



# The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada

## The Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF) Global Meeting 3-4 November 2015, Cairo, Egypt

Bishop Charlie and I attended the meeting on behalf of ARDFC. The following is our report.

Bishop Charlie and I arrived early in the morning of October 30<sup>th</sup> and were picked up by a gentleman from the Anglican Diocesan office. The airport in Cairo is unlike North American or European airports, in that it is teeming with travelers and one has to fight through the crowds.

Travelling by car through the streets of Cairo is a similar experience, as traffic is always terrible, with car horns constantly going and few road signs being observed. Along the road one can see markets with animals for sale and it is not unusual for mule carts to compete with automobiles on the roadway. We were taken to the Anglican Guest House and had a chance to recover some sleep.

The following day Bishop Charlie, Heather and I took an all-day guided tour of the Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids of Giza. It was a remarkable tour with a very experienced guide. Our guide was a young man who shared how he was involved in both revolutions and expressed disappointment that the result has not been democracy as we know it. Egypt has a population of 91M with 18M people living in greater Cairo. The population density is extremely high as almost 100 % of the population lives along the river Nile. Egypt is an Islamic Republic, however about 10 % of the population is Christian. Most of these are Coptic Christians. It is illegal to proselytize and Moslems are not allowed to convert. Officially the constitution guarantees freedom of religion. However, Muslims who convert often face persecution from the state and family, including imprisonment and honour killing by family members.



The following day, Sunday, we had a wonderful experience as we enjoyed a service of Holy Communion on All Saints Day at the Cathedral. Ab. Mouneer Anis brought the word from the Lord and took us through history in sharing the story of Perpetua and Felicity who were martyred in Carthage in 203AD. After the service, we enjoyed a time of fellowship with members of the congregation.



The cathedral, built in 1988, is a very unique structure and is designed to resemble a crown. The cathedral is in a compound, which has several administrative buildings as well as a cafeteria, gift shop and a clinic. Like all public places in Cairo, the compound is fenced in and is protected by security guards.

The following day, Monday, Nov. 2 was a special day as we were taken to some of the projects that ARDF has supported in Egypt. The Anglican Church in Egypt is all about caring for the poor and the displaced. Anglican ministries in Egypt do not discriminate between Muslims and Christians. Our first stop was in a very poor area, populated by militants where the Anglican Church owns 2 apartments, one set up as a place for women to obtain micro loans, the other as a school. Micro loans are important, as many women are often sole supporters for the family. Women will use these small loans to purchase supplies to cook “street food”. The profit will be used to clothe, school and feed the children. The lady in the photo, a widow, cares for 6 grandchildren (girls). Her sons are in jail and their wives left as there were no boys. Stories like this are quite common. Other ladies will take out loans to purchase clothing from a wholesaler and sell the products door-to-door or in sidewalk stalls. This is a different economy and the church cares and supports these women! This is about the love of Jesus in action. It is remarkable that when churches were burnt and Christians were persecuted, the militants in the buildings protected the Christian workers, as they were “caring and doing good”.



Our second stop was a school for the deaf. Our guide started the school several years ago.



Here the children learn signing, and enjoy a regular curriculum from kindergarten to secondary school. Older children learn trades in woodworking, metalworking and others. There is a church and, of course, food. Our group enjoyed a delicious lunch with local food. The church has



various other ministries in Cairo, including a clinic for refugees, and a hospital. There are 4M refugees in Egypt,



mostly from other parts of Africa. Many of the refugees have been in Egypt for many years and simply blend into the society. These men, women and children often come with diseases that have not been seen in North America for many years. The staff deals with polio, tuberculosis, rickets and other illnesses. Teaching in hygiene is an important part of the work in the clinic. Caring for pregnant women is another important

ministry.

*...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” Matthew 2:13-15 ESV*

The ARDF board members had all arrived by Monday. Attending the meeting were:

The Most Rev. Bolly Lapok (SE Asia),  
The Most Rev. Henry Isingoma (Congo),  
The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Anis (Jerusalem and the Middle East),  
The Most Rev. Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak (South Sudan and Sudan),  
The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach (ACNA),  
The Right Rev. Dr. Glenn Davis (Sydney, Australia, ARDFA),  
The Right Rev. Charlie Masters (ANiC, ARDFC),  
Mr. Kim Smith (Executive Director ARDF Australia),  
Claus Lenk (Executive Director ARDF Canada),  
Canon Bill Deiss, (Executive Director ARDF US),  
The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Reid (Chair, ARDF US)  
Canon Jack Lumanog (ARDF US),  
The Rev. Charles Treichler (Communication Director ARDF US)  
Flora Galbraith (ARDF US)  
Guests: Wendy Smith (Australia), Heather Lenk (Canada)

### **Tuesday, Nov. 3 was a full day of meetings**

Bishop Mouneer led us in a bible study, opening prayer and welcomed us to the Diocese of Egypt. He asked for prayer for Egypt and shared that the economy in Egypt is down as tourism, which represents one third of the economy is down. The message of the church in Egypt is “preaching through building bridges and dialogue”. Christians are appreciated because they do good. He took us through his province:

- In Iran, Christians are suffering. The government is very hard on Christians, because most are converts from Islam.
- In Cyprus, Christians are multi-cultural, however the diocesan Bishop is liberal.
- In the diocese of Jerusalem, Christians are leaving. The diocesan Bishop is liberal and very much in the pocket of TEC.
- In Syria, there is no priest left, most Christians have left Syria. Christians in Syria became involved in the politics of the country and have suffered because of it.
- In Ethiopia, the church is growing and very much rooted in scripture. There are now 200 Anglican churches, which is up from 85.
- In Iraq, the Christian church is in turmoil and persecuted. A total of US \$ 218,000 was raised for the plight of Christians in Iraq. Most of the funds were disbursed to the Anglican Church in Bagdad, the Chaldean Christian Church, and Iraqi Christians in Lebanon and Jordan. ARDF Canada has a big part in this.

Business items included

- Report from ARDF US President Foley Beach
- Report from US Executive Directors – Canon Bill Deiss
- Report from ARDF Canada Executive Director – Claus Lenk
- Report from ARDF Australia Executive Director – Kim Smith

- Reports by the Archbishops on the status of the various projects including but not limited to:
  - Nepal Earthquake relief
  - Myanmar Flooding
  - Bore holes in Wau, South Sudan
  - Ox Plows and Girls Hostel in South Sudan
  - Orphan Centre in Congo,
  - School for Pigmies in Congo
  - Iraq Christian Relief
  - Gambella Anglican Centre, Ethiopia

Various Impact Assessments of completed projects were received:

- Diocese of Wau, Sudan – drinking water – Exceeded
- South Africa – dealing with social justice – Exceeded
- Tanzania – Women’s hostel – Achieved
- Congo – Secondary School – Achieved
- South Sudan – School for girls – Below
- South Sudan – Martha Clinic - Exceeded

New projects were approved:

- Kenya – Diocese of Marsabit – Holistic Christian Education 66k
  - Burundi – Diocese of Muyinga – Farming Initiative 51k
  - Uganda – Micro Loan programme 41k
  - Uganda – Hospital Equipment for Amudat Church Hospital 63k
  - Kenya – Farming initiative and fresh water initiative 68k
  - Uganda – Seeds, and agricultural training 67k
- (All approved project are in US \$)

Other business discussed:

- Future projects and areas of focus for ARDF
- Venue and date for next global meeting
- New Wineskins Conference April 7 -10, 2016
- Bill Deiss’ international travel plans
- Financial updates

The meetings closed with a prayer of thanks for what God has done through ARDF, and prayer for our various needs.

That evening the group enjoyed a fabulous dinner on one the many floating restaurants on the Nile

It was a privilege to attend this meeting on behalf of ARDF Canada. ARDF has solid leadership and gospel objectives. Seeing some of the projects first hand was an incredible experience. Engaging with some of the field workers gave us an insight into resources needed to care for people.

The church in Egypt reminds us of the exiles in Babylon. In Jeremiah 29, God tells Israel to live in the city of Babylon, to build houses, and plant gardens to take wives and have sons and daughters, and, most importantly to seek the welfare of the city, pray for the city, bless the city.

Pray for Egypt, pray for ARDF!



**Report submitted by Claus Lenk**