Mahragan Alkeraza





BEMYWitness

English Edition Gr 1-2









H.G. Bishop Mina **Bishop of Mississauga, Vancouver** and Western Canada

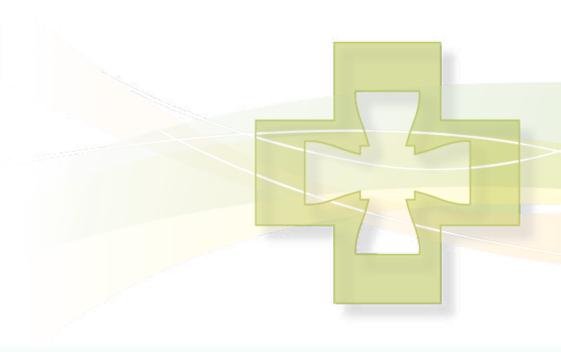


H.H. Pope Tawadros II Pope of Alexandria & Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



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INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2014

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first, second and third place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings for a successful 2013 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopric, I am glad that our beautiful Church that is 2000 years old is full of young youth and I am proud to see the creative work and achievements of the youth."

We were also blessed to see that the Churches in Upper Egypt participated despite the sad and cruel events their Churches were subjected to last year. Last year, in addition to the usual participation from Egypt and Sudan, we had a great worldwide participation from 192 Churches representing more than 20 countries and 8 languages.

The theme for Mahragan 2014 is **"You shall be witnesses to Me"** (Acts 1:8). This year, God is asking each one of us to be His witness by:

- 1. Shining like a star
- 2. Shining for my family
- 3. Shining for my Church
- 4. Shining for my community
- 5. Shining for my country



We hope that all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

My best wrokes for a happy Testival

Lisher Moussa

6 I AM A SHINING STAR



Cathy and Robby were spending the first day of their summer vacation at home with their mom.

Robby: Cathy, Cathy, where are you? Come! Check out my new astronaut suit! What do you think?

Cathy: Why did you get another astronaut suit?!

Robby: I told you Cathy! I wanna be an astronaut when I grow up! That's why mom is taking us to the new Astronaut Training Centre. There we'll learn all about space, the stars and the planets. I'm so excited to see all the amazing 3D displays they must have there.

Cathy: I don't understand, why do I have to go with you?

Mom: Kids, hurry up! You're gonna be late for your first day at Space Camp! I'm sure you'll have a lot of fun learning all about space.

Robby: I'm ready. Are we gonna pick up cousin John on the way?

Mom: Of course!

They picked up John and as they drove to the centre, Robby and John were very excited. They were trying to imagine what they would see there. When they arrived, they went in and met Dr. Abkarino the director of the centre.

Dr. Abkarino loved to teach kids about space, and he insisted to take Cathy, Robby and John for a tour. They saw many strange instruments and equipment. There was also a massive LCD screen showing a video of some of the most amazing stars they had ever seen.

Dr. Abkarino: You can use the binocular to help you see the stars on the screen better.



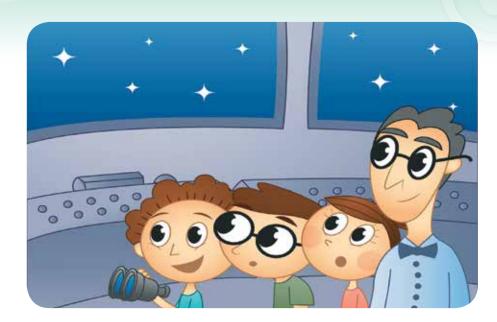
They started looking at the stars, but there was one star that really grabbed their attention.

Robby: Wow! This star is so shiny!

Cathy: You're right! It's beautiful! I wish I could be like this star.

Dr. Abkarino: You know Cathy, I know someone who was exactly like this star.

Robby and Cathy: Who was he? Can you please tell us his story?



St. Stephen the Archdeacon and the first Martyr (Acts 6 & 7)



Dr. Abkarino: After the ascension of our Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples on the day of the Pentecost. The apostles and the disciples then began to preach to everyone about Jesus Christ. They taught them about His death, His burial and His resurrection, and that He did all this because He loved us. Many people believed in our Lord Jesus and became Christians.

As the number of the believers increased, and the service grew, it became necessary to add more servants to help them. The disciples asked the believers to choose seven men who were known to be wise and full of the Spirit. They wanted men that were known for their strong faith and good deeds. These men would help in serving the poor and needy believers.

The believers chose seven men and presented them to the apostles. The apostles prayed and laid their hands on them to ordain them as deacons. This was the first deacons' ordination in the history of our Church.



Today I'm going to tell you about the first of these deacons. His name was St. Stephen. He was a man full of God's grace and power; his faith was strong and his love for our Lord was great. He was a great servant and performed lots of wonders and signs among the people. Many believed because of his preaching.

St. Stephen was able to answer all the questions raised by the Jews because of his faith, wisdom and knowledge of the scriptures and God's commandments. They were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

Because of this, the Jews persuaded some wicked men to say that they heard St. Stephen speak blasphemous words against God. So they seized him and brought him to be judged before the Council. They sent witnesses who testified falsely against him but St. Stephen was able to answer all their questions. They saw his face was like the face of an angel.

Robby: Face of an angel?! Why?

Dr. Abkarino: God did this so that the people could believe that his words were true. St. Stephen was a witness to our Lord in front of everyone.

Cathy: Of course! Everyone must have believed when they saw this!

Dr. Abkarino: Unfortunately not! Many of the Jews did not believe St. Stephen. He told them about the story of salvation and the love of God for His people. He started with the story of Abraham until the birth of our Lord Jesus, and how He took away our sins by His crucifixion and His resurrection on the third day. He continued to tell them about all the prophets from the Old Testament who predicted the coming of our Lord Jesus and that He is the true God.

John: The speech of St. Stephen was so strong! Wasn't he afraid of the Jews?

Dr. Abkarino: St. Stephen felt it was the perfect opportunity to witness for Christ in front of everyone.

Our Lord Jesus Christ filled his heart with love and courage so he wasn't afraid. Do you know what happened after his speech?



Robby, Cathy and John:

What happened?!

Dr. Abkarino: St. Stephen proved to them they crucified Jesus because of their lack of faith and understanding. This made the Jews very angry.

Robby: So what happened after that?

Dr. Abkarino: St. Stephen looked up and saw the heavens open. He saw our Lord Jesus in His glory. When he told the Jews about what he saw they became furious. They covered their ears and dragged him out of the city and stoned him. Because of his great love for our Lord Jesus, St. Stephen forgave them and prayed for them saying:



"Lord, do not charge them with this sin." Acts 7:60

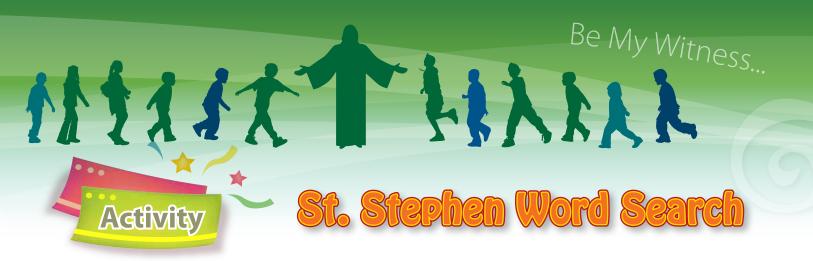
John: Really! He was praying for the people who stoned him?

Dr. Abkarino: That's right! Just like our Lord Jesus forgave the people who crucified Him. St. Stephen received a crown and became the first deacon and the first martyr too. The Church celebrates his feast on the 1st of the Coptic month of Touba.









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ANGEL ASLEEP CLOTHES COUNCIL ELDERS FACE FAITH
FALSE WITNESSES
HEAVEN
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS
PEOPLE

POWER
SAUL
SCRIBES
SEIZED
SIGNS
SPIRIT

STEPHEN STONED SYNAGOGUE WISDOM WITNESS WONDERS

6 I WILL SHINE FOR MY FAMILY 9

After Dr. Abkarino finished St. Stephen's story, he showed them the rest of the centre. As they were walking, they saw a room that looked very strange.

Dr. Abkarino: This is the most important room in the centre. It's called the Galaxy Room.

Robby: The Galaxy Room? Are we allowed to go inside?

Dr. Abkarino: Of course! It's part of our tour. In this room you'll learn many things about space. You'll learn about the stars, planets and their different types. But before you go inside you'll have to wear a special costume.

Robby: An astronaut suit! Right?

Dr. Abkarino: Yes! Go get ready and I'll see you after you're done.

They put on their astronaut suits and went inside the Galaxy Room.

Robby: Cathy look! We're flying!

Cathy: Of course! We're in space!

Robby: You're right! Look, there is something shining over there.

Cathy: Oh look! It's waving at us. Let's go, it must be our guide.



Photonike: Hey guys! My name is Photonike. I will be your tour guide. Please, come this way.

Cathy: Wait! Where's John? He was walking behind us! I can't see him.

Robby: Not again! Every time we go to a new place, he wanders.

Cathy: But it's so dark here. We have to go look for him!



Photonike: Wait, we don't have enough time. The tour is only 30 minutes. If we go look for him we might not have enough time to see everything.

Robby: Photonike is right. It's John's fault, he's the one who left us. I think we should continue our tour without him.

Cathy: No, even though John did something wrong, we can't leave him. Do you know what Abram did when Lot did something wrong?

Photonike: Who are Abram and Lot?

Cathy: Let me tell you their story.

Abram and Lot (Genesis 12, 13 and 14)

There was a man named Abram who loved God very much and God loved him too because he obeyed Him all his life. One day, God asked Abram to leave his country and go to a special place far away that God had chosen for him.

As usual, Abram listened to God's instructions. He packed all his belongings and left with Lot, his nephew, and Sarai his wife to the land of Canaan. God blessed Abram and his family.

Be My Witness... Be My Witness...



Abram and Lot were very wealthy; each of them had a large number of livestock and servants. Because of this, Abram's and Lot's shepherds often argued about where and when each of them could feed their sheep. But Abram loved God and witnessed for Him everywhere. Although he was older than Lot, he said to Lot:



"Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren." Genesis 13:8

Abram asked Lot to choose the land where he wanted to stay. Lot chose for himself the best land, took his tents and possessions and moved to the plain of Jordan, as far as the city of Sodom. Even though the men in Sodom were very wicked, Lot cared more about the beauty of the land. Abram went in the opposite direction and stayed in the land of Canaan.

One day there was a war between the king of Sodom and the king of Elam. The war ended with the victory of the king of Elam. The victorious king's army went into Sodom and robbed the city. They also took Lot and all his belongings and departed. But one of Lot's men escaped and told Abram about everything that had happened. When Abram heard this he called his men and went to rescue Lot.

Photonike: Did he forget that Lot left him and chose the best land for himself?



Cathy: Abram forgave Lot. He didn't think about what happened, he just wanted to save his nephew whom he loved.

Photonike: Wow! Abram truly loved his family, no matter what they did.

Cathy: That's right Photonike, Abram witnessed for God in his family.

Robby: Cathy, can you please finish the story. I want to know what Abram did after that.

Cathy: As I was saying, Abram gathered 318 men trained in war and went to save Lot. During the night, Abram divided his men to attack the King of Elam and his army from different directions. They recovered all the goods that had been taken and brought back Lot and his possessions.



Photonike: You were right Cathy. Abram really loved his family and made many sacrifices to help them.

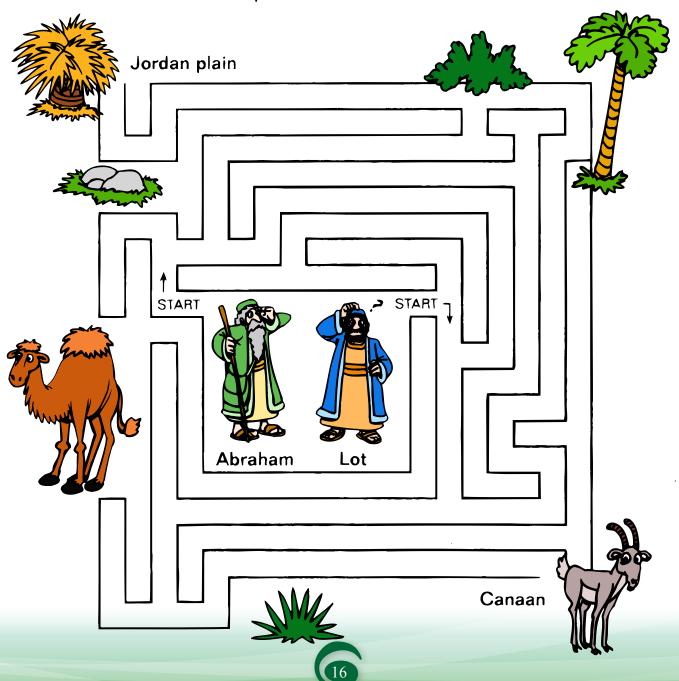
Robby: Now I understand what Cathy meant, it's true that John did something wrong, but we have to go look for him like Abram did with Lot.





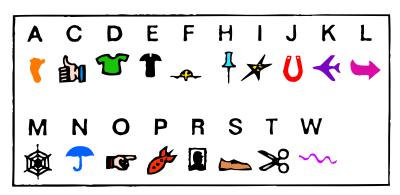
Abraham Lets Lot Choose

Begin at the center with Abraham and Lot. Find a path through the maze so that Lot arrives at the Jordan plain and Abraham arrives at Canaan.





Use the code to find out what Lot chose.

















6 I WILL SHINE FOR MY CHURCH 9

Cathy: Where do you guys think John went?!

Robby: Well, he doesn't like dark places. He probably went somewhere that has more light.

Cathy: You're right Robby. Where is the closest place that has light?

Photonike: I can help you, the closest light would be this way towards Mr. Moon. Maybe John went there. Follow me!



Photonike: Hi Mr. Moon, my friends Cathy and Robby can't find their cousin John. Did you see him?

Mr. Moon: Is he short? Does he wear glasses?

All: Yes!!

Mr. Moon: Nope, haven't seen him. Sorry!

Cathy: What do you mean? You must have seen him!

Mr. Moon: I'm just kidding. Yes, he was here.

Cathy: Where did he go?

Mr. Moon: He went that way to see Mercury.

Cathy: Let's go look for him before he goes somewhere else.

Robby: Thank you Mr. Moon, it's so nice to finally meet you. I love watching you shine at night.

Mr. Moon: It was nice meeting you too. You know Robby, the light that you see isn't really coming from me. It's the sun's light that reflects on my surface so I can shine. I am a dark object but the sun changes my darkness to light.

Photonike: Robby, we have to go now. Bye Mr. Moon.

Mr. Moon: Bye!

They quickly followed Photonike towards Mercury, but Robby kept thinking about what Mr. Moon said.

Robby: The sun changes the moon from darkness to light?

Cathy: Of course Robby! Why are you surprised? We were also transformed from darkness to light.

Photonike: Cathy, what are you talking about? How can you change from darkness to light?

Cathy: Through Baptism!

Robby: Yes, good job Cathy. That's exactly what I was trying to remember! Baptism transforms us from darkness to light.

Photonike: I don't understand anything! What are you talking about? Baptism? What is Baptism?

Robby: Baptism is a second birth for all of us.

Photonike: What is a second birth? Does everyone go back to their mother's womb to be born again?

Cathy: Of course not! The second birth is our birth through Baptism. God becomes our Father and the Church our mother. Through Baptism, we become children of God.

Photonike: But why do you have to be baptized? Can't you be children of God without Baptism?

Cathy: No, we have to be baptized.

Robby: I'll tell you the story from the beginning. When God created Adam and Eve, He created them in His image, the best image ever! They were living with God and they were very happy with all the beautiful things that God created for them. But Adam and Eve listened to Satan and disobeyed God, so their beautiful image



was ruined. Because of this, they and all their descendants were separated from God, the source of light.

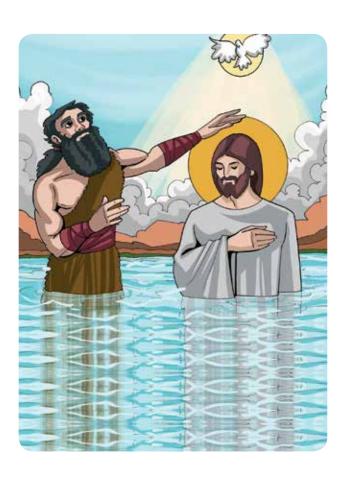
Photonike: How sad!

Robby: Don't be upset! Because God loves us, He came down from heaven and was born from the Virgin Mary. He was crucified and died instead of us to redeem us.

Cathy: So for us to receive this redemption and salvation, we have to be baptized. Through Baptism we get our original image back so we can reflect the light of God to everyone around us.

Photonike: Oh! So through Baptism you get back your beautiful image! I want to learn more about Baptism.

Cathy: Baptism is one of the Church's seven Sacraments. Our Lord Jesus Christ established it when He was baptized in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. Although He didn't need to be baptized, He did that to teach us that we have to be baptized.



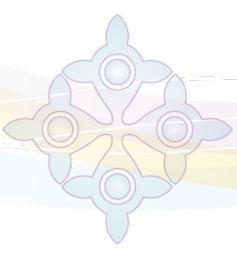


"He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Mark 16:16

That is why when boys are 40 days old and girls are 80 days old, their parents bring them to the Church to be baptized. The priest baptizes them by immersing them in the water three times in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. After that, the priest anoints their body 36 times with Holy Myron oil. This is another Sacrament also known as the Sacrament of Chrismation.

Photonike: You're so lucky because Baptism allows you to reflect the image and the light of God to everyone around you so you can be witnesses of God to everyone.







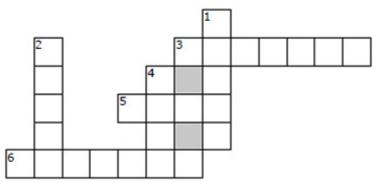


Rapfism Crossword

The Baptism of Jesus

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. Luke 3:21 (NIV)





ACROSS

- 3. Shoes that are fastened to the foot by straps.
- 5. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a _____.
- 6. When Jesus prayed, the ___ opened.

DOWN

- 1. The liquid that John used to baptize people.
- What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
- The name of the man who baptized Jesus.

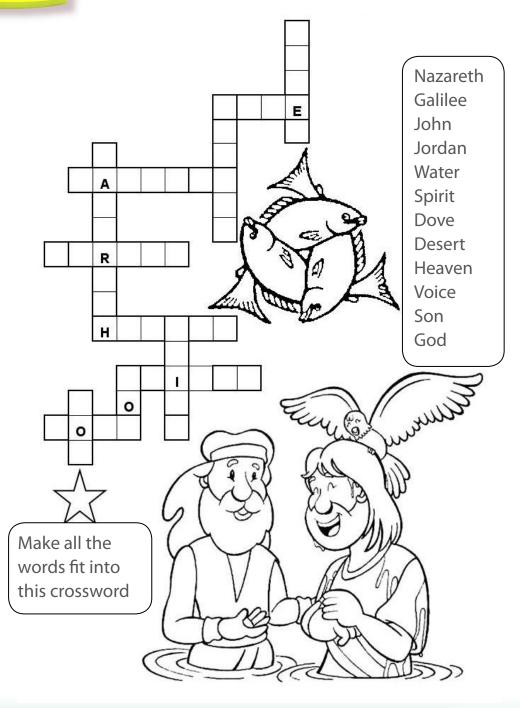
lahu	waisa	ston	
John	voice	water	
dove	sandals	heavens	





Activity

The Baptism of Jesus



Be My Witness... Be My Witness...

6 I WILL SHINE FOR MY COMMUNITY

When they finally got to Mercury...

Cathy: Hi Mercury. We travelled a long way to ask you about our cousin John. Have you seen him?

Mercury: Yes, he was just here.

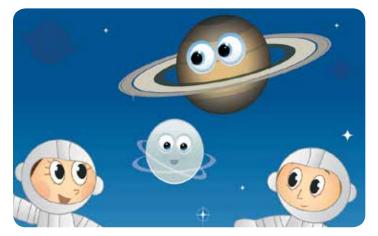
All: Where did he go?

Mercury: I'll tell you on one condition!

Cathy: What's the condition?



to prevent this from happening again.



learned at Church and at home that we always have to say the truth no matter what.

Robby: You want us to lie to Dr. Abkarino? We

Mercury: Ok fine. I'm not telling you where he is!

Cathy: Mercury, let me tell you a story about why the children of God should follow His commandments at all times.

Mercury: What story?

Cathy: It's the story of:



Daniel and the three youth (Daniel 1:1-21)

Robby: I know this story! Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, witnessed for God to everyone, even though they lived in a foreign country where most of the people didn't know God.

Cathy: That's right Robby. Let's start the story from the beginning. Daniel and the three youth were from the royal family in the kingdom of Judah. They were full of knowledge and wisdom and worshipped God faithfully. One day Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, attacked and defeated their city Jerusalem. He took many people captive to Babylon, among them were Daniel and his three friends.

Robby: King Nebuchadnezzar then ordered his chief of staff to bring some of the children of Israel that were brought from Jerusalem to the palace. He asked him to choose strong young men, goodlooking, gifted in wisdom and understanding. He taught them the language of the Babylonians and gave them a daily portion of the king's food and wine. They were to be trained for three years and then the king would choose the best to serve him.

Cathy: The king's chief of staff brought a group of young men to appear in front of the king, among them were Daniel and his three friends.

Robby: He changed their names, and began to teach them the language and the laws of the kingdom of Babylon. He offered them the king's



food and drink which included the meat and wine that was offered to the idols.

Cathy: But Daniel and his friends wanted to witness for God to everyone, they refused to eat from the king's food that was offered to the idols because that was against God's teachings.



"Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank." Daniel 1:8

Robby: Daniel was very courageous! He asked the king's chief of staff to allow him and his three friends to eat vegetables and drink water instead of the meat and wine for ten days. At the end of which, they would be tested to see if they were as fit as the rest of the men. God gave favour to Daniel and his friends in front of the king's chief of staff and he accepted.

Photonike: What happened after ten days?

Cathy: At the end of the ten days, they looked healthier than any of the young men who ate the king's food. So the king's chief of staff agreed to give them the food and drink they wanted. God also gave Daniel the gift of interpreting dreams.



Robby: At the end of the time set by the king, the king's chief of staff presented the men to Nebuchadnezzar. The king interviewed them and Daniel and his three friends were by far the best.

Cathy: You see Mercury, that's what happens when you're honest in obeying God's commandments. And that's why we will always say the truth.

Mercury: You're right Cathy! I'm sorry I asked you not to say the truth.



Be My Witness... Be My Witnes





Daniel and his Friends





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- 1. Daniel
- 4. defile
- 7. water
- knowledge

2. Nebuchadnezzar

Activity

5. food

8. wine

11. understanding

- Babylon
- vegetables
- healthier
- 12. appearance

6 I WILL SHINE FOR MY COUNTRY



Mercury agreed to show them where John went.

Mercury: John's waiting for you at the exit door.

Photonike: Great! Let's go.

As they approached the exit door, they found John. But he was very upset.

John: I'm so sorry guys. Please don't be mad at me. I was just looking around but I got lost and I didn't know how to find you. I promise I won't do this again.

Robby: Well, I'm glad that you're ok.

Cathy: Don't worry John, we had fun with Photonike while we were looking for you. Thank God you're safe.

Suddenly, a bell rang throughout the room.

Photonike: Time's up!

Robby: Wow, that was fast! We're very happy to have met you, Photonike.



Photonike: Promise me that you'll come again soon so you can finish the tour. I'll miss you all, goodbye my friends.

Robby, Cathy and John: We promise! We'll miss you too! Goodbye Photonike.

After they left the Galaxy Room and took off their astronaut suits, they went to see Dr. Abkarino in his office. Dr. Abkarino was sitting in front of his computer, it seemed like he was waiting for something really

important.

Robby: Dr. Abkarino, you seem very busy?

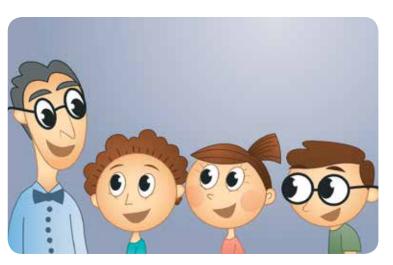
John: We can come back another time.

Dr. Abkarino: Not at all. I'm just waiting for the results of a worldwide competition that I participated in recently. They should be posted in a few minutes. I'm really anxious to see how I did.

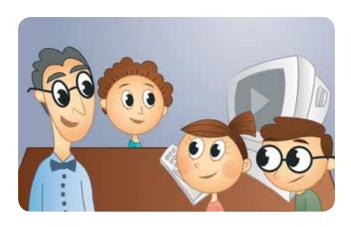
They stood around Dr. Abkarino waiting for the result. Finally, the results were announced showing that Dr. Abkarino from Egypt had won first place in the competition.

Cathy, Robby and John: Congratulations Dr. Abkarino!

Dr. Abkarino: Finally! My dream has come true! I was finally able to give back to my country. I am so proud that Egypt was recognized as first place internationally! I'm so happy!







Cathy: Wow! You really love your country. Me too, I love my country very much. But I don't know what to do to serve my country, I'm still young.

Dr. Abkarino: Let me tell you a story. Do you remember what Pope Peter El-Gawly did?

Cathy: Who is Pope Peter? What did he do?

Pope Peter El-Gawly (28 Barmhat - Synexarium)

Be My Witness... 1 1 11/

Dr. Abkarino: He was the 109th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark. He was born in a village called Gawly in Upper Egypt which is part of the diocese of Assiut.

Robby: Is that why he's called "El-Gawly"?

Dr. Abkarino: Yes. When he was born, he was given the name "Mankarious". As a child, he loved God so much and prayed regularly. When he grew up Mankarious became a monk in the monastery of St. Anthony the Great. He was named Father Marcurious.

In the monastery, all his brothers the monks loved him because of his great love to God and to everyone around him. He was ordained a priest and then an archpriest (hegomen). A few years later, he was ordained a general bishop to help the Pope in his service. Finally, he was chosen to become Pope Peter El-Gawly the 109th Patriarch.

Robby: But how did Pope Peter serve Egypt?

Dr. Abkarino: He served Egypt in many different ways. One day, there was a big problem in Egypt.

Robby, Cathy and John: Problem? What problem?

Dr. Abkarino: The level of water in the Nile was very low. I'm sure you all know what this means.

Robby: It means that the water of the Nile wasn't enough for the people and animals to drink and not enough to water the plants. This could lead to a famine.

Dr. Abkarino: You're right Robby, there was a big famine in Egypt and people were scared and didn't know what to do. The Church asked God in prayer to solve this problem as the Bible commanded:



That's why our Church prays for the plants and the water of the rivers. The Church also prays for the peace of our country. Verse When the governor of Egypt asked everyone to pray for the water of the Nile, Pope

"You also helping together in prayer for us." 2 Corinthians 1:11

Peter gathered all the bishops, the priests, the deacons and all the Christians and went to the bank of the Nile.

John: Did they go there to pray?

Dr. Abkarino: Yes John, Pope Peter prayed the Divine Liturgy there. After the service, he washed the Holy Service utensils (the paten, the chalice, the spoon and the dome) with water from the river and he threw the water back into the Nile.

Robby: What happened next?

Dr. Abkarino: The water of the river overflowed and the famine ended. The governor was very happy with what the Pope and the Church did.

Cathy: That's an amazing miracle that God performed with Pope Peter.

Dr. Abkarino: You see Cathy, Pope Peter was able to serve his country without inventing anything. **Cathy:** So how can I serve my country?





Be My Witness... Be My Witness... A A A A A

Dr. Abkarino: Even though you and your friends are young, there are many things you can do to help your country:

- Know your talents, develop them and use them to serve your country
- Be honest in your work at school, so you can use your knowledge to serve your country later on
- Pray and ask God to protect your country as the Church teaches us to pray for our country, our leaders, and to pray for the plants and the water of the rivers.



Cathy: I am so happy with everything we learned. Thank you so much Dr. Abkarino.

Robby: See Cathy! I knew you would like it. I hope we can come back again soon.

Dr. Abkarino: Thank you guys, I was very happy to see you all. I hope to see you again soon. Goodbye for now.



Memorization

Books of the Old Testament

Books of the Law

- 1. Genesis
- 2. Exodus
- 3. Leviticus
- 4. Numbers
- 5. Deuteronomy

Historical Books

- 6. Joshua
- 7. Judges
- 8. Ruth
- 9. 1 Samuel
- 10. 2 Samuel
- **11.** 1 Kings
- **12**. 2 Kings
- 13. 1 Chronicles
- 14. 2 Chronicles

15. Ezra

- 16. Nehemiah
- 17. Esther

Poetic Books

- 18. Job
- 19. Psalm
- 20. Proverbs
- 21. Ecclesiastes
- 22. Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

- 23. Isaiah
- 24. Jeremiah
- 25. Lamentations
- 26. Ezekiel
- 27. Daniel

Minor Prophets

- 28. Hosea
- 29. Joel
- 30. Amos
- 31. Obadiah
- 32. Jonah
- 33. Micah
- 34. Nahum
- 35. Habakkuk
- 36. Zephaniah
- 37. Haggai
- 38. Zechariah
- 39. Malachi

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