

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate  
 St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church  
 Η Αγία Μαρία  
 Chicago



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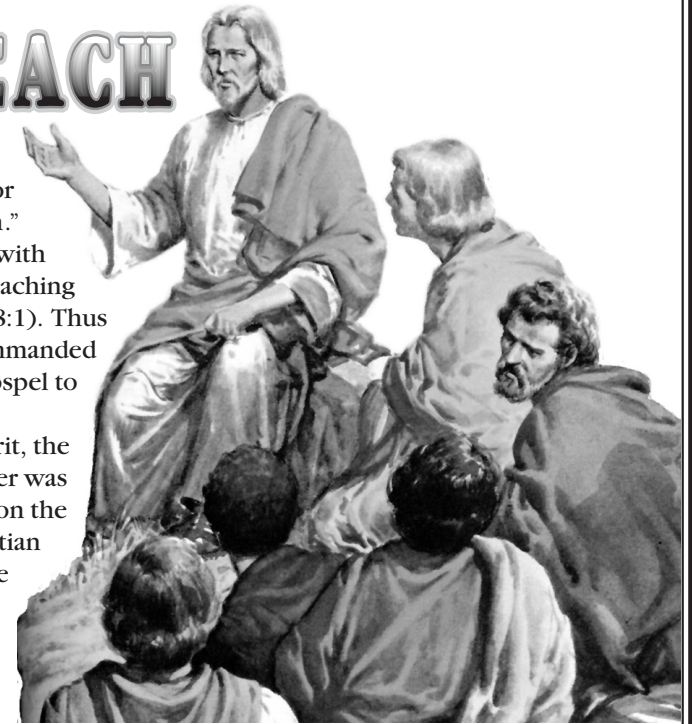
# GO...AND PREACH

**T**he Holy Gospel, is “the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith.” (Romans 1:16). Jesus, taking His disciples with Him, “went on through every city and village preaching the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God.” (Luke 8:1). Thus after setting an example for His disciples, He commanded them to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)

After they had been filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples put Jesus’ command into action. St. Peter was the first to preach, and as a result to his sermon on the day of Pentecost, 3000 people joined the Christian faith. The other disciples, as well, went everywhere preaching the good tidings. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them (Acts 8:5). Andrew, St. Peter’s brother, preached in the region around the Black Sea. He settled in Greece where many believed in Christ through him. John the beloved preached in Asia Minor, specially in Ephesus and the surroundings. So did the rest of the disciples and, “the word of God spread and the number of disciples multiplied greatly.” (Acts 8:6)

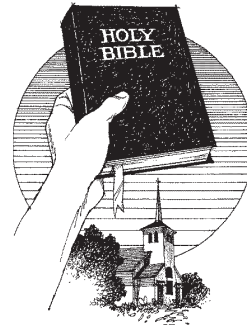
Through His disciples and their descendants, Jesus gives us the same command: “Go ... and preach the Gospel”. We have been entrusted with the Holy Gospel and what effect it has on those who read it and how it has changed the lives of many, giving hope to the hopeless, peace to the troubled and joy to the grieving.

As a Christian, no doubt you have experienced that, don’t you feel any responsibility towards those who are less fortunate and haven’t heard about Jesus ... If you have, then it is your duty to let them know our loving Savior ... All human beings need Him.



## Insight

JESUS  
 LOVES  
 YOU



An old woman in China was mistreated by her relatives. Even her own daughter went so far as to say that she wished her mother were dead because she was old and of no use to anyone. In her loneliness and misery, the old woman heard about Jesus’ absolute love and care even for those who have no one to love. When she learned about His promise, “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” (Matt. 11:28), it comforted her. She knew that “Jesus loves her”, whom no one else loved and this changed her life, and made her without hesitation, join His flock and preach His word.

# Church News

**Friday, November 24th, 2000**

Our church participated in the welcome party organized by the Egyptian community in honor of his excellency Mr. El Husseini Abdel Wahab, the new General consul of Egypt in Chicago, and his family. Our church welcomes him to Chicago and wishes him every success.



**Saturday & Sunday,  
December 9 & 10, 2000.**

The church held its annual bazaar. Our thanks and appreciation for the collective efforts of the participants. May the Lord bless and reward them all with the heavenly recompense.



The church celebrated New Year's Eve. The Sunday school children and the youths participated in the celebration which lasted from 8:00 to 10:30. At the end presents were given

away. This was followed by a spiritual gathering that included hymns, songs and prayers lasted from 11:45 p.m. to 12:30

"You crown the year with your Goodness and your paths drip with abundance" (Psalms 65:11)

Monday, January 1  
2001

An early morning Divine Liturgy service was held from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the beginning of the New Year 2001.

## Calendar

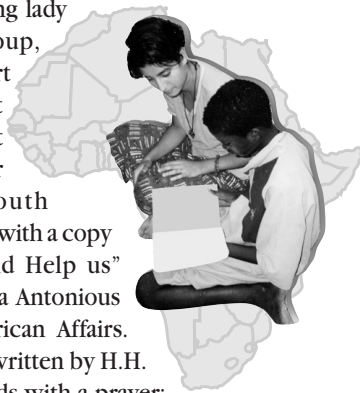
- **The Christmas Liturgy:**  
Saturday, January 6th from 7:15 -11:30 p.m.
- **The Epiphany Liturgy:**  
Thursday, January 18, from 7:15 -11:30 p.m.

## A MISSION...TO AFRICA

On November 5th, we celebrated the 4th anniversary of our new St. Mary church. During that year we worked hard to preach the Gospel to those who are Christians by name. Otherwise, when the Lord asks us "Where is Abel your brother?" ...What reasonable excuse could we give Him, and there are so many of them within our reach?

In answer to Christ's command "Go ...and preach", our youths were looking far beyond the Chicago community. They traveled to the remote areas of Africa and reached those who have not yet experienced Jesus' love and care.

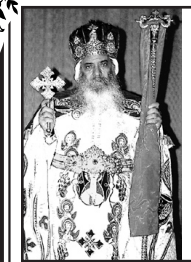
Miral Luka, a young lady from our youth group, was the first to start a mission. She went to Senegal in West Africa. Before her departure, our youth group presented her with a copy of "Come across and Help us" written by H.G. Anba Antonious Marcus, Bishop of African Affairs. The book's preface, written by H.H. Pope Shenoda III, ends with a prayer; "May this book become an incentive for the servants to join this mission service in Africa." The following is Miral's brief account of her mission.



In Senegal, I lived among Africa's poorest in a slum outside the Capital Dakar, with other Christian volunteers. Our home was physically like those of our neighbors. We had first to learn their native language; "Wolof", we followed their daily routines, and tried to stick to their culture. I approached my mission not with great material resources but with simply my cross and smile, and I prayed that the people would not see me but Him.

Through simple acts of mercy, they allowed me into their hearts. I visited the sick, I helped the women with their daily work, I sat with widows, spoke with their abusive husbands and listened to alcoholics. I taught their children and played with them, giving special attention to the fatherless. In turn, even though they had almost nothing with which to feed themselves, they would generously share all they did have with us. Trust was built among us, my neighbors came to talk and to have someone listen. I talked to them about the love of the Savior; they

## Congratulations To:



Our best wishes to H. H. Pope Shenouda III on the 29th Anniversary of his enthronement as a Pope and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark. We ask the Lord to grant him health and keep him as a shepherd, leader, and teacher for the Copts everywhere.

- ❖ **George Mitry** and **Carmen Ibrahim.**
  - ❖ **Dr. Usama Fabmy** and **Leslie Arney.**
  - ❖ **Richard Gettemey** and **Nadia Boutros.**
  - ❖ **Dr. Samuel Boutros** and **Nivin Boutros.** For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their lives and make their marriage honorable and blameless.
  - ❖ **Alfred** and **Deborah Hanna** for the baptism of their son **Nathanael.**
  - ❖ **Mourad** and **Basma Rufael** for the baptism of their son **Peter.**
  - ❖ **Babaa** and **Nermine Sam** for the baptism of their daughter **Marina.**
  - ❖ **Medhat** and **Nabed Rizkalla** for the baptism of their daughter **Nadine.**
- May the Lord bless the new born to grow in grace and stature before God & men.

## CONDOLENCES TO:



- ❖ **Mr. Talat Nashied** for for the passing away of his brother in law the late **Mr Wadee Hermina.**
  - ❖ **Mr. Adel Babour** for the passing away of his father the late **Mr. Ibrahim Babour.**
- May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.

didn't understand why I looked at them with affection, and why I cared for them.

A neighbor asked me once: "Why did you leave all that you have in Chicago to come live with us in our misery? Why did you learn our language and talk to us about Jesus Christ?" I still remember his hard look and his muffled voice. "I love you, and I believe that you were called to be one with us in Christ". That was my reply ... and I prayed that he would understand.