

A TOWER... SAFE AND STRONG

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church
Chicago



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As we look back on that day (September 11th), it is still hard for us to imagine the events that happened. The terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the very symbols of our financial and military security as Americans. What hurts even more is the loss of thousands of innocent lives.

Events like these make us feel defenseless and vulnerable. It is as if some of our sense of personal security and safety came crashing down with those majestic towers which were symbols of our success and greatness. This makes us realize that success and power mean nothing when death strikes at an hour we do not expect.



We have seen how suddenly and quickly our towers came crashing down, and our loved ones were reduced to ashes. When bad news is more than we can bear, we look for something to cling to... for something to sustain us... for something that will make us feel safe.

We become aware of our vulnerability, even if we are in the safest place in the world. In times like these we turn to our Lord, there we find solace and peace. As Solomon said: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and they are safe." (Proverbs 18:10)



When our President addressed the nation on this generation's "day of infamy" he alluded to the one source of comfort and hope in moments like these. He quoted from the treasured 23rd Psalm found in the best selling book of all times, the Bible: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me..." (Psalm 23:4)

Ron Hutchcraft

H.H. Pope Shenouda III, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt, condemned the evil attack. H.H. said: "No faith can ever accept such terrorism, but rather condemns the perpetrators and all those who assisted them in the planning and/or execution of such acts. We pray that God keeps the world in peace, for it is He who said: 'My peace I leave with you, it is My own peace that I give you.'" (John 14:27)



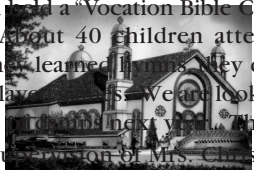
How sad to see our
towers come
crashing down!



CHURCH NEWS

■ August 6 - 10, 2001

The church held a "Vocation Bible Camp" for the children. About 40 children attended every evening. They learned hymns, they did beautiful crafts and played games. We are looking forward to this kind of camp every year. The camp was under the supervision of Mrs. Christine Shafik.



■ August 18, 2001

St. Mary's high school and college youths held a "Carnival Day" for the younger children. The church had a moon walk, drinking tank, face painting, sno cones, pop corn for the kids to enjoy. The event was a great success because of the blessed efforts of our wonderful youths. Thanks to all the participants who made that event possible.

■ August 19 - 21, 2001

During St. Mary's Fast, the church held spiritual meetings every night which included hymns, sermons and glorifications of St. Mary. On August 22, an early Divine Liturgy Service was held from 8:00-11:00 a.m. to celebrate the Feast of the assumption of St. Mary's body.

■ August 26, 2001

After the Divine Liturgy, the church held an Aghaby gathering to welcome the new members of the church. Everybody had a great time as one big happy family.

■ September 11, 2001

The church held a special memorial service for the victims of the terrorists attack. The service was from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

■ September 16, 2001

After the Divine Liturgy, another memorial service was held for the victims of the terrorists attack from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

MEMORABLE WORDS ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER 11th

Good Out of Evil

What happened on that day was one of the worst tragedies in American history, but God can bring good out of evil, and He often works through adversity. Since the terrorists attack, we have seen the nation come together with greater unity than I've witnessed since Pearl Harbor. And this Sunday my church was filled to capacity at all services-very unusual in Florida at this time of the year.

Charles Colson

Seeing God Through Adversity

I saw You, as I watched this great country was brought to its knees in prayer, asking for the guidance of the One "IN WHOM WE TRUST." I saw the leaders of this country get united and come to You seeking strength and refuge from evil. I saw a nation that has always separated church and state come together under You, our Eternal Father...

I saw You, O'Lord, when the towers and castles of mankind crash down, but You, and You alone

O'God that remain almighty and the holder of all things by the power of Your word. You showed us our weakness no matter how advanced civilization may appear great and untouchable.

Christine Barsoum

A New Way of Life

Skin color was covered by the ash of the burning towers. This is a different country than it was before September 11th. We are not as self-centered as we were. We are not as self-reliant as we were. Are we being given a glimpse of a new way of life? Are we a nation, being reminded that the enemy is not each other and the power is not in ourselves and the future is not in our bank accounts? Could this unselfish prayerfulness be the way God intended for us to live all along? May be this, in His eyes, is the way we are called to live.

Max Lucado

Congratulations To:

- ❖ *George Basilous* and *Miranda Khair.*
- ❖ *Salem Twadros* and *Evelyn Makary*
- ❖ *Albair Ibrabim* and *Manal Hinnawy..*

For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their lives and make their marriage honorable and blameless.

- ❖ *Ihab Yacoub* and *Rania Soker.*

For their engagement. May the Lord crown their undertaking with joy and happiness.

- ❖ *Dr. Ihab* and *Ragaa Rushdi* for the baptism of their daughter *Nicole.*

- ❖ *Ramy* and *Mona Farag* for the birth of their daughter *Daniel.*

- ❖ *Emad* and *Niveen Isaac* for the birth of their son *John.*

May the Lord bless the new born to grow in grace and stature before God & men.



We, The American Coptic Community (Christians of Egypt) of the Chicago Metropolitan Area,

Share the pain and suffering with our fellow Americans.

We are deeply saddened by the recent horrible acts of terrorism against all of us.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families of the victims in the New York And Washington Metropolitan Area, and we join all in prayers for President Bush and all leadership in the days to come.

God Bless America

**St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church of Chicago
St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church of Chicago**

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