



HOLD FAST

what you have

that no one may take your crown - Rev 3:11



MAHRAGAN ALKERAZA 2015

English Edition Gr 5-6

HOLD FAST
what you have



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



H.G. Bishop Mina
Bishop of Mississauga,
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INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2015

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 2014 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."

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 2015 is "**Hold Fast What You Have, That No One May Take Your Crown**" (Rev 3:11). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ by:

1. Having a Strong and Unshaken Faith
2. Reading our Precious Bible Daily
3. Being Faithful to our God
4. Being Successful
5. Honouring Our Home

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 wishes for a happy
Festival

✠ Bishop Mousa

MY FAITH IS STRONG AND UNSHAKEN

On their last day of school, Mark and his sister, Marina, could not wait to finally start their summer vacation. As usual, Marina went to the library and grabbed lots of books that she wanted to read during the summer.

Mark, on the other hand, spent the first week of his summer vacation in his room. One day, Marina decided to check up on Mark, curious what was keeping him busy in his room for that long.

Marina: Mark, are you okay?

Mark: Yes, but I'm a little busy.

Marina: We were worried about you. You spent a whole week in your room. Busy doing what?

Mark: Come and see...

Marina: What is that? Where did you get this from?

Mark: This is an old robot that I found in the attic last week. We don't use it anymore. I spent a whole week trying to fix it. I even got a few spare parts. Now I'm trying to charge it but it won't work...

Marina: Hmm... Why are you trying to fix this one in particular? This is an old one and it looks like it hasn't worked for ages.

Mark: This robot has a unique feature. He can do anything we ask it to do! But first we gotta program it and train it.

Marina: Wow! Okay, how can we fix it?

Mark: I don't know, I spent a long time looking on the internet and couldn't find anything.

Marina: We can ask mom and dad, maybe they can help.

Mark and Marina went to ask their parents. Mark explained to them what he had already done to fix the robot. They even tried themselves but could not fix it either.

Dad: It looks like the only person who can help us fix this robot is the manufacturer.

Mark: But we tried everything, what would he do differently?

Dad: Well, the manufacturer is the only one who knows everything about the robot. He's the only one who can fix it and make it work like before.

They began to look on the internet to find the manufacturer using the information on the robot itself. Finally, they found him and went to the store to meet him. Dr. Stanley met with them, who, after spending a couple of hours, was able to fix the robot.

Mark: That's amazing! The robot is working just like before!



Marina: That's right. Dr. Stanley was able to bring it back to its original condition, even though it was damaged.

Dad: Like I said, the only one who could fix it is the manufacturer. But why are you surprised? This happened to us all!

Mark & Marina: How?

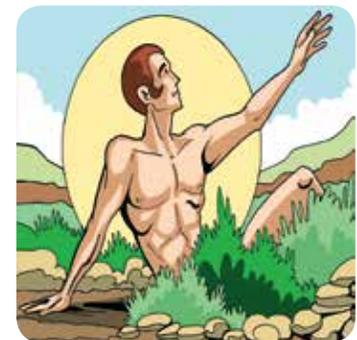
Dad: Let me start from the beginning.



The Story of Salvation

In the beginning, God created man, but before He created him, He prepared everything man needed to serve him. This proves that God loved man even before He created him.

Marina: That's true! Also, the way God created man is different than any other creation. Man is the only creation who received the breath of life from God Himself.



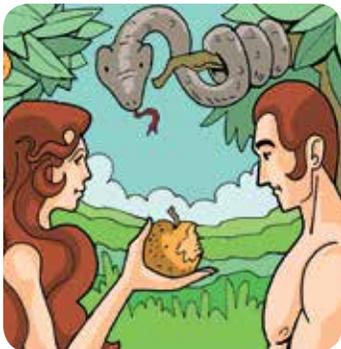
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Dad: Yes, very good Marina. Also, God created man in His own image according to His likeness. He also gave man freewill when He told him "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat." (Genesis 2:16-17)

God was capable of preventing Adam from eating from the tree, but God created Adam with freewill so he can decide for himself. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve ate from the tree. They misused their freewill and listened to the serpent instead of following God's commandments.



That's why God had to keep His word, "For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17). This was the sentence of death that was bestowed upon Adam and Eve and all their descendants.

The sentence of death meant separation from God, like a lamp which can't give light because it's cut off from the electrical power. Likewise, Adam and Even were separated from God when they sinned.

Their nature was corrupted, and since we are all the descendants of Adam and Eve, we inherited the corrupted nature and the sentence of death.

Marina: Wait. So we all received the sentence of death and our nature got corrupted?

Dad: Exactly. And in order for us to go back and live with God:

1. The sentence of death had to be taken away from us.
2. Our corrupted nature had to be renewed so we can regain the life that we lost when we were separated from God.

Mark: How can this be? I think God should have created a new Adam and Eve

Marina: Or just forgive them.

Dad: God loved the man He created, how could He just create a new one? God did not create a new Adam and Eve because He loved man so much.

But God is also Holy and Just and cannot accept sin. Since the wage of sin is death, He couldn't just forgive Adam and Eve. Also He had to restore their nature which was corrupted because of the sin.

In order for man to go back and live with God, Someone had to:

1. Take the sentence of death that came upon man because of the sin
2. Renew man's nature that was ruined by the sin
3. Someone had to die instead of Adam to redeem mankind and pay our debt, but this redeemer had to have the following characteristics:
 - He had to be human, because it was a human who sinned
 - He had to die on behalf of the human because the wage of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - He had to be without sin, because if he was a sinner, he would need a redeemer himself
 - He had to be infinite, to be able to redeem all mankind from all ages... from Adam to the last person on earth
 - He had to be a creator, to be able to renew the nature that was ruined by the sin and bring it back to its first image
 - He had to overcome death and triumph over it, which means he had to be stronger than death.

The only one who had all these characteristics is God Himself. That's why He had to come down on earth, become a human, taking flesh like us from St. Mary.

He did all that to redeem all mankind from Adam until the ages of ages.

There are many examples to prove that Jesus is God incarnate.

1- The fulfillment of the prophecies

THE EVENT	THE PROPHECY
Jesus' birth from a Virgin	"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" Isaiah 7:14
The passion and the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus	"They pierced My hands and My feet" Psalm 22:16

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The resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the death	"For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption" Psalm 16:10
The ascension of our Lord Jesus	"You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive" Psalm 68:18

There are many other fulfilled prophecies about our Lord Jesus Christ about His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection and His ascension.

2- The witness of others about Him (John 1:45-50)

Philip (one of Jesus' disciples) found a man called Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote... Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael was very surprised and asked: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip answered and said: "Come and see."

Philip and Nathanael went to Jesus, when Jesus saw Nathanael He said to him "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." Nathanael was surprised and asked: "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him and said: "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."



When Nathanael heard what Jesus said he was very astonished because Jesus knew something that no one else knew. Nathanael believed that Jesus was the Messiah and he said to Jesus: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

3- The works that Jesus did.

Jesus did many things that cannot be done except by God Himself.



The healing of the born blind (John 9:1-12)

This miracle proved that Jesus is God the Creator. He created eyes for the man who was born blind when He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva and anointed the eyes of the born blind with the clay (the same way that Adam was created out of dust). When the born blind went to wash his eyes as Jesus had asked him, he came back seeing. This miracle proved that Jesus is God the Creator.



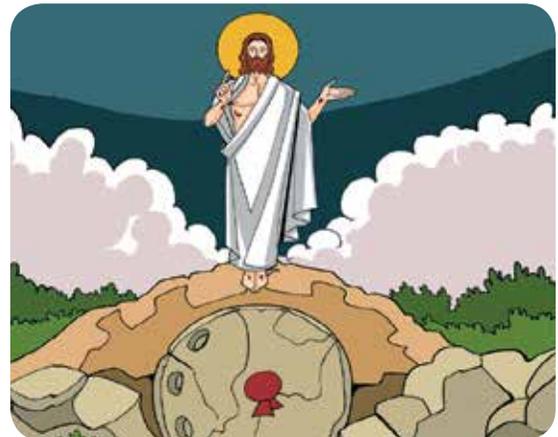
The healing of the paralytic man (Mark 2:1-12)

This miracle proved that Jesus not only can heal the sick but also has the authority to forgive the sins. Jesus forgave the paralytic man his sins. When Jesus saw that the people were surprised that He said to the paralytic man "Your sins are forgiven you", He also said to the man: "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all. They were all amazed and glorified God. This miracle proved that Jesus not only can heal the sick but also has the authority to forgive the sins.

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the death

(Matthew 28: 1-20)

This proves that our Lord Jesus has power over death. He is the only one who conquered death and had victory over it. He rose from the dead with the power of His divinity after 3 days in the closed grave. He gave us hope and opened the door of paradise for us to live with Him forever. There are many examples that prove the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ; these are just a few of them.



ADAM & EVE

God loved Adam and Eve very much and wanted them to be happy. God gave them everything they needed including all kinds of good food to eat. But God warned them not to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden.

Adam and Eve were tempted and they disobeyed God. As soon as they ate the forbidden fruit, they realized that they had done a bad thing. They were sad that they had disobeyed God, and they even tried to hide from God, but no one can ever hide from God. Do you know why? Look at the clues in the graph below to find the answer.

As an example, to find what 1△ would be, follow row 1 across with your left finger. Now follow the triangle row up and down with your right finger. At what letter does the number 1 and the triangle meet? The letter "R" is your answer for 1△.

1	S	G	R	E
2	N	V	O	T
3	H	D	I	E
4	S	G	E	Y
	☾	□	△	★

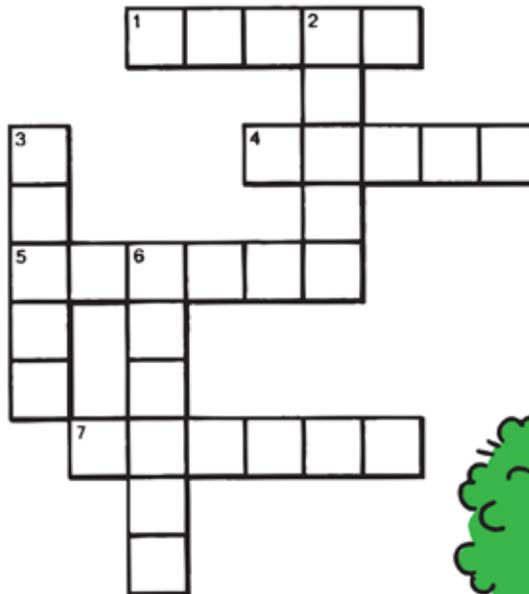
$\overline{1\square}$ $\overline{2\triangle}$ $\overline{3\square}$ $\overline{1\text{☾}}$ $\overline{4\triangle}$ $\overline{3\star}$ $\overline{4\text{☾}}$
 $\overline{1\star}$ $\overline{2\text{☾}}$ $\overline{3\star}$ $\overline{1\triangle}$ $\overline{4\star}$ $\overline{2\star}$ $\overline{3\text{☾}}$ $\overline{3\triangle}$ $\overline{2\text{☾}}$ $\overline{1\text{☾}}$!

When you are finished with the puzzle, color the picture.



CREATIVE COUNTING

Look at the story of creation in the first chapter of Genesis. Use information from the story to complete this puzzle.



ACROSS

1. On which day did God create man?
4. On which day did God create fish and fowl?
5. What did God do on the seventh day?
7. On which day did God create the sun and moon?

DOWN

2. On which day did God create trees and grass?
3. On which day did God create day and night?
6. On which day did God create the sky?

MY BOOK IS PRECIOUS TO ME

Now that the robot was fixed, Mark and Marina were excited to see the robot in action. After trying several commands, nothing was working and the robot just stood still.

Mark: Why isn't it working?

Dr. Stanley: Before using the robot, you have to program it by following the steps in the manual.

Mark: How can I get a manual like the one you have?

Dr. Stanley: I have another copy that I can give you, but remember you have to follow the steps exactly as in the manual.

They leave Dr. Stanley and return home. Mark continues to program the robot.



Dad: What's that noise coming from Mark's room?

Marina: I don't know. Mark has been working in his room for the past few hours.

Dad: Let's go check on him.

In Mark's room...

Dad: Mark what's that noise. What happened to the robot?

Mark: I don't know! When I was programing it, it just started making weird noises and now it stopped working.

Dad: Maybe you didn't program it correctly. Did you follow all the instructions in the manual Dr. Stanley gave you?

Mark: I did for the first few steps, then I got the idea so I decided to work on my own... and this is what happened.

Dad: Well of course. That's the problem!

Mark: But I know a lot about programing and I thought I could do it without the manual.

Dad: No Mark, each robot has a specific manual based on how the parts of the robot were put together. If you change any of the steps, you won't get the results you want.

Let me explain. The manual is as essential for the programing of each robot, just as the Holy Bible is essential in the life of each one of us. It teaches us how to act according to God's commandments. If we do not follow the commandments in the Bible, we will make many mistakes in our life. The Holy Bible is also the source of all the Church rites and teachings. It has a very important place in the life of each Christian; it is the book of truth because:

Memory Verse: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Dad: That's why you should have followed the instructions in the manual.

Mark: You're right Dad.

Marina: Dad, what do you mean that the Bible is the source of all Church rites and teachings?

Dad: Do you remember what our Lord Jesus told His disciples?

Memory Verse: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." Matthew 28:19-20

From these verses, we see how our Lord Jesus commanded His disciples who represent the Church to go preach to all people His teachings and commandments that are present in the Holy Bible.

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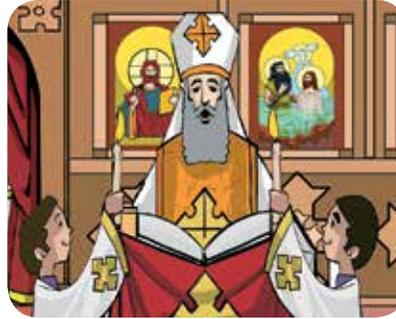
That's why the Holy Bible is very important to the Church. For example, our Church rites demonstrate the importance of the gospel:



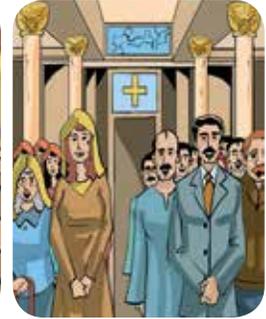
The priest prays the litany of the Gospel before the reading of the Gospel and offers incense in front of the Gospel



The priest raises the Gospel which is a silver Church vessel that includes the 4 gospels, with reverence before the reading of the Gospel



Two deacons hold candles during the reading of the Gospel. The Patriarch and the bishop take off their crowns during the reading of the Gospel



The deacon calls everyone to stand in the fear of God to listen to the Gospel because this is the Word of God

We read many parts of the Holy Bible in all the Church's ritual prayers:

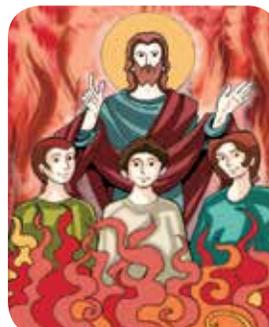
- The Agpeya prayers
- Tasbeha:



First canticle (The praises of Moses after crossing the Red Sea Exodus 15)



Second canticle (Psalm 136, we thank God because He is good and His mercy endures forever)

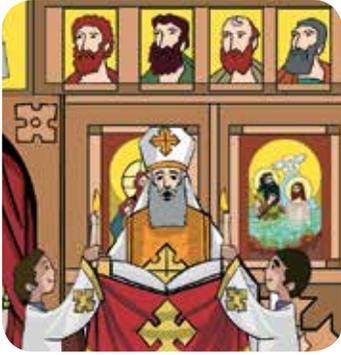


Third canticle (Daniel 3: 24-90 (Deuterocanonical books) the praise of the 3 youth in the fiery furnace)



Fourth canticle (Psalms 148, 149 and 150)

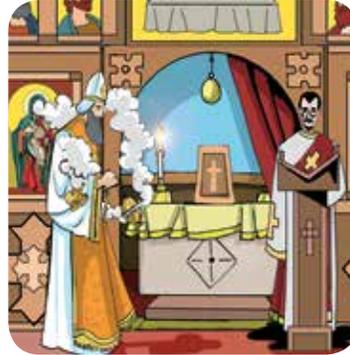
The Divine Liturgy: We read 9 parts of the Holy Bible and we chant Psalm 150 during communion:



1. Passages from the Psalms and the Gospels are read during the compline raising of incense, the prime raising of incense, and the liturgy of catechumens (Liturgy of the Word)



2. The Pauline: St. Paul Epistles (14 in the New Testament)



3. The Catholicicon: The Catholic Epistles (7 in the New Testament)



4. The Praxis: the Book of Acts

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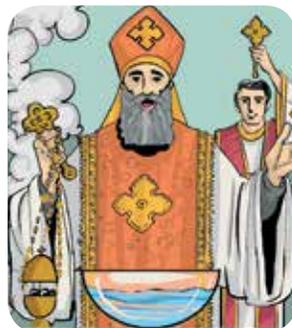
Prayers for Special Occasions

The Church specified parts of the Holy Bible to be read according to the occasion, e.g:

- In Jonah's fast and the Great Lent, we read many prophecies from the Old Testament
- During Holy Week, we read passages from the Old and the New Testament related to the passion of Christ, day by day and hour by hour



Rituals prayers e.g.
the Sacraments



The Water Liturgy



The Consecration
of the Churches



The Church
dedicated a special
rank of deacons
to take care of the
Holy Bible reading
which is the rank of
Oghnostos (reader)

Memory Verse: "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21

Marina: It's true what they say. Our Coptic Orthodox Church is a Biblical Church.

PRAYER PUZZLE

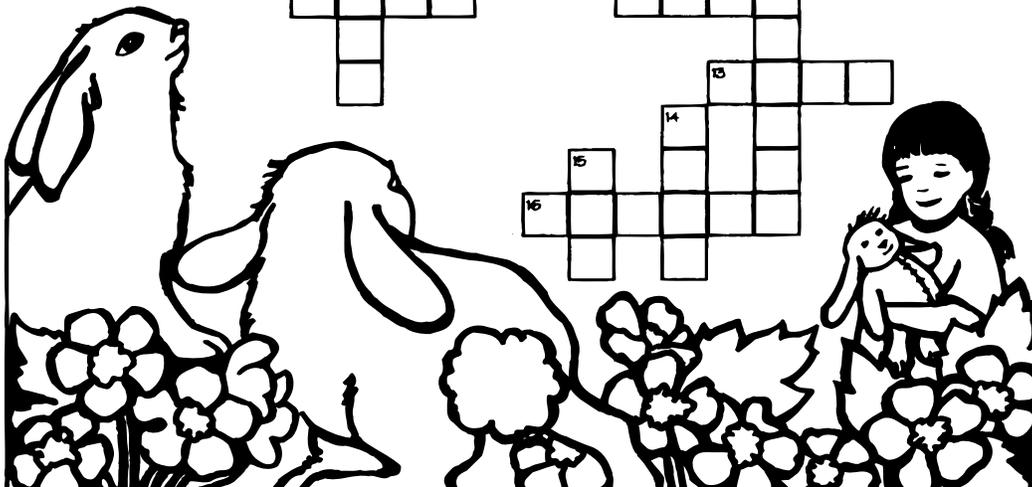
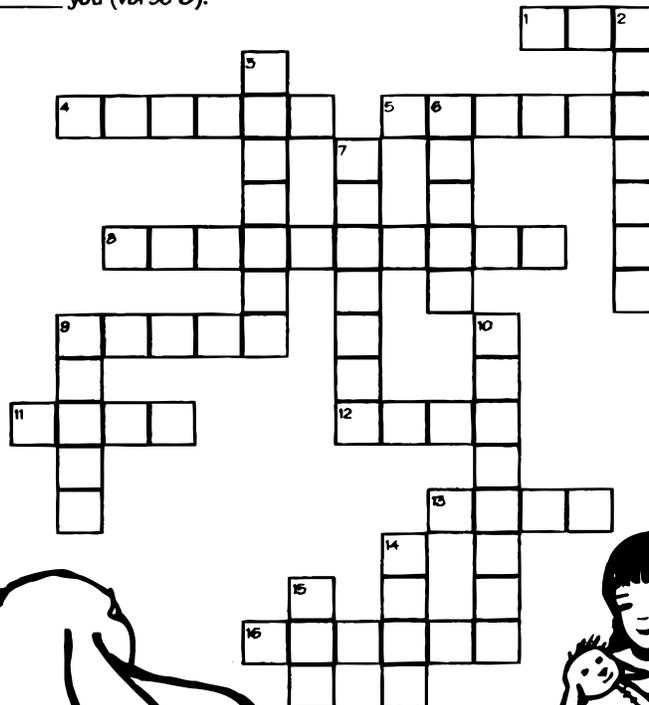
Jesus taught us how to pray. He wants our prayers to be humble, meaningful, and sincerely addressed to God in heaven. Pray a quiet prayer asking God to guide your life. Read Matthew 6:5–15 and do the crossword puzzle.

Across

- God the Father knows what you need before you _____ him (verse 8).
- Pray to God our heavenly _____ (verse 6).
- Our Father is in _____ (verse 9).
- We should not be like the _____ (verse 5).
- Forgive us our _____ (verse 12).
- Pray that God's _____ be done (verse 10).
- Deliver us from _____ (verse 13).
- When praying, go into your room and shut the _____ (verse 6).
- God the Father will _____ you (verse 6).

Down

- God's _____ come (verse 10).
- We need to forgive our _____ (verse 12).
- On _____ as it is in heaven (verse 10).
- If you do not _____ men, God the Father will not forgive your sins (verse 15).
- Give us our _____ bread (verse 11).
- God's name should be revered and _____ (verse 9).
- Do not repeat useless phrases and words when you _____ (verse 7).
- Forgive _____ when they do wrong (verse 14).



LET US BE FAITHFUL TO OUR GOD

Mark finally managed to program his robot. He couldn't believe his eyes as he watched the robot follow every command given to him.

Mark: Marina! Marina! Look the robot is working!

Marina: You're a genius!

Mark: Let me show you how it works.

Mark asked the robot to bring a pen from his room. The robot went to the room and brought back a pen. However, the robot started slowing down and finally stopped.

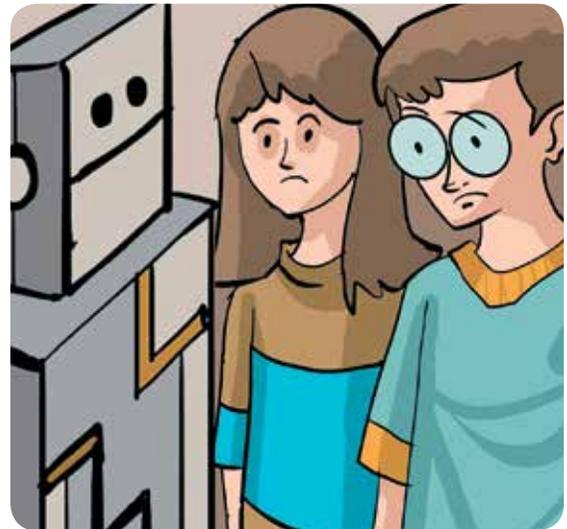
Mark: What just happened? It was working just fine.

Marina: Maybe you need to charge it?

Mark: Maybe... It has been on for a while. But the manual never said how often we should charge it.

Marina: I'm sure that's what happened. A robot can stop if it's not plugged in to a source of power, or if it runs out of battery. Actually... it's just like prayer.

Mark: What does prayer have to do with why my robot is not working?



PRAYER

Marina: Prayer is a relationship between God and us. During prayer, we talk to God and we feel that God is with us and that we are with Him. But it's not just words that we repeat without understanding. During prayer, we raise our hearts and minds to God. We talk to Him and we trust that He hears us. Just like any electronic device won't work if it's disconnected from a

power source, if we stop praying, we also will be disconnected from our source of power, and we won't function properly. Come let's go ask dad about the power of prayer. I'm sure he can tell us a lot.

They went to ask their dad.

Mark: Dad, can you tell us about the power of prayer?

Dad: Why yes of course! Where do I start? Prayer is the best time that we spend with God. There are different types of prayers. There are memorized prayers and there are spontaneous prayers when we use our own words. Here are examples of memorized prayer:

THE PSALMS

**Memory verse: "Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm."
1 Corinthians 14:26**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The disciples said to Lord Jesus Christ: "Lord, teach us to pray". So He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Our Father in heaven ..." (Luke 11: 1-4). Here our Lord Jesus Christ confirmed that we should have memorized prayers that we can repeat when we pray.

The Church Fathers put together seven prayers to be prayed throughout the day. These are not meant to replace personal prayers, but it essentially teaches us how to talk to God. As Pope Shenouda III said, "The Agpeya is a school that teaches us how to pray."

Mark: What does the word "Agpeya" actually mean?

Dad: The word Agpeya comes from the Coptic word "Agp" which means hour. It is the book that contains the prayers of the hours, which are: prime, third hour, sixth hour, ninth hour, vespers, compline and midnight.

Marina: Why these hours in particular?

Dad: Each hour corresponds to an event in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ on Earth:

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• Prime prayer (1st hour) 6:00 AM - commemorates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ early Sunday morning and that He is the light of the world. This prayer is mainly associated with the eternity of God, His incarnation and His Resurrection from the dead. We thank God because He brought us to this day, we ask Him to enlighten our day with good deeds and grant us the power of His resurrection.



• Terce (3rd hour) 9:00 AM - In this hour, our Lord Jesus Christ was condemned. We also remember His ascension into heaven. Also in this hour of the day, the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles as tongues of fire. We ask the Holy spirit to come upon us and purify us.



• Sext (6th hour) 12:00 PM - In this hour, our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. We thank God for redeeming us and ask Him to grant us a holy life.



• None (9th hour) 3:00 PM - This hour commemorates the death of our Lord on the Cross and the acceptance of the repentance of the right thief. We ask God that we may have a share in paradise.



• Vespers (11th hour) 5:00 PM – Here, we commemorates the hour in which the Body of our Lord Jesus was taken down from the Cross and was anointed with spices and wrapped in linen. We thank God that



He granted us to pass this day in peace and brought us to the evening.

• Compline (12th hour) 6:00 PM - This hour commemorates the laying down of the body of Christ in the grave. We remember the passing world and the final judgement. We ask God to forgive us our sins and to protect us during the night.



• The midnight -9:00 PM – 12:00 AM and 3:00 AM- This hour includes three watches corresponding to the three times our Lord prayed in Gethsemane. We also remember the second coming of our Lord

Jesus Christ. We ask God to help us to be watchful and prepared like the wise virgins.

Mark: But what are the benefits of praying from the Agpeya?

Dad: Praying from the Agpeya:

- Gives us a chance to spend more time with God in prayer.
- Teaches us persistence in prayer when we repeat Lord have mercy 41 times.
- It fills our day with prayers.

Also, many times, our personal prayer only includes requests. But we forget many other aspects of prayer. The Agpeya reminds us that prayer should also offer:

- Thanksgiving -We give thanks to God in the beginning of each hour, in the prayer of thanksgiving, to thank God for everything, concerning everything and in everything
- Repentance – We pray psalm 50 in the beginning of every hour. We say “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy ...”
- Praises – In the Gloria, we pray, “Let us praise with the angels...”
- Petitions - We pray for ourselves and for others

There are many other blessings that we receive when we pray from the Agpeya, but we will only see and taste them when we pray from the Agpeya ourselves.



Marina: Thanks dad. I never knew that prayer was so important.

Mark: Yes, thanks dad. Now let's go charge the robot so we can use it again.

ASK, SEEK & KNOCK

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:10 (NIV)

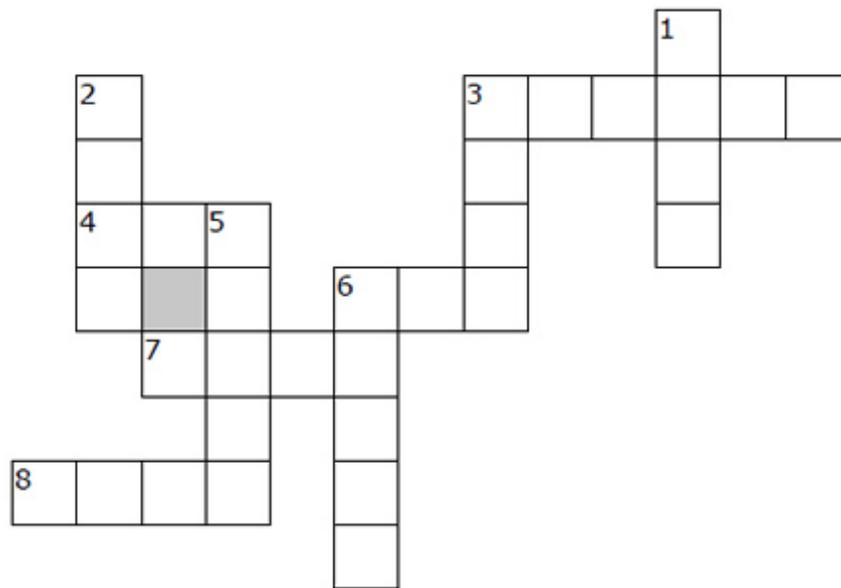
P R A Y Y B S L E F X E B P H
 U K I N G D O M L T S P D Q A
 A Y Z A U B Q Q S E E E R X L
 U Q B S B U R W F Z A A E G L
 O R R K P U J I U R Z D C K O
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 I J C W D K S D G I J V Q I A
 O Q K I F B E K P I V J E L A
 N M M W N M J J P V W E M Y P

FIND	PRAY	OPEN	TEMPATION	FRIEND
SEEK	FATHER	NAME	KNOCK	RECEIVE
MIDNIGHT	DAILY	TEACH	LEAD	BREAD
SINS	KINGDOM	HALLOWED	FORGIVE	ASK

ACTIVITY

JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9



ACROSS

3. A person you know, like, and trust
4. To make a request for something
6. A piece of furniture for sleeping
7. A movable structure used to close off an entrance to a room
8. A device operated by a key and used to keep a door from being opened

DOWN

1. To look for something
2. To talk to God
3. To locate something by searching for it
5. To stike a series of blows with your fist, as on a door
6. A food made from flour mixed water and other ingredients, then baked in an oven

LOCK	FIND	FRIEND	PRAY	DOOR
BED	SEEK	KNOCK	ASK	BREAD

LET US BE SUCCESSFUL

Marina: Mark, now that you know how to program your robot, and keep it running, how are you going to make good use of it?

Mark: I've been giving this much thought actually. You know how we have robots taking care of all our house chores?

Marina: Well yeah, the house chores are all taken care of. Every morning, mom programs the robots and they all know what to do.

Mark: Exactly! What if I program this robot to program the other robots?

Robot: I think that's a great idea!

Marina: What just happened?

Mark: I programmed the robot to answer questions.

Marina: Wow! That's amazing!

Robot: Thank you. Mark, I just wanted to remind you that you did not name me yet?

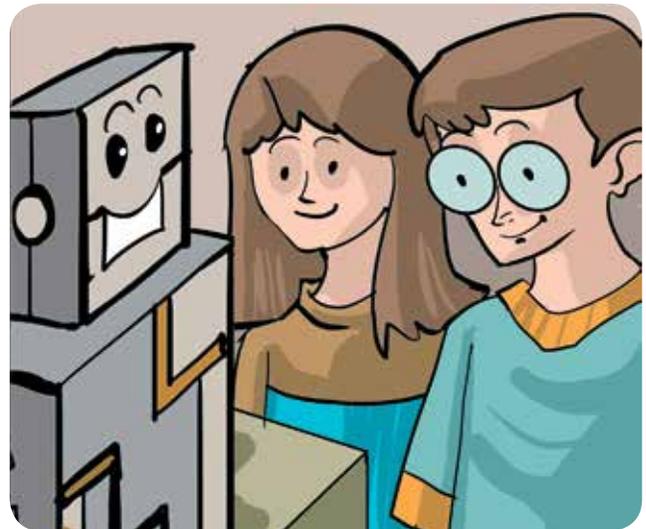
Marina: O yeah! What are you gonna call it?

Mark: Hmm...I think I will call it Alpha.

Robot (Alpha): Alpha. Alpha. That's my name. Thank you Mark.

Mark: Now Marina, what do you think about my idea?

Marina: I think it's wonderful, except how are you gonna be able to do that?



Mark: We just need to find instructions about how to be a commander or a leader.

Marina: I know just the story to help us. It's about a leader in the Old Testament.

Joshua the successful commander (Joshua 1 – 8, 24)



Joshua the son of Nun was from the tribe of Ephraim. His name was Hosea, but Moses changed it to Joshua, which means God saves. Joshua was born in the land of Egypt. He left Egypt with Moses at the time of the Exodus of the Israelites. He was Moses' assistant and disciple. Moses appointed him as a commander to the Israelites in their first battle against the Amalekites after their Exodus from Egypt. This is the first time the name of Joshua was mentioned.

When Moses chose a man from each tribe of Israel to spy on the land of Canaan, the Promise Land, Joshua was one of them. His faith was shown in the report he gave about the land when they came back. Joshua and Caleb the Son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah were worthy to enter the Promised Land out of all the people who left Egypt at that time because they trusted God's promise that He will deliver the inhabitants of the Promised Land to them and that they will inherit it.

Before Moses' death, God commanded him to call his servant Joshua to assign the responsibility to him. After Moses' death, Joshua took the leadership of the Israelites. Like any successful leader, Joshua had a goal that he wanted to achieve.

Mark: What was Joshua's goal?



HOLD FAST

what you have

Marina: His goal was to take the Israelites to the land of Canaan, the Promised Land, and to divide the land amongst them. He was also careful in following God's commandments.

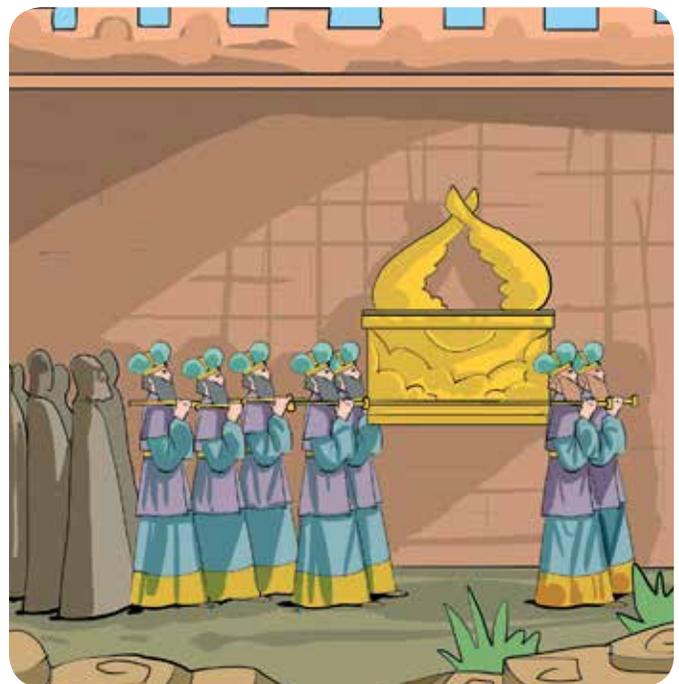
God said to Joshua that every place that the sole of his foot will tread upon will be given to him. God assured him and said:



Memory Verse: "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage" Joshua 1:5-6

Joshua was able to achieve his goal after going through different obstacles. The first one was leading the Israelites across the Jordan River.

After crossing the Jordan River, they had to go through Jericho. Jericho was securely shut, the Lord wanted to reassure Joshua so He said to him: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat." Joshua 6:2-5



He did as God told him and the walls of Jericho fell. They were able to win without war or weapons. God told Joshua and all the people not to take anything from the spoils. After their victory in Jericho, they had to go through a small city called Ai, so small that only 3000 men went to fight. But they were defeated.

Mark: How come they were defeated in Ai although it was a small city?



Marina: It was definitely an unexpected defeat. Here we learn an important quality of a successful leader, which is the ability to face problems. Joshua was sad because of the defeat, but he did not stop there. He gathered all the elders of Israel and they prayed and humbled themselves before God and asked Him to reveal the reason for the defeat.

The Lord told Joshua that one person had transgressed God's command and took from the spoils. But God did not tell Joshua the name of that person.

Joshua then rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes in front of God, and the tribe of Judah was chosen. Then Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." And Achan answered Joshua and said, "When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."



HOLD FAST

what you have

So Joshua found the hidden spoil in Achan's tent and he punished him and his household because of all the troubles he caused for Israel. See, a successful leader faces the problems he encounters with wisdom and does not flee from them.

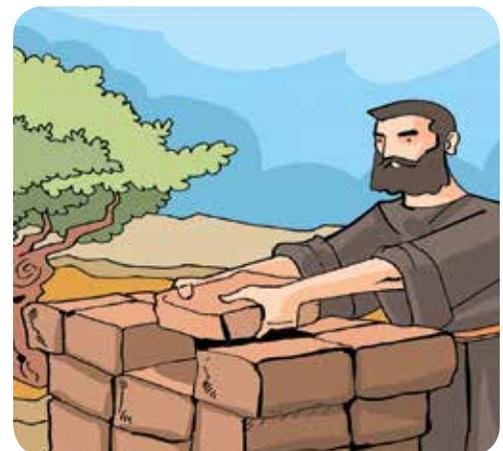
Mark: Yes and in order to solve the problem, a successful leader must first pray, then gather all the required information to help him solve the problem, and finally make a strong and wise decision.

Marina: Exactly! After that, God turned from His anger and He said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king." God gave him the plan to succeed.



In order to follow the plan, Joshua had to divide the people in three groups. One group under the leadership of Joshua was to attack Ai and attract Ai's army away from the city. Another group of thirty thousand men was to stand outside the city to attack it once Ai's army followed Joshua and his people. The last group of five thousand men was to protect Joshua and his group from any unexpected attack from the surrounding cities that would come to Ai's rescue. Joshua followed the plan and was able to conquer Ai.

After his victory, Joshua built an altar to God and offered sacrifices of thanksgiving. Joshua continued to lead the people until they reached the land of Canaan. He divided the land among the tribes of Israel. Joshua was able to accomplish his goal and led the people with wisdom all the days of his life. He had a good relationship with all his people. At the end of his days, Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel and all the elders to wish them farewell. He instructed them to keep God's commandments and not to mix with the pagans. He reminded them of God's wonders that He had done for them, His love for them

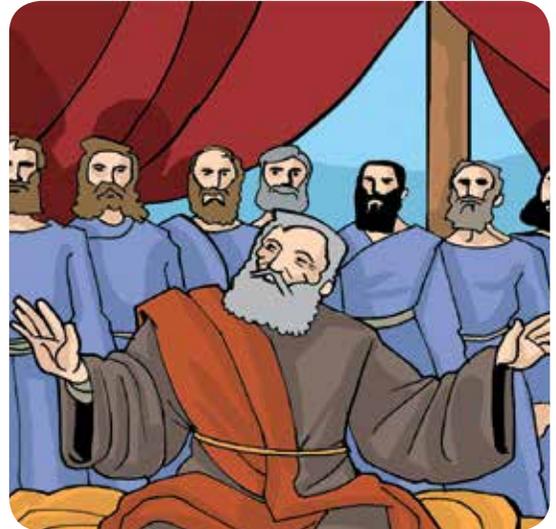


and the fulfillment of His promises towards them. Joshua then died being one hundred and ten years old.

Mark: Thank you Marina, I learned a lot from Joshua. I learned that a successful leader has to have a clear goal, must be able to face problems and have a good relationship with his people.

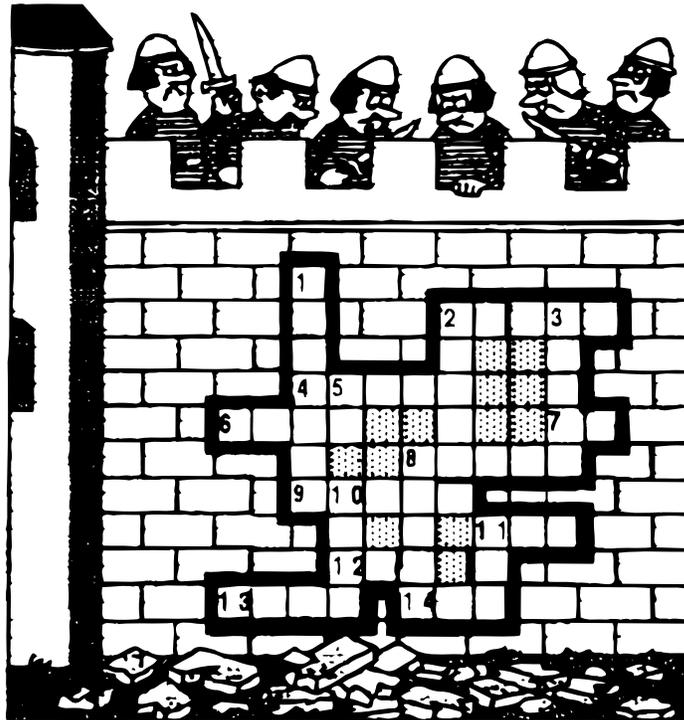
Alpha: I have recorded these three criteria.

Mark: Very good. now we have all the information we need to program... Let's begin.



THE FALL OF JERICHO

Can you fill in the missing words in one of Jericho's walls using the clues below (Answers in the Book of Joshua)?



CLUES DOWN

1. Colour of thread Rahab used
2. Grandfather of Achan (7:1)
3. He stole a Babylonish garment
5. Short for advertisement
8. Number of days Israel marched round Jericho
10. Number of times Israel marched round Jericho on the second day (6:14)
11. Achan was Carmi's ___?

CLUES ACROSS

2. Great-grandfather of Achan (7:1)

[CLUES ACROSS CONTINUED]

4. Woman who hid 2 spies
6. Precious metal
7. Little city where Israel lost a battle (7:4)
8. A king of the Amorites (2:10)
9. Rahab asked the spies for a true _____. (2:12)
11. Number of days Israel went round Jericho once (6:3)
12. Signal to start
13. The spies left Rahab's house as this was being shut (2:5)
14. Father of Joshua (1:1)

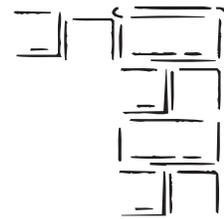
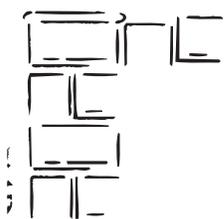
ACTIVITY

JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

A catapult was used to help break down the walls around a city. However, the children of Israel had a different kind of wall breaker. Solve the problems to discover the strange way Israelites broke down the walls of Jericho.

- A. $(3 \times 4) + 2 =$
- C. $(6 \times 8) + 2 =$
- D. $(4 \times 9) + 7 =$
- E. $(9 \times 9) + 9 =$
- G. $(7 \times 3) + 4 =$
- H. $(5 \times 6) + 4 =$
- I. $(8 \times 5) + 7 =$
- K. $(6 \times 7) + 9 =$
- L. $(2 \times 5) + 1 =$
- M. $(3 \times 9) + 4 =$
- N. $(8 \times 9) + 3 =$
- O. $(4 \times 4) + 2 =$
- P. $(7 \times 5) + 4 =$
- R. $(9 \times 9) + 4 =$
- S. $(2 \times 7) + 7 =$
- T. $(8 \times 8) + 3 =$
- U. $(9 \times 6) + 2 =$
- V. $(4 \times 2) + 2 =$
- W. $(7 \times 6) + 3 =$
- Y. $(4 \times 6) + 5 =$

$\overline{45 \ 34 \ 90 \ 75}$ $\overline{67 \ 34 \ 90}$ $\overline{67 \ 85 \ 56 \ 31 \ 39 \ 90 \ 67 \ 21}$ $\overline{21 \ 18 \ 56 \ 75 \ 43 \ 90 \ 43}$
 $\overline{67 \ 34 \ 90}$ $\overline{39 \ 90 \ 18 \ 39 \ 11 \ 90}$ $\overline{21 \ 34 \ 18 \ 56 \ 67 \ 90 \ 43}$ $\overline{45 \ 34 \ 90 \ 75}$ $\overline{67 \ 34 \ 90}$
 $\overline{39 \ 90 \ 18 \ 39 \ 11 \ 90}$ $\overline{25 \ 14 \ 10 \ 90}$ $\overline{14}$ $\overline{11 \ 18 \ 56 \ 43}$ $\overline{21 \ 34 \ 18 \ 56 \ 67}$
 $\overline{67 \ 34 \ 90}$ $\overline{45 \ 14 \ 11 \ 11}$ $\overline{50 \ 18 \ 11 \ 11 \ 14 \ 39 \ 21 \ 90 \ 43}$ $\overline{21 \ 18}$ $\overline{90 \ 10 \ 90 \ 85 \ 29}$
 $\overline{31 \ 14 \ 75}$ $\overline{50 \ 34 \ 14 \ 85 \ 25 \ 90 \ 43}$ $\overline{21 \ 67 \ 85 \ 14 \ 47 \ 25 \ 34 \ 67}$ $\overline{47 \ 75}$ $\overline{14 \ 75 \ 43}$
 $\overline{67 \ 34 \ 90 \ 29}$ $\overline{67 \ 18 \ 18 \ 51}$ $\overline{67 \ 34 \ 90}$ $\overline{50 \ 47 \ 67 \ 29}$ (Joshua 6:20)



LET US HONOR OUR HOME

When Mark finished programming his robot, Alpha, he was very proud of his work. One day, as Mark was in the middle of running some software updates on Alpha...

Marina: Mark! Come here, I found something I wanted to show you...

Mark: Yes Marina, tell me.

Marina: Look! It says here that they're discontinuing robots just like Alpha.

Mark: What? Why would they do that? This robot in particular is a very specific type and is very useful.

Marina: I don't know, all it says here is that they're discontinuing it and they're gonna try to make another type all together. I think they may have found a bug and couldn't fix it.

Mark: That's horrible! I'm not letting go of Alpha.

Marina: Yes but you have to take good care of it, because if anything breaks, you won't find any spare parts.

Mark: Maybe I can try to fix the bug and tell them. That would be more profitable for them than remaking it from scratch.

Marina: Of course! That would be useful for all of us. Actually, that reminds me of a story that I just read while doing my research project for Mahragan.

Mark: Really? What's the story about?



Pope Peter VII

(Also known as Pope Peter El-Gawly - the 109th Pope on the See of St. Mark)

Marina: Pope Peter El-Gawly was born in a village called El-Gawly in Manfalot, Assiout.

Mark: Is that why they call him “El-Gawly”?

Marina: Yes, when he was born, he was given the name Mankarious. He loved God so much. He became a monk in the monastery of St. Anthony under the name of monk Marcorius and was loved by all his brothers the monks. He was ordained as a priest then a hegomen then a general bishop with the name of Theophilus. Pope Mark VIII (the 108th pope) was the one who ordained him.



After the departure of Pope Mark, all the bishops and the elders of the Church gathered and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit agreed to ordain bishop Theophilus to be the new patriarch. He was ordained as the 109th patriarch with the name of Peter VII.

He was wise and humble in all his deeds and everyone loved him.

After Prince Ibrahim, Mohammed Ali Basha’s son had conquered Jerusalem & Syria, he invited Pope Peter to visit Jerusalem to attend the service of the appearance of the light on Bright Saturday from the tomb of the Lord Jesus. This governor doubted the authenticity of the light.

Pope Peter fasted and prayed for three days trusting God’s promise.



Memory verse: “And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”
Matthew 21:22

HOLD FAST

what you have

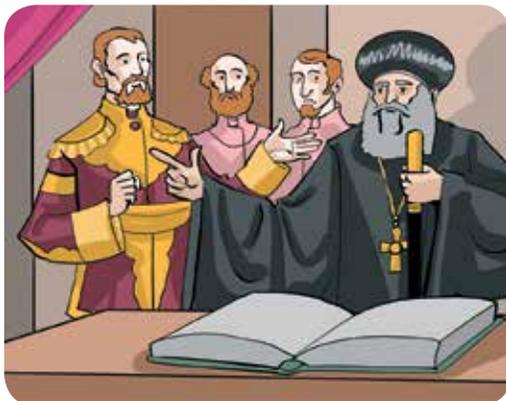
On Bright Saturday, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was crowded with worshipers. The governor ordered the people to evacuate the Church to the spacious outer courtyard, in order to see the light for himself. Suddenly, the light burst out of the Sepulcher in a way that terrified and amazed him. This incident increased the reverence and respect of the Pope before the governor.

Mark: The Pope was truly a holy man.

Marina: Yes and he was also very patriotic. His patriotism was made obvious in numerous occasions. I recall one of them.

One year the water level of the Nile was not enough to provide water for the people, the land and the animals. People were worried about famine, inflation and high prices since the land could not be cultivated. The Governor of Egypt asked the clergy to pray to God that He might bless the water of the Nile and increase the water level so they could water the land, bring forth a plenteous crop and avoid a famine. Pope Peter VII called the bishops and the clergy and went with them to the banks of the river. There, they prayed the Divine Liturgy.

After the service, Pope Peter washed the Holy Service utensils with water from the river, and threw the water back in the river. The waves of the river roared, the water



was disturbed and flooded to the point that the water went up to their feet. Pope Peter thanked God for His great miracle. This incident also glorified the Patriarch's position before the Governor and the Copts were highly esteemed.

Mark: Wow, Pope Peter always wanted to help his country and community.

Alpha: I know another story about Pope Peter that I just found on the Internet.

Mark: Yes Alpha, what did you find?

Alpha: The Russian Czar sent his envoy to Egypt in order to offer the Coptic Church the protection of Caesar (the Czar). At that time, Russia was the largest Christian country. The Czar envoy went to the patriarchate and asked to meet the Pope. He found a very simple man who was reading the Holy Bible. He was very amazed by his simplicity. He then presented to him the Russian Czar's offer to put the Coptic Church under the Russian protection. The Pope politely and graciously refused the proposal by asking, "Does your Caesar live forever?" When the envoy answered that he would die like all human beings, the Pope told him that he preferred that the Protector of the Church would be her true Shepherd, the King of kings that does not die. The envoy admired the Pope's faith and patriotism and left after taking his blessings.



The Russian envoy then said: "I was not amazed by the greatness of the pyramids or the obelisks or any other wonder in this country as much as I was moved by what I saw from the Patriarch of the Copts." The news reached the governor of Egypt. He was very pleased and went to the Pope to thank him for his great patriotism.

Marina: Wow Alpha! That was an amazing story. Finally, it says here that Pope Peter El-Gawly departed on 28 Baramhat 1852 AD.

Mark: It also says here that we did not know where his relics were until recently when Bishop Raphael (the Secretary to the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church) found the relics of 4 saints while doing some renovation in St. Mark Cathedral in Azbakiya. One of the 4 saints was Pope Peter El-Gawly.



HOLD FAST

what you have

Marina: That's great! I will add that to my project! Thanks for your help.

Mark: You know... Pope Peter's story helped me come to my decision to play an important role in my society. I'm gonna call Dr. Stanley and tell him what I did with the robot and ask him to post my experience.

Marina: Perfect! That way, many can profit from your experience and not get rid of their robots.

Mark: Exactly! I will go call him now.



Memorization

HEBREWS 11:23-29

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

PSALM 87 (86 AGPEYA)

His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God! "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia: 'This one was born there.'" And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her." The Lord will record, When He registers the peoples: "This one was born there." Both the singers and the players on instruments say, "All my springs are in you." Alleluia

PSALM 46 (45 AGPEYA)

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Alleluia

ACTIVITIES

Hymns & Tasbeha

Coptic Language

Arts

Creative Writing

Sports

Drama & Mime

Praise & Music

Research

Multimedia & Technology

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