



# Operation World

when we pray, God works  
september 2005

## **INTRO TO EGYPT**

It was quiet (due to a 1:30 a.m. arrival), modern (as many Arab international airports are), but undeniably Egypt. A travelling companion was “interviewed” by security and customs for 90 minutes due to previous ministry activities in the country – a clear reminder that although modernizing and an ally of the West, Egypt is still a Muslim country, with all the issues that ensue from that reality.

## **DESERT FATHERS**

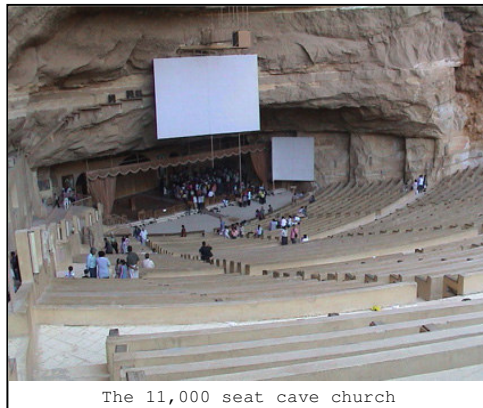
We were whisked off from Cairo to a location out in the desert where our meetings were to take place. Our venue was in the area where the ancient desert fathers has lived their religious hermit lifestyle – there are still 1300 Coptic monks who practice this ancient discipline today! We met at a retreat centre which trains young Egyptian believers to live lives of witness and faith.

## **PLANNING FOR PRAYER**

The reason I was in Egypt was to participate in the annual planning meetings for the Global Day of Prayer and the International Prayer Council. In 2005, over 200 million Christians met all around the globe to pray for our world on the Global Day of Prayer – where were you? We hope that next year we can see 500 million meeting across all nations. The meetings were long and intense in the desert heat, but we made good progress. The video documenting GDoP 2005 is going to be awe-inspiring – dry eyes will be in short supply!

## **THE LOCAL SCENE**

As exciting as it was to look forward to next year’s GDoP, the most amazing experience was meeting with representatives of the local Body of Christ. God is doing an amazing thing in Egypt, in both the ancient Coptic Church as well as the newer evangelical churches. Even as the number of believers grows, the genuine unity between all Christian confessions in Egypt is truly remarkable. These believers, particularly the leaders, are praying together for God to move in their nation – and He is responding! The prayer movement in Egypt is exploding, and we are hearing of nominal Christians revived and many thousands from the majority religion deciding to follow Jesus. Egypt is poised for great things! Read my blog for more on this topic.



The 11,000 seat cave church

## **35 AND COUNTING**

I had a largely uncelebrated birthday, but it didn’t bother me one bit, since we were on that day in a wonderful lunch meeting with the Egyptian leaders at the incredible Moqattam cave church with delicious Egyptian food. As a little bonus, God provided the opportunity to go out on the Nile in a *felucca*, an Arab sailing boat. One could do worse than sailing the Nile at sunset on one’s birthday! It’s hard to believe I am as old as I am – I was literally “in de-nile”!

## **RESEARCH AT THE HEART**

Yesterday, I had the privilege of sitting in on and sharing at the international research conference for OC International, an organization whose vision it is to serve and mobilize the global church to reach out. Research is really at the heart of this group, and their hard work in past years has been foundational to much of the data in Operation World. Our fellowship together will surely lead to better and mutually beneficial info sharing.

## **BIRTHDAY GIFT FROM THE DEVIL**

Just as I was coming to terms with my age, catching up with the 250 e-mails piled up in my absence and realizing how much work there is still left on OW, one more obstacle was thrown in my path. I awoke at 5 this morning to the sound of what I thought was rain. Except that it was coming from inside my flat. The water tank at the top of the tower had overflowed and was turning my place into a lake. I had no sooner unplugged some appliances in one part of the room than the ceiling fell in right where I had been standing!

The ceiling and carpet are heavily damaged and some furniture irreparable. My guitar and drums got wet – possible serious damage. It may be months before I can move back in. This is a real discouragement as I had invested a lot of time and effort to make that place my own. And yet I cannot allow it to distract me from the task at hand! There is so much to do. Pray with me please...

In Christ and for the Harvest,  
Jason Mandryk

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