



Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria

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

Registered Charity 1181201



FAPA NEWSLETTER – Summer 2023

Dear members and friends, greetings in the name of our Heavenly Father,

In this newsletter, I am delighted to bring you exciting news from Archbishop Emeritus Mouneer reporting the success of a 5 day training conference for Muslim and Christian students at the Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership in Cairo.

I am also delighted to report two recent awards by the Archbishop of Canterbury - to Clair Malik and Canon Huw. Both are greatly deserving of the awards and we thank God for their lives and ministry, especially in the Province of Alexandria. The citations are copied below.

A call to prayer From Archbishop Samy at this time when the plight of refugees is dominating the news..... let us give thanks that the Refuge Centre, All Saints Cathedral, has open hearts for the thousands of displaced people that are flooding into Cairo to escape the conflict in Sudan. Let us give thanks for the expertise and processes in place to provide real assistance in the current emergency.... and please pray for the continuing provision of food, medical care and long-term support through education and case-management.

Refuge Egypt is beacon of hope, sharing God's love to refugees since 1987.

The Annual Gathering - I do hope it will be possible for a goodly number to attend our 'Gathering' at St Margaret's Westminster on Wednesday 13 September- it has been too long since the last gathering. Please do let Michael, our Secretary, know if you plan on attending in person or by zoom – the invitation email is repeated at the end of the newsletter. Trustee Christopher has asked me to inform you that 'Articles from the Wady Craft Shop at All Saints Cathedral will be on sale during the lunch break, some at reduced prices. '

In his grace,



Bishop Bill, Chairman FAPA

PS. I have recently updated a Video entitled 'Province of Alexandria- The Beginning' . It is available in the Publications Section of the Library in the FAPA website www.fapa-egypt.org Members may find this useful a 'recruiting' tool !

Recent Awards by the Archbishop of Canturbury -

Ms Clair Malik, Mother of Deaf in Egypt – the Lanfranc Award for Education and Scholarship For committing her whole life to the Education of the Special Needs Children, especially the hearing impaired.

Deaf children in Egypt have traditionally faced serious obstacles when seeking an education because many come from poor families and rural areas far from the capital, Cairo. Clair Malik, an educator who founded and built the Egyptian diocese of the Episcopal Church's Deaf Unit from scratch in 1982, said the school must work not only with deaf children, but also with their parents, many of whom come from poor and rural areas and are often uneducated. Almost half the teachers are deaf, while the rest are hearing. The students learn Egyptian Sign Language, Arabic and English and the school also teaches sign language to parents, families, and communities. As a result, deaf students are able to communicate better at home. In addition to founding and overseeing the Deaf Unit, Clair Malik prepared, trained and qualified interpreters to work in Egyptian universities, implementing educational plans to prepare hearing-impaired students so that they could complete their studies at Egyptian universities. 17 She prepared and equipped a vocational training centre to serve the deaf and hearing impaired in various trades such as wood work, metal work, sawing and tentmaking to help them to be self reliant. Clair Malik studied at Gallaudet University for the deaf in Washington, DC, even though she is herself not deaf, thereby gaining deep insights into deaf communication and culture, which have enabled her to make an outstanding contribution to the welfare and life prospects of young deaf people in Egypt.

The Reverend Canon Huw Thomas, MBE – the Cross of St Augustine for Services to the Anglican Communion For outstanding and selfless service to Churches of the Anglican Communion.

Canon Huw Thomas joined USPG in his 50s, having served in both the Church in Wales and the Church of England (latterly as Canon Treasurer of Liverpool). He went first to Addis Ababa, where his generous response to the plea by Sudanese refugees for support for establishing Anglican congregations in Gambella laid the foundations for tremendous church growth. Characteristic of his cultural sensitivity, he first obtained the blessing of the Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarch for this mission. The region now forms a vibrant Diocese within the Province of Alexandria. In 1997 he was called to be Provost of All Saints Cathedral, Cairo, continuing ground-breaking work with Sudanese refugees and providing essential support to (and winning the affection of) the newly ordained Bishop. When Edwardes College in Peshawar needed a Principal, he responded to the call, staying in post when others left after the 9/11 attacks and working for better East-West understanding. Returning to the UK at 70, he continued service to his former Province, chairing first the Egypt Diocesan Association and then the Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association until an appeal was made for him to help resolve a complex situation in Algiers for 'some months.' He went with just a suitcase and, five years later, leaves local Algerian Anglicans nurtured through theological studies, and licensed as Lay Ministers. Throughout these years of service, Canon Huw's ministry has demonstrated a commitment to serving others, standing selflessly in solidarity in challenging circumstances and tirelessly promoting deeper understanding between peoples and cultures.

INTER FAITH MINISTRIES -

news from ++ Mouneer



Dear friends,

I am delighted to share with you the latest initiative at the Centre of Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership, which has brought us great joy. As a team, we are honoured to have hosted a unique educational experience that we named, "A Journey of Learning – a five day conference for Muslim and Christian students ". I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to His Eminence, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, Dr. Ahmed al-Tayeb, and Archbishop Sami Fawzy, the Archbishop of the Anglican Province of Alexandria, for their support in establishing the centre.

In an historic and unprecedented experience, the Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership hosted a conference from July 29th to August 3rd in which thirty students from Al-Azhar University and various Christian theological colleges participated. The participants were a balanced mixture of women and men. In view of the title, "A Journey of Learning," we envisioned these students on a real journey characterized by different stages, during which they learn about the principles and values of both the Islamic and Christian religious traditions. The new dimension of this initiative is that Christian students learned directly from Muslims about Islam, and Muslim students learned directly from Christians about Christianity, which to our knowledge has not happened before in Egypt.

The conference was organized by Dr. Matthew Anderson, the Academic Director at the centre, in collaboration with Dr. Ismail Abdullah, a professor at Al-Azhar University. The lectures were delivered by professors from Al-Azhar University and various theological colleges.

The conference started with public lectures on the topic "Charity Work in Christianity and Islam. Conference sessions included the following:

The Islamic and the Christian Concept of Charity; Principles of Quranic Interpretation (Tafsir); Principles of Biblical Interpretation; The Role of Religion in Preserving Community Values and Ethics; Proof of God's Existence in the Islamic and in the Christian Concept; Human Suffering: An Islamic and a Christian Perspective. Embracing Diversity in the Islamic and in the Christian Concept; Love your neighbour- An Islamic Perspective; Love your neighbour- A Christian Perspective.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for discussion, networking and meal-sharing times, which contributed to the development of warm relationships among the participants.

Moving Forward- We believe that "A Journey of Learning" should be repeated more than once every year. We thank God for the success of this pioneering experience and look forward to the next phase of the journey.

With our best regards. +Mouneer Archbishop Emeritus - General Director CCMU&P

The ANNUAL GATHERING - Wednesday 13 September – RSVP

Dear Friends, I write to invite you to attend the FAPA Annual Gathering to be held on Wednesday 13 September in St Margaret's Church, Parliament Square Westminster, LONDON. This will be a 'hybrid' meeting available, via zoom, to members unable to attend in person.

The programme: From 11.30am Friends arrive - coffee/tea available.

11.50 am - Welcome from Bishop Anthony and Bishop Bill

1200 noon - Archbishop Samy joins the gathering by Zoom to share current joys and challenges in the Province.

12.30-12.45pm - Bishop Anthony highlights progress with establishment of the three new dioceses.

12.45-12.55pm - Canon Huw highlights/difficulties of his time in Algiers.

12.55-13.15pm - Current FAPA Activities.

13.15-14.00 ---- Everyone eats self provided packed lunch.

14.00-14.45 - -- Holy communion.

1445-15.00pm -- Members and guests depart.

This gathering is open to FAPA members and their friends..... please let me know if you are able to attend - I need to have the names of all attendees, ideally by 1 September, for security reasons. (I will acknowledge with access information.) Similarly, If you wish to attend by Zoom please let me know so that I can send you log in details before the event.

As Ever, Michael secretaryfapa@gmail.com

Tunisia – Pilgrimage Tour April 2024 - Please tell your Friends

FAPA have arranged with experienced tour operators, Andante, an exciting Study Pilgrimage Tour of Tunisia, following in the steps of North Africa's Christian giants: Tertullian, Cyprian, Augustine.



Over 9 days, led by FAPA Trustees, we will explore the story of the early Christian Church, its influence on Christian thinking and its complete death, till resurrection comes as we meet the church of today.

For more information on this Tour please visit

<https://www.andantetravels.co.uk/search/?q=Tunisia> and search for FAPA Tour.