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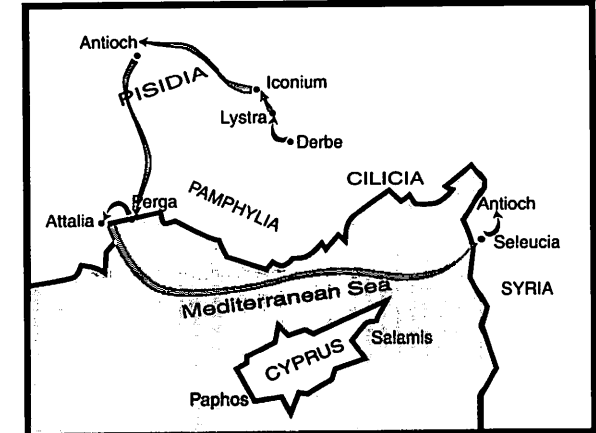
ST. PAUL, FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

(continued)

Paul and Barnabas arrived to the city of Lystra after covering about an eighteen mile journey. The people of Lystra were pagans and they worshiped God Zeus whose temple was located on the outer skirts of the town. As the apostles were preaching the Good News, they saw a man who was lame since birth. St. Paul, seeing that the man could be healed, said unto him. "Stand up straight on your feet". The man instantly jumped up and started walking around. When the crowds saw what St. Paul had done, they thought that Sts. Paul and Barnabas were Gods, and headed by the priest of Zeus, brought bulls and flowers to offer them as sacrifices. The apostles fought hard to prevent them from doing so.

Unfortunately, the jealous jews came from Antioch and Iconium they became upset at St. Paul's preaching, so they stirred up the crowds against him. As a result, the mob stoned St. Paul. Thinking that he was dead, they dragged him out of the town and fled. When the believers came and gathered around St. Paul, he got up and went back to the town. The following day Sts. Paul and Barnabas went to Derba where they preached the good news and won many disciples.

THE RETURN TO ANTIOCH IN SYRIA



Sts. Paul and Barnabas went back to Lystra, Iconium and on to Antioch in Picidia, where they strengthened the believers and then came to Pamphilia, where they preached the message in Perga. After that, they went to Atalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, in Syria, where they gathered the believers and told them about all that God had done for them, and how He had opened the way for the Gentiles to believe. This brings St. Paul's first missionary journey to an end.

An Insight

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

The people of Lystra were heathens and without any spiritual background, which St. Paul could appeal to, when he first preached to them. So he started from nature to get to God who was behind it all. St. Paul spoke to them about the creator who made heaven, earth and sea and all that in them. In other words he convinced the people to understand his message by referring to things they could see, feel and meet in their daily life ... things

that witness to the glory of God and His eternal power and deity that have been clearly perceived in the things He made. (Romans 1:20)

It is told that once, as they sailed in the Mediterranean, Napoleon and his suite were discussing God. In the talk they eliminated Him completely. Napoleon had been silent but now he lifted his hand and pointed to the sea and the sky, "Gentlemen", he said "*who made all this?*"

Church News



At a festive banquet on November 3rd, the Coptic community in Chicago celebrated the 6th Anniversary of the church. Thanks be to God, almighty, for making this dream come true.

It was a special joy to have H. G. Bishop General Anba David among us. His words were inspirational: H. G. stressed that we should instill in our children the pride and knowledge of their glorious Egyptian heritage, along with a Christian upbringing.

Also present was the Honorable Consul General of our motherland, Egypt, El-Husseini Abdelwahab, who mentioned that judging on how well established St. Mary's congregation is, it seemed to him that we were celebrating our twentieth anniversary. Deputy Consul, Nabila Makram, though new to Chicago, fit right into the banquet gathering.

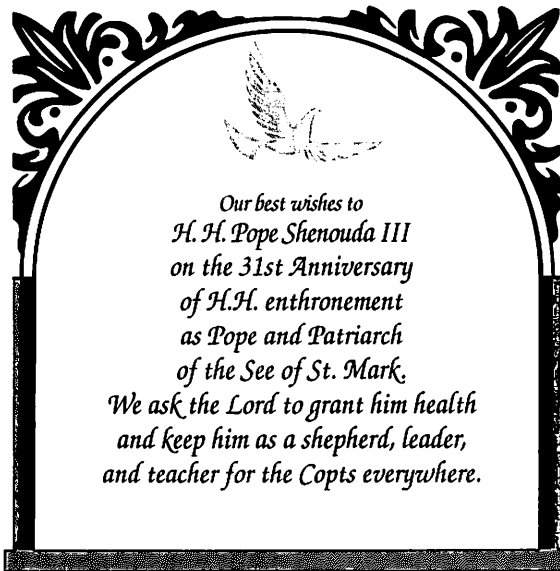
The presence of Rev. Father Samuel Thabit, Rev. Father Rewis Awadallah, and Rev. Father Pavlos Fahmy and their families was truly appreciated. Their unrelenting support, and love were felt by all.

Once again, the children's choir in their prime and proper appearance and performance, won the audience's heart. Mina Dous, "spokesperson" of his group, made it clear to us that the Sunday School children are on the right track.

The Youth Band demonstrated that we have much talent in our midst. Mark Michael, serenaded us with his guitar, and the beat went on with Christopher Salib's able hands at the drums.

As always, Peter Sedrak's music video was an artistic creation. A lot of fellowship was shared, and everyone had a great time.

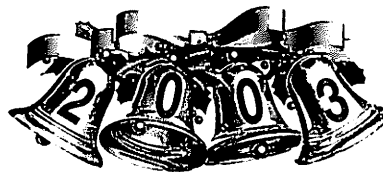
Kul Sanr ye, intom tayebeen.



Our best wishes to
H. H. Pope Shenouda III
on the 31st Anniversary
of H.H. enthronement
as 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.

Calendar

- **Tuesday, December 31st, 2002**
8:30 - 10:45 p.m.: New Year Eve's Celebration.
10:45 p.m. - Past Midnight: songs, spiritual word,
and prayers.
- **Wednesday, January 1st, 2003**
8:00 - 10:45 a.m.: *Divine Liturgy Service.*
- **Tuesday, January 6th, 2003**
7:30 - 11:15 p.m.: *Christmas Divine Liturgy Service.*
- **Saturday, January 18th**
(Paramooni of Theophany)
7:30 p.m. - Midnight: *Lakkan Prayers and Divine Liturgy Service.*



*Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year*

Congratulations To:

- ❖ **Samy Basali and Hillary Youssif**
For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their marriage and grant them happiness.
- ❖ **Peter Shenouda and Christine Abadir.**
- ❖ **Daniel Abutar and Mary Messeib.**
- ❖ **Mina Zikri and Nefrette Halim.**
- ❖ **John Bebawy and Muray Halim.**
May the Lord crown their undertaking with the Holy Matrimony.
- ❖ **Wagib and Eman Montir** for the baptism of their son **Mina.**
- ❖ **Ammar and Lubna Awimirin** for the baptism of their son **Yacoub.**
- ❖ **Dr. Emad and Fadia Rizk** for the baptism of their son **Antonios Karas.**
- ❖ **Samuel & Dina Akbnoukb** for the baptism of their daughter **Miriam.**
- ❖ **Dr. Samuel & Niveen Boutros** for the baptism of their daughter **Ellaria.**
- ❖ **Nabil and Mary Tewfik** for the birth of their son **George.**
May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

CONDOLENCES:

- Reposed in the Lord;
- ❖ **Mariam Kamel**, mother of **Samir Micbell.**
 - ❖ **Ibrabim Megally**, father of **Dr. Mahfouz Megally.**
 - ❖ **Deacon Yassa Hanna**, father of **Dr. Nagy Hanna** and brother of **Dr. Atef Moawad.**
 - ❖ **Blanch Bebawy**, mother of **Samia Soliman**
 - ❖ **Albert Garas**, husband of **Jean D'arc**, and father of **Odette Yanni**, and **Amany Shboukry.**
- May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.

WHO WAS A GENTILE?

Long ago in the Old Testament, God has chosen the Jews for His special people. They were put to live in a land all to themselves, they were given a sign of separation called circumcision; they were forbidden to make marriages with foreigners, and they were given these strict rules about food ... some animals were "clean", others were "unclean", and only clean food could be eaten ... The result was that they thought ever so much of themselves, and anyone who was not a Jew was called Gentile.