



Children and Adults Post Literacy

Overview

The Bible Society of Egypt (BSE)'s Children and Adult Post Literacy project aims to build on basic literacy skills in students of all ages and prevent a relapse into illiteracy. This project facilitates personal and spiritual development as individuals accept responsibility and take initiative for their ongoing learning.



The Need

The quality of education in Egypt is low on the world scale. Teaching styles can sometimes be rigid; pupil participation is not encouraged enough. Many schools have poor infrastructure. Children often fail to properly learn literacy skills and a lack of practice can cause them to fall back into illiteracy. Those who are non-literate, often have poor communication skills and difficulties in focusing, listening, and understanding. Without this life skill, opportunities are limited, and personal confidence is also reduced.

In the Egyptian church, when children drop out of school, they often drop out of the church as well. Illiteracy means that many young people find it hard to focus, listen and understand at church, leading to disengagement from church life.

25%

of people in Egypt are non-literate (16 million people)

10-15%

of the population are Christians

80%

of children leave Sunday school when they reach secondary school

"I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands."

Psalm 119:10, NIV

Goals

The goal of this project is to help students develop their reading and writing skills and encourage them to develop personal responsibility for their learning as they think for themselves, discuss, and participate in classes. Operating throughout Egypt, this project is intended predominantly for school children but also for recently literate adults.

BSE is hoping to have 4,000 to 5,000 students involved in 5 levels over 18-24 months, in 200 to 300 classes. Around 250 to 350 volunteer facilitators will be supported by 21 supervisors in 89 training events across the year, including 10 preparation meetings, 20 one-day sessions for new facilitators, 40 for current facilitators, and 15 follow-up meetings with classes.

Each student receives a resource package containing Scripture portions, exercise books, audio material, games, exercises and activities. In 2024, 3,300 Scripture materials (portions, New Testaments, and Bibles) will be provided, along with 26,400 printed primers and 21,400 supplementary reading material.

Impact

Over 24 years, the literacy program has significantly impacted people in the lower socio-economic segment of Egyptian society, and is consistently expanding its reach to new students, teachers, churches, and areas. The impact is evident as students develop reading skills and literacy competence, fostering a continuous learning lifestyle. The program's influence extends to personal and spiritual development, reflected in improved behaviour at home, school, and church. Students embody biblical principles learned in class, demonstrating increased self-development and motivation for positive change. Program participants often become actively involved in the church, with enhanced literacy skills making their engagement more meaningful. This comprehensive approach underscores the program's profound and holistic impact on individuals and communities.

Testimonies

"I really benefited from the [literacy program] and I want to thank everyone who helped to make this program possible. I came away with many things from the class. I made decisions about my life. I learned more about my character from the program. I learned to feel my value in life, and I have a mission ..I feel like I must use it and share it with those around me. This program has given me the feeling that I can do whatever I want to do in the future. I would really like to become a doctor one day." — Mariam, from St Mark's Church

"I learnt from the literacy course how to read the Bible, how to be committed. I hope in the future to be a servant of God to help people, to be a doctor to help people in need. You can have a better tomorrow when people cooperate and help each other. When I grow up, I hope to be a children's doctor." — Ireny

Prayer Needs

- Pray for a better understanding of Scriptures for all students who take part in this project.
- Pray for security and a continued increase and growth in the program, despite the political uncertainty and upheaval of the country.