

EPISCOPAL/ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF EGYPT



**I was in prison and
you came to visit me.**
(Matthew 25: 36)



PRISON MINISTRY

1 August 2009

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord
and Saviour Jesus Christ!

“PENDING FOR A TICKET”

This is a story of Louis A., a Sudanese man who like many others from Sudan came to Egypt six years ago with his brother, to seek asylum and a better opportunity for life and a future in Egypt. Arriving in Cairo he applied for refugee status at the UNHCR office in Cairo but his application was rejected; he also applied for immigration through western embassies in Cairo and was also rejected. His brother then decided to return to Sudan and tried to persuade Louis to return with him, but Louis refused holding onto a hope that a time will come when he could travel from Egypt to a western country.

While struggling with life in Egypt, he heard that there is a possibility of going to Israel, a neighbouring country, by crossing the border. Thinking that this might be a chance to knock on the door of his future, Louis decided to take the risk and cross the border illegally. He holds a Sudanese Passport which with a stamp saying “Valid for All Countries Except Israel”. As he tried to go to Israel, he was caught by the Egyptian Border Guard Forces and was charged with attempting to cross the border illegally. Louis was sentenced for a one year imprisonment, a fine of 2000 (two thousand) Egyptian pounds, and an added three months imprisonment if the fine were not paid. On his release after finishing his period of sentence, he would be deported to Sudan.

On 14th July 2009 I met Louis while visiting the inmates our weekly visit when he told me his story; he said that he has been released since February but lacking the ticket fee for traveling, he was sent to Kanater Men’s Prison until all his papers and documents are in place. Louis’ deportation is pending on a traveling ticket. He requires the equivalent of

\$60 (sixty US dollars) to go by land from Cairo to Khartoum, a journey that will take 5 (five) days. He will need to find pocket money for food as well.

Unfortunately, Louis’ situation is not unique. Many inmates listed under the immigration cases are legally released, but cannot leave prison until they have traveling tickets back to their countries.

Our Prison Ministry has very limited resources and is mainly dependent on the generosity of donors. We appeal to you to provide support for those, like Louis, who require tickets to go back home before they can be completely released.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Tickets for inmates who have been released but await traveling tickets.
2. Medicine for the medical department of the fellowship group inside the prison.
3. Printed copies of the praise hymns for the fellowship worship and the spiritual meetings.
4. Cancellation of the huge fines demanded of the inmates.
5. A football to play with at the free time.

Thanks be to God for the work of the Prison Ministry. May God bless you!

In His service,



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