has been the inspiration for an exciting Physician Training program which, led by the Christian Medical Foundation (www.cmf.org), is about to commence at the Harpur Memorial hospital..... and, Praise the Lord, funding is in the offing!

On the subject of funds! our Treasurer has asked me to remind FAPA members that we ask for an annual subscription of £25 (minimum) to cover our administrative costs. It would be much appreciated if members would check their bank statements, and if necessary, raise a standing order. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are downloadable from the 'Get Involved' section of our web site: www.fapa-egypt.org

A prayer for the world, the church and ourselves, as we enter a Lenten waiting and awakening:

*Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

In His grace,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bill', with a small plus sign to its left.

Bishop Bill, Chairman FAPA

The 2023 Annual General Meeting will be a 'virtual' meeting on Thursday, 27 April at 2.00pm. Please make every effort to join this so that we can be sufficiently quorate.

The Annual Gathering - We are pleased to confirm that arrangements have been made to hold an ANNUAL GATHERING commencing at 11.30 on Wednesday 13 September 2023, at St Margaret's Church, Westminster. This will be a hybrid meeting – a chance for those that can to meet in the flesh..... and for others to join via zoom.

Stop Press! The FAPA Pilgrimage Study Tour to Tunisia has been delayed and will now take place 19 – 27 April 2024 ... please see www.fapa-egypt.org the Notices Section for the brochure

INTER FAITH MINISTRIES News of ++ Mouneer



The Centre for Christian – Muslim Understanding and Partnership - CCMUP

(<https://www.ccmup.org/en>) was established last year. Located in the Administrative Building of the Diocese of Egypt, Cairo - the Director is our former President - Archbishop Emeritus Mouneer Anis. He describes the three main fields of activities of the Centre as:

- Firstly: The academic track, which involves Islamic and Christian Studies - courses in Christian and Islamic Studies in partnership with Alexandria School of Theology and Al Azhar University to enable faith leaders to develop an understanding of other faiths.
- Secondly: Community Initiatives in which we encourage young people to work together in small projects for the common good of society.
- And thirdly, to develop a team to deal with conflict resolution and peace building.

The Centre is planning its first community development project: ***It Is Our Planet, Let Us Save It***. The project aims to educate Egyptian school children about the causes of environmental pollution and our responsibility to protect our planet and to recover our environment. The aim is to enable children to see the planet as a gift from God to humanity, and to encourage them to play a positive role in protecting the environment..... to involve both Christian and Muslim children, together, preserving God's beautiful creation.

The Centre will partner with the **Adyan Foundation**, an important Lebanese civil society, to benefit from their expertise in educational projects that aim to instil the appreciation of highly needed values within school-age children, such as tolerance, openness, and acceptance to diversity and differences.

CCMUP, in cooperation with the **Ginkgo Foundation Centre**, organizes intensive one week courses 'Understanding Islam'. GINGKO (www.ginkgo.org.uk) is a London based interfaith charity whose mission is to create encounters and bridge building.

Ongoing interfaith projects in Egypt include:

- **'Together We Develop Egypt'** a country -wide programme with Misr El Kheir which brings together young Christians and Muslims in social development initiatives. <https://youtu.be/RK1SqeB6DM8>
- **Gosour Cultural Centre (Building Bridges)** located in the service building attached to the All Saints Cathedral continues to provide a busy programme of arts, literature and music to build bridges between communities.
- **The Arkan Centre**, based at St Mark's Pro-Cathedral in downtown Alexandria, is a place where Egyptian youth from all corners of society, both Christian and Muslim, come together and create art. The Arkan Centre supports talented young artists by providing facilities for producing and displaying youth artwork, and also hosts cultural and artistic workshops.



The first Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Alexandria was held 15-17 February 2023 in the premises of All Saints' Cathedral, Cairo in an atmosphere of love and enthusiasm for this historical moment in the history of the province.



Celebration of Holy Communion was the beginning of the Provincial Synod where the Archbishop of the Anglican Province of Alexandria, Samy Fawzy Shehata, addressed the representatives from the four dioceses and encouraged them that the Church does not lose its influence, no matter how small it is, no matter how big are the challenges - only when the church stops hearing the word of God, submitting to it, and praying trusting in this word.

In the first session of Synod work, the Venerable Emad Basilius was re-elected as secretary of the Synod, after his report about the past two years in the province's life.

The main topic of the Synod was the vision of the Province, and how to be like a beacon in the manner of the apostolic church of the book of Acts – built on solid faith in scripture, radiating light to save more people through evangelism and discipleship.

During the daily devotions the bishops led the Synod to think about what are the basic elements to enable the Church to become healthy and how to be an effective and influential Church serving society.

During Synod, diocesan reports were presented from the Bishops starting with the Diocese of Egypt, the Diocese of North Africa, the Diocese of Gambella and the Diocese of the Horn of Africa.

The Alexandria School of Theology (the Provincial seminary) was represented by Canon Dr. Ashly Null who sent a recorded speech describing the vision and mission of AST and the new structure of AST, and explaining how it works on a provincial level and on the diocesan level. It includes three diocesan seminaries: St Athanasius Theological College, Egypt, St Cyprian Theological College, Tunis, St Frumentius Theological College, Gambella.

The Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership was represented by Archbishop Mouneer Hanna who gave a presentation of its vision: "we are committed to promote peace and harmony between faith communities through more understanding of faiths, cultures and through working together for the common good". The mission of the CCMUP is focused on training, engagement and reconciliation which take place through activities such as academic studies, workshops and field visits, initiatives for dialogue and conflict resolution.

Many of the priests and lay members of the Synod shared their dreams, ambitions for growth and challenges of their parishes, such as Rev'd Frank about Tunisia, Rev'd Crimson and Mr Jonathan about Libya, Rev'd Felix about Chad, Canon Martin about Addis Ababa, and the priest Oklima via Zoom.

On the closing day, the Synod approved the constitutions of the new dioceses (North Africa, Horn of Africa, Gambella) as approved by their diocesan synods and resolved to establish a constitutional committee to review the provincial constitution, canons, standing orders, oath of canonical obedience plus a list of those churches with which the Province is in full communion. The Synod elected members of the Executive Committee: the Venerable Emad Basilius as Provincial Secretary, Dr Maged Botros as Provincial Treasurer, Lay Canon Fouad Roshdy from the Laity and Provincial Chancellor, Mr. Jonathan from the Laity representing the Diocese of North Africa, The Venerable Jeremiah from Clergy representing the Diocese of Gambella, Canon Martin from Clergy representing the Diocese of Horn of Africa.

The Synod affirmed its adherence to Lambeth Conference Resolution 1998 1: 10 as one of the important decisions that should be respected. Finally, the Synod gave thanks to Archbishop Emeritus Mouneer Hanna Anis for his hard work and commitment over 21 years.



The Synod finished its work with a service of holy communion during which Archbishop Samy Fawzy ordained Deacon Crimson as a priest for the church in Tripoli, Libya.

(kindly contributed by Dean David Aziz)

The Harpur Memorial Hospital has been a precious work in the Nile Delta for 123 years. Clinical practice is changing continuously however, and it is vital that the physicians of tomorrow are trained as world class doctors to deliver Christian healthcare.

FAPA is delighted to report the instigation of the Harpur Physicians Training Programme (HPTP) - a new venture to train doctors in Internal Medicine to international standards. This is a collaboration between the Christian Academy of African Physicians (CAAP) and the Diocesan Hospital Board - the project will train a small group of residents over four years to national and international standards for recognition as specialists.

The curriculum includes not only the most advanced training in Internal Medicine but also covers Christian values in healthcare to ensure the trainees can continue the long tradition of Harpur. The project uniquely has not only resident staff in Egypt but will be engaging voluntary faculty from across the UK and North America to teach online and in person. Partnership with CAAP and the UK Christian Medical Fellowship has made this possible.

The Program is seeking to engage with potentially interested supporters and any physician with appropriate experience of the UK MRCP exam who would like to offer time to teach online or in person would be welcome to contact the Project Group for further details via FAPA.

Your prayers are greatly valued for this new work – the challenge is huge.



Youth Ministry - Egypt



Episcopal Youth
Ministry Egypt - News

Read the exciting news of the Alexandria School of Theology programme to develop a Youth Ministry in Egypt
from Revd Mark Senada



Revd. Mark is a full-time lecturer at the Alexandria School of Theology Seminary (AST) in the Anglican diocese of Egypt. Mark holds a BTh from AST and a master's degree in Arts and Religions from Trinity School for Ministry, Pennsylvania, USA. Mark teaches several classes in the Old Testament and biblical theology. He is ordained in the diocese of Egypt and heads up the diocesan youth ministry.

Menara School – Menouf *Menara is Arabic for Lighthouse or Beacon*

The Beacon Centre for Handicap at Menouf reports that the target of the center is to : 'Give chance to a better life to neglected people, Beacon Center works on helping the handicap children to depend on their self - the Center is collecting lots of different cases; Autism, Brain paralysis, Down Syndrome.... etc.' The center was established in 2003 with 3 children and then reached 40 children in 2022, plus extra children who come to take some sessions and leave. We are working on: to give every child academic learning – talking – skills development – movements – socializing – selfcare.



Deaf Unit Newsletter
2023.pdf

The Deaf Unit Newsletter

Newsletters are available in the Library Section of the FAPA website www.fapa-egypt.org and everyone is invited to visit the Prayer Room
Michael, Hon Secy. secretaryfapa@gmail.com

Dr Frank Harpur c 1920 www.fapa-egypt.org/library



Dr Harpur would go from village to village on a donkey, treating patients whenever as called. In one of the villages, a Muslim elder, Sheikh Bassiouny el Saidi asked him to establish a permanent hospital in the city of Menouf. He was able to sail north to many villages in the Nile Delta where he used to set up a tent hospital. He examined patients and treated them for endemic diseases, eye disease and other medical needs, and held Bible classes in the evening