

PRISON WORK IN EGYPT TFONZ GLOBAL

True Freedom Outreach New Zealand bringing help and hope to inmates of Kanater Prison linked with Maadi Community Church and the international visiting team in Cairo, Egypt, led by Poncet Ouwo Mete.

Luke 4:18-19 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Warm New Year greetings to all of you, and a special thank you to those who gave extra for Christmas. I have been awaiting news of Christmas in Kanater and an updated list of KWP prisoners, before penning this newsletter. From 8-12 January I attended the New Wine conference held in Warkworth, and was encouraged by the opening message given by Andrea Wigglesworth, that 2014 will indeed be a year of the Lord's favour for New Zealand. Two hundred years ago the gospel was first preached in New Zealand on 25th December, 1814, when a Maori chief, Ruatara, invited Samuel Marsden to speak in the Bay of Islands. An initiative to reach every home in NZ this year with the good news of God's grace is under way. May 2014 be a year of God's favour in your lands too, and in Egypt, and for the brothers and sisters in Kanater. May we all see many receive the good news, be set free, and be enabled by the Holy Spirit to minister God's love and grace to others in need.

Special Items for Prayer and Praise:

(1) Lloyd Freeth shares God's goodness to him:

In an email sent on January 6th by Acushla Adams, Lloyd wrote in a special news flash:

"Dear prayer partners and friends and family,

I had the operation on Friday 1st. I had stents put in my throat and wind-pipe. So far it's very successful. There is no sign of any cancer. I came back to the Home on Saturday.

Thank you for your concern, prayers, and loving messages received recently.

Please continue to pray for my recovery and also for my critical eyesight as I'm having problems. I thank God for all my family and friends in N.Z. Australia, U.K., USA, Germany and Egypt. May God bless you all in this new year, In the mighty love of God and Jesus Christ our Saviour, Lloyd Freeth."

Lloyd also sent this special message for inclusion in the next TFONZ newsletter: *"Lloyd Freeth is very appreciative to all his loving friends who sent him Christmas mail. He regrets that due to failing eyesight and wobbly hands he is unable to answer.*

Lloyd would like to remind his friends that you can communicate with him through this email address: cushadams@live.com.au. His friend Acushla Adams will then phone the message through to him as they speak frequently. For those who wish to speak personally, Lloyd's phone no. is 0061 8 9724 4685. (For those in Australia, 08 9724 4685).

(2) Eva and Helfried Schmitz sent this email:

"The Advent Season has nearly passed and we want to wish you Merry Christmas.

We had a very difficult and exhausting year, but are looking forward positively to a hopefully better year in 2014. Some members of my husband's family passed away; his sister at the age of 63, his stepmother and his aunt in Cape Town. We lost as well my "Egyptian mother" Ansaf, my husband's former secretary, and the 5-year-old daughter of my husband's colleague died after suffering from leukaemia for nearly all her short life.

My husband had to undergo radiation for 8 weeks, after a metastasis of the cancer in 2006 was diagnosed. Thank God he is doing well now. I had to do radiation for pain killing

on my knees and other joints; some are better now, but not the knees. We'll see what happens next.

We visited Egypt twice during the year. Our friends were happy to see us, and my husband's business partners and customers are doing astonishingly well after all that has happened in Egypt. Anyway we are happy to be back in Germany, but Egypt is still in our hearts. We wish you a happy and blessed year 2014."

(3) Katarzyna's situation:

Katarzyna could have been released in November if she agreed to stay in Cairo with her Egyptian husband, but she prefers to go back to Poland, in which case her sentence will end in June 2014. The law in Egypt means that foreigners must serve a full 12 months for a one year sentence, but Egyptians only serve 9 months. On Jan. 21, Poncet sent a detailed account of her current situation: "***Katarzyna** was released from prison on 8th of December 2013, then from the police station on 17th of December 2013. She is staying here in Cairo in Heliopolis at an old Egyptian woman's place, which Mme Hoda and Rita recommended. She is helping her as she is ill, at the same time hiding herself from her husband. She doesn't move a lot as she is afraid of being kidnapped in the street by her husband. Her Embassy has asked the court to let her travel home to Poland, on the condition that she will never come back to Egypt, given that she is not officially divorced. So her travel may take place at any time, as soon as her Embassy receives permission from the court. Otherwise, she will stay here, at the old lady's place, till August, to complete her annual sentence based on 12 months for foreigners. As Egyptians serve only 9 months as an annual sentence, she was released in December, as she is married to an Egyptian. For her to leave Egypt in this case, she has to divorce her husband officially. Her lawyer will help her proceed with the divorce and will likely obtain it, as it is based on the new law which allows women to ask for divorce, the same as men. If she leaves after completing the divorce, then she will be allowed to come back to Egypt after a while."*

(4) Josephine: On 2 December, Poncet wrote as follows:

*"Some weeks ago Josephine was put in a single room alone, due to the fact that she has HIV, according to a blood test taken by the prison Doctor about three months ago. They took another blood test two weeks ago and she is still waiting for the result. She wasn't allowed to come out for the visit, but finally came out as she insisted to the Director. She is not allowed to hug people, at risk of punishment. It was really hard for us, as well as for her of course. We don't know if the result is reliable, so Martha called the Kenyan Embassy to see if they can send a Doctor to take another blood test or at least pay her a visit. She will try to go there to discuss more about it and have a clear answer. **Pray with us for Josephine.***

(5) Poncet: On January 3rd, Poncet wrote that he is a bit busy these days with his cousin who was recently admitted to hospital with kidney failure, and is having renal dialysis. Then, on Jan. 21st, Poncet wrote "I am a bit stressed about my cousin's health. I am the one going with him to hospital 3 times a week for the dialysis." **Let's pray for him and Poncet.**

(3) Kanater's Christmas Celebrations:

As I do not yet have the report from KMPCF, I cannot tell you about the Jan. 7th Christmas. But Poncet writes that on Dec. 23 at both KMP and KWP, a group of ten people, including Bishop Mouneer and the priests from All Saints Church, the priest from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and the Swiss pastor from Poncet's church, celebrated with both the men and women prisoners. The visitors were each given a hand-painted card. Gifts for the prisoners included Bibles in English, Spanish and French; blankets, underwear, and cotton robes for the women; a greatly appreciated gift of multi-gym equipment to enable the men to exercise inside; and food so the Christian prisoners could cook for all the prisoners a feast of chicken, rice and vegetables, with soft drinks.

(4) More News from Poncet's Emails:

KWP: (1) On Nov. 26, the team of 10 visited 9 inmates – Michele, Katarzyna, Aimy, Carmen, Nagamoni, Liliana, Anna Maria, Josephine and Alice. They celebrated Michele's birthday and gave her a present, in a short, pleasant visit, ending in worship and prayer.

(2) **Michele** went to court on Nov.13 for her appeal, but they postponed it to Jan. 12, 2014.

(3) **Anna Maria** was released from prison and transferred to a police station on Jan. 12. She is currently completing work on her papers from Immigration, the State Security and the court, before she can travel home to Colombia.

(4) On Nov. 15, Poncet wrote: 'Concerning **the 3 women on death row**, one who should have been executed a long time ago, as her third and last appeal was rejected, is still there. The 2 others were told that even if they make a last appeal it will be rejected. So they are still on death row and could be executed at any time.

KMP:

(1) On Nov. 15, Poncet sent me the name and address of the Indian Ambassador, as he feels it could be a good thing to keep contacting the Indian Embassy about John's case.

John gave him these details: *Ambassador's name: Navdeep Suri.*

Consul's name: J.C Panth. Address: 5, Aziz Abaza Street, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt.

John is also, through his lawyer, trying to get a paper from the court, which would permit his release. There is no good news yet, but the lawyer keeps working on the case. Only the Embassy could really help, but unfortunately they are not ready to sign the paper requested by the court to permit his release although he has already served his 20-year sentence.

(2) On Nov 12, a team of 8 visited KMP. Roumani, an Egyptian from MCC, was in the group for the first time and will be coming regularly. With the All Saints team, they saw 13 inmates,: Wamba, Xui, Deng, Leslie (also visited by his embassy before the team's visit), David Charles, Carlos Garcia, Urbano, Vincente, John Roberto, Daniel Abbas, Divine, Midardo, and John. They had a good visit for 2 hours, and worshipped and prayed at the end.

Alexander from Russia had been sent to Tora Hospital for a haemorrhoid operation.

Vincente was still awaiting news from his embassy, which should be pushing the Egyptian authorities to act after the success of the petition on his behalf.

(3) On Nov. 19, a team of 5 saw 5 men in KMP on a visit of an hour and a half: Xui Gui An, Midardo, Israel, and two seen for the first time: Prescott Oserumen Omuenu from Nigeria (arrested April 4, 2013, and sentenced to 1 year for fraud), and Andres Cast from Colombia (arrested August 5, 2013, and sentenced for 6 months for stealing).

(4) On Dec. 5, Poncet sent his comment on the report of "**human trafficking in the Sinai and beyond**" (see the report on: <http://www.eepa.be/wcm/>), saying: "The report mentioned the detention of 144 in the Sinai, in a similar situation to the **56 detainees from Eritrea and Ethiopia in KMP**. They are deprived of visits, and the main alternative given them is to be repatriated to their home countries on condition that they pay for their own ticket. Many fear persecution in their home country, and would rather become refugees in Egypt. So they stay in prison, for lack of tickets, and because official humanitarian organisations like UNHCR face difficulties in getting access to offer them legal aid."

Encouraging Offers of Help:

(1) **Canon Richard Weber in Canada** has offered to help sell Kanater beadwork online, but needs a website set up to do so. Poncet is hoping that Maadi Community Church will help in this. Please pray this may soon be up and running.

(2) In November, **Martha, an American who has visited Kanater for the past 5 years**, emailed me about being able to provide evidence that the Prison Ministry is a legitimate entity. This is because, while in US this summer, she tried to speak about funding for the ministry. Martha also wrote about her **visit to Kanater on Nov. 13**:

"Today, we had a good visit. The van of All Saints that we now rent with them was packed to the gills as we say in America (or like a tin of sardines). The front had 3, the middle was full of goods, though smaller than usual due to funds, next seats were 2, next 2 or was it 3, and next 3. We had a Chinese American visitor I found at Mogama, (the government visa office) and his friend from Poland. I wanted Andy (Chinese) to come speak with Xiu (Chu) as he has only Mary Lei to speak Chinese to him (or she is the only one of whom I know). They had a great time and Xiu was very happy with a smile on his face as Andy brought him some tea and some other treats. Andy's friend Thomas speaks Spanish so was very helpful to speak to John Roberto and Urbano and Carlos. Thomas hopes to come in two weeks to visit with Kasha if he is able to arrange things. Of course, John was there and we had a nice

visit, speaking also with Midardo, Leslie, and Divine to tell them how much we need prayer from within to help God raise up more and more people to sponsor and also visit members of the Kanatar Fellowships (Men and Women). Others in the van were Farida, Carlos Opara, Poncet, myself, Nate from All Saints and his friend from New York, and Sanaa from All Saints. Then Gloria (who does much of the selling of the prisoner's beadwork) came along with Nina, both from Maadi Community Church. I believe it was a blessed day."

Knowing there are people out there, ready to do what they can to help the prisoners raise funds is a true blessing. Perhaps you know others who could help like Richard and Martha.

The Situation in Egypt:

Please PRAY for Egypt, especially because of the recent bomb attacks in Cairo since millions of citizens voted in the referendum for the new constitution, undeterred by threats of violence. Bishop Mounier sent a letter on Jan. 15 and I quote his words:

"Unlike the previous Constitution that was written under the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood, the new Constitution affirms equality and the rights of women within the Egyptian society. It was a phenomenon to see crowds of women at each poll, many of whom queued for hours to vote. Some of them were singing and rejoicing, and even dancing, before and after they cast their vote. There was a general spirit of joy among the people of Egypt who voted, in a way that never happened before. We, alongside other Christian denominations, encouraged the people of Egypt to fulfill their civil duty to vote and to pray for the future of Egypt. The new Constitution affirms the rights of citizenship, and prohibits all forms of discrimination. It has clauses that ensure the development of education and health care for every citizen. It allows the freedom of worship and the building of churches, and Article 3 gives the right for non-Muslims (Christians and Jews) to resort to their canon laws in regard to civil issues."

SENDING CARDS and LETTERS to prisoners in KMP and KWP

When writing to any of the prisoners, please address your letter as follows:

"Prison Ministry"

(Name of the Prisoner),

M.C.C., P.O. Box 21, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

I encourage you to send a birthday card if you can, to any brother or sister in prison.

COMING BIRTHDAYS in March - May:

Remember to use the address above when you send letters/birthday cards to Kanater.

KMP Birthdays: Mauricio Rivera Sierra (Colombia), 25 March;

John Roberto Montoya (Colombia), 29 March; Carlos Garcia Abad (Peru), 30 March;

Jose Gabriel (Colombia), 20 April; Urbano Vidal Rebello (Mexico), 25 April;

Israel Chavez Rebello (Mexico), 26 April; Eel Ibrahim (Sth Sudan), 9 May.

KWP Birthdays: Nagamoni (India), 25 April.

LETTERS and DONATIONS to TFONZ:

THANK YOU for every gift sent for the needs in Kanater. During 2013, the transfers sent by TFONZ totalled over \$USD 9,000. This is actually quite a lot less than sent in 2012 (\$USD 15,750). But I really praise God for each of you faithful donors we have, and for those who give through All Saints and other Cairo churches.

Online Giving: If this is how you prefer to donate, here's how: always give a reference, your name, and who/what the donation is for and send to:

SWIFT CODE - ANZBNZ 22 + Account number 01 0482 0063492 50

If mailing a cheque, please **do not send cheques to me by name**, but if you wish to send one for the prison ministry or for a particular inmate (or inmates), please **make it payable to TFONZ**, and post it to Jeanette Grimmer at this address:

Miss Jeanette Grimmer, 154 State Highway 1, RD 1, Warkworth 0981, New Zealand.

Jeanette's e-mail is: jgrimmerster@gmail.com