

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East  
**The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt**  
with North Africa and the Horn of Africa



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## A Time of Harvest... A Time of Sewing Seeds

A report on my latest visit to the Ethiopia

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

My visit to Ethiopia was so encouraging! The harvest time is always a joyful one for farmers as well as for servants of the Lord. It is a time when we see the fruit of years of labor. What I saw in Ethiopia was the harvest time of the labor of Bishop Andrew Proud and his wife Dr. Janice Proud and many who supported them.

A few months after his appointment as Rector of St. Matthew's in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Bishop Andrew Proud (Rev. Andrew Proud then) said to me, "*I am living as if in an English colony with a nice garden, a nice house, and an English-looking church. But, when I open the gates of the church, I see suffering and poverty, and this is difficult for me and Janice.*" He added, "*I want to open the gates of the church and serve the people of Ethiopia.*" I replied, "*that sounds like music to my ears! I am whole-heartedly for Christian mission.*"

On my next visit, I found that Bishop Andrew converted part of his garden into a public library for Ethiopian students who need books to study but cannot afford them, and who need a place to study because they live in crowded rooms. He also built a small clinic behind the library. Hundreds of Ethiopian students came every day to use the library. This meant more work and effort from both Andrew and Janice Proud. This touched my heart!

Andrew & Janice did not focus only on Addis Ababa, but they had a great desire to work more in the very poor western region of Ethiopia. In 2006, Canon Andrew Proud wrote:

*In the western region of Ethiopia and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa, political instability and tribalism are perennial problems. Despite this, the Anglican Churches in Ethiopia have grown appreciably during the past four years: from 2 churches outside the camps and 8 in refugee camps, to 32 churches at the present time, of which 8 are still in the refugee camps, but with 24 churches now established outside the camps, in towns and villages in Gambella regional state. Currently, we have 3 mission centres, providing ministry and Christian education to outlying villages.*

In 2007, Canon Andrew Proud was consecrated bishop for the Episcopal Area of the Horn of Africa. He and his wife Janice had a strategic plan for the development of their ministry which they followed very carefully. Their goal was to fulfill the objectives of the whole Diocese of Egypt. The result was a great harvest by God's grace!!! The following numbers can give you an idea about this harvest:

<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
11 churches	56 churches
0 mission centres	11 mission centres
0 community service centres	2 public libraries in Addis & 1 Anglican Centre in Gambella
No organized theological education	Organized 3 year TEE programme
2 Clergy	21 Clergy
17 Lay Ministers	7 Lay Ministers
15 Mother's Union	600 Mother's Union

In between 2002 and 2005, there were two programmes at St. Matthew's for Sudanese refugees in Addis Ababa. Also on Wednesdays, there has been a Bible study/lunch programme for around 230 people (mostly, but not exclusively, men) every week.

The number of clergy has risen because of receiving priests from Sudan and several ordinations in the recent years. Lay Ministers has gone down significantly mostly due to the fact that many people have returned to Sudan. The Mother's Union has grown considerably—it is a staggering number—and we are so proud for the work they do and for their dedication. In addition, on Tuesdays, there is a program for over 100 women and children at which we provided baby washing facilities, monitor babies for malnutrition, vaccinate against measles and provide food.

Andrew & Janice focused on the following objectives in order to achieve this great harvest:

### **1. Equipping Leaders/Ministers**

Bishop Andrew and Janice started a three-year program in Theological Education by Extension (TEE). This helped the clergy and lay ministers to be rooted in the Scriptures. It also helped their teaching and preaching skills. TEE also helped in evangelizing and reaching the unreached.

### **2. Developing the Anglican Identity**

They developed study materials and organized seminars to explain the history, the structure, and the doctrine of the Anglican Church. They organized several workshops to translate the Anglican liturgy into several tribal languages. Some of the tribes, like the Opo, didn't even have any part of the Bible in their language. They rejoiced in having the Anglican liturgy, which is rich with Scripture in their own language. Each church has a sign that carries its name and contact information. The staff have uniforms, t-shirts, and anorak with the logo (emblem) of the Diocese of Egypt.

### **3. Organizing the Anglican Church in Ethiopia**

A General Assembly was established that is composed by elected members from the different churches. This Assembly meets every 2 years. A Standing Committee was also formed in order to support the ministry of Bishop Andrew. Job descriptions, staff manuals, policies and ways of communications were developed. Eleven (11) mission centres were developed. Each mission centre is the largest church (i.e. the mother church) of several churches within a geographical area and is responsible for continuous TEE and evangelism within the area.

### **4. Community Services**

Following in the steps of Jesus who went around doing good, Andrew & Janice have a great desire to serve the whole community. This started by the library at St. Matthew's. Now there is another library in Addis Ababa. Each of these two libraries have one thousand students registered, who use the library frequently. Another much bigger library was established in Gambella as part of the Anglican Centre in Gambella. Literacy classes, conflict-resolution and peacemaking seminars were done, as well as training and equipping of youth.

I came back from Ethiopia thanking God for this great harvest and for Andrew & Janice.

May the Lord bless you!

Yours in Christ,

+ Mouneer Egypt

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