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Philip asked him:
"Do you understand what you are reading?"
He said: *"How could I do that unless someone were to guide me?"*

(Acts 8: 30, 31)

St. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

An Ethiopian eunuch, an influential official of Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, had gone to worship in Jerusalem, and was back on his way home. As he sat on his chariot he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The passage which he was reading says: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before his shearers is dumb, so he did not open his mouth ..." (Isaiah 53:7)

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go and join yourself to this chariot." So Philip ran up and heard what the eunuch was reading. Philip asked him: "Do you understand what you are reading?" He said: "How could I do that unless someone were to guide me?" He invited Philip to get up and to sit with him. The eunuch said to Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet

speaking about? Is it about himself? Or about someone else?"

Philip opened his mouth, and taking his start from this passage of scripture, told him the good news of Jesus. As they were going along the road they came to some water ... so both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away. He went through all the cities and preached the good news to them. (Acts 8:26-40)

The eunuch no longer saw Philip, but he traveled along his road rejoicing. We can at least be sure that he who went on his way rejoicing would not be able to keep his newfound joy to himself. It is said that this eunuch went home and evangelized the Ethiopians.

**A
Short
and
Fruitful
Trip**



On Thursday, September 3rd, 1998, H. H. Pope Shenouda III set on a Papal visit to the Coptic churches in the United Kingdom and America. The trip lasted till Wednesday, September 23rd, 1998 when H. H. returned to Cairo.

Short as the trip was, it yielded abundant fruits. It was a labor of love in which H. H. followed the example of St. Paul the apostle who said: "Let us now go back and visit every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing". (Acts 15:36)

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 12/31/1997

ASSETS	12/31/97
Streamwood Lot	225,000
New Church	1,989,370
Cash in Banks	77,290
Total Assets	\$2,391,660
LIABILITIES	
Const. Loan - West Suburban Bank	710,769
Interest free Loans from Church Members	150,000
Total Liabilities	\$860,769
INCOME FUND	
Donations	360,149
Women's Activities	39,916
Book Sale	6,638
Video/Audio Sale	4,196
Interest Income	1,908
Total Income	\$412,807
EXPENSES	
Clergy Services	43,018
Car Expenses	8,887
Church Supplies	9,453
Church Rent	0
Utilities/Phone Expense	15,864
Real Estate Taxes	5,779
Gift from Church	2,424
Loan Interest / Interest Exp.	76,767
New Church Expenses	36,506
J-MAC Association	67,421
M & M (Internal Contractor)	1,360
Total Expenses	\$267,479

BRING ALL THE TITHES ...AND PROVE ME

As we are about to celebrate the second anniversary of the new St. Mary church, we look back and reflect on how the Lord has been with us every step of the way. With His guidance we chose the location, and with the abundance of His love He provided for the construction loan.

Now that the interest rates are low, we are trying to take advantage of this situation by refinancing the mortgage loan at 7.5% instead of 8.5%. However the Bank has one stipulation: the principals should be reduced by \$50,000.

You are urged to help with the situation at hand by offering your donations at your earliest convenience to be able to meet the Bank's demand.

Let us remember what the Lord says: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse and prove Me in this, says the Lord of hosts. If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pass out for you such blessings that there will not be enough room to receive it." (Malachi 3:10) ❖

Church News

Annual Banquet



Mark your calendar and plan on coming, your presence means a lot to us.

In celebration of the 2nd anniversary of the new St. Mary church, the annual Banquet will be held:

Sunday October 25th., 1998,
5:00 P.M.
Hyatt Regency Woodfield,
1800 East Golf Road,
Schaumburg.

Aghaby Gathering



The congregation spent a wonderful time at the picnic which was held in the church yard to commemorate St. Mary's Day. The church youths exerted a commendable effort to organize that successful picnic. Our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

Schaumburg & Wilmett Districts' Fairs

Our youth played a major role in both fairs, which were held on Monday the 7th., and Sunday the 13th. of September. They sold soft drinks and light meals which they prepared. Proceeds from both fairs will be geared towards satisfying the church loan. May the Lord reward those who spared no time or effort to help in this fundraising activity.

Camping Trip



On Friday August 7th., our youth went on a camping trip to Wisconsin for three days. They left on Friday morning after an early Divine Liturgy and came back on Sunday August 9th.

CHURCH CALENDAR

The Nayrouz Feast

September 11
(Tut 1st)

The feast of the Cross

September 30
(Tut 17)

Congratulations To:

- ❖ *Emad Risk and Dina Bischaroun* for their blessed egagement. May the Lord crown this undertaking with happiness and joy.
- ❖ *Robert and Stephanie Farag* for the baptism of their daughter *Madlen*. May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and Men.

CONDOLENCES TO

- ❖ *Amany Iskandar* for the passing away of her father the late *Shoukry Gobrael*.
- ❖ *Sameh Khella* for the passing away of his mother the late *Feeby Musad*.
- ❖ *Salwa Basta* for the passing away of her father the late *Fouad Atallah*.
- ❖ *The Agaiby* family for the passing away of the late *Tewfik Ibrahim*.
- ❖ *The Abutar* family for the passing away of the child *Alexis Marie*. May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.