Think and Do

Annual Report 2023

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."

(Acts 20:35, NIV)

A lasting legacy is built through selflessness and serving others. Making a positive difference in the lives of others leave behind a legacy of compassion and generosity, and that is exactly what Jesus was doing in every step He took, as a full God and full human among other sinful humans.
After all, what really matters is how much we become like Jesus!

Vocational Training

- **Vocational Training Center in the Oasis**

Think and Do held 4 courses at the Oasis, where 156 trainees were trained in 6 different vocations: barbering, car driving, mobile phone maintenance, hairdressing, air conditioning, and sewing. By following up with the trainees, we knew that 112 trainees had worked with the vocations they learned, 31 had worked with another vocation while 13 were not working or could not be reached. We thank God that 111 trainees accepted Jesus as personal Savior. A variety of spiritual and social topics were presented in the daily discussion times, which aimed to build the personalities of the trainees. We followed up with the trainees through the visits to encourage and help them to solve any problems that could hinder their progress.

- **Romany** from Al-Bayadia, has two children, and was a daily wage worker, and his work was hard and not stable. He heard about Think & Do, and decided to learn mobile maintenance. He opened his own microenterprise after finishing the training, saying "Thanks to God this small project is enough for me and my family, now I can spend on the house expenses, and satisfy my family needs. I thank Think & Do, and encourage everybody to go and learn a vocation at the Oasis."

- **Local courses using mobile training units**

  We held 35 local vocational training courses in Sohag, Assiut, and Cairo. A total of 334 people were trained in 7 different vocations including sewing, hairdressing, barbering, Hard Gel, mobile maintenance, leather products, and housekeeping.

- **Sandy** is from Al-Bergaya, she knew about Think & Do's vocational training service from her church. She wanted to learn a vocation to help herself and her family after her father was exposed to a fraud and lost his house. They are now living in her grandpa house in Saft Al-Laban in Minya. She said "I learnt the skills of hairdressing and bought the tool kit in order to start my small project and meet some of our needs. Some of my neighbours came to me and this helped me to generate income to help my father in his difficult situation."
- **Remon** from a village in Upper Egypt is 31 years old, married with kids, and he went with his friend to learn driving to issue a driving license and increase his income. He said "When I came here, God changed me, I heard about forgiveness, and decided to forgive my brothers who took my share of money, after I was planning to avenge for myself. I also learnt driving and when I come back home, I will issue a driving license and commit to do the means of grace." Remon got the driving license and he is now working on a car and his income increased. He reconciled with his brothers after a long time of enmity.
- **Mario** and his friend **Antonious** from Malawy center came to learn mobile maintenance to open a mobile maintenance shop together. "We opened a shop for selling mobiles and maintenance back in our center." They also knew the value of living for Christ and according to the Bible. The team visited them later and found that they opened mobile shops. They are also attending the church regularly.

Computer Courses

- The computer department offered 4 secretarial diplomas to a total of 36 girls, each lasting 3 months to enable the fresh graduate girls to find jobs; in addition to discussions on important topics for building their personalities and their careers.
- They also presented 1 ICDL course to 8 girls, lasting 3 months.
- 6 courses including Photoshop, InDesign, Montage, Advanced PowerPoint and a course in computer maintenance were presented to 30 trainees.
- Holding a training day on Stress Management attended by 25 trainees.

- Following up with the past trainees, through a gathering day for 15 trainees.
- The trainees were also supported psychologically to cope with their hard life circumstances. In addition to supporting them physically by holding a small exhibition selling clothes to them with nominal prices. Some of them took personal counselling and we also helped them to find jobs after finishing the courses.
  - ❖ **Emy** is a housewife, and she didn't know anything about computer. If she needed to do something for her service in the church, she always asked her kids for help. The kids of course were very busy and they didn't do what she needed on time. When she first came to the course, she started from scratch and began to know how to make a PowerPoint presentation and write on Word, in addition to searching the internet for any topic. She stopped asking her kids to help her as now she knows how to do it herself.

Life School

- The project aimed to reach 180 women who have dropped out of school and whose rights have been violated by their families and society. The students learn life skills to equip them to face all aspects of life and to bring change to their communities. Those women are mainly from Upper Egypt, and are struggling to have the bare minimum of life basics. These life schools were opened in the villages of Sharona, Abou Rihan and Berdanoha attended by 180 women including 60 women from Berdanoha who studied a second level which is harder than the first level.
- The project included training on some vocational skills such as sewing, cooking, hairdressing to enable women to work with the vocation they learnt and generate income to help their families. Also, they teach the women reading, writing and basic numeracy. It had also a great influence on fighting the bad habits, the ignorance in the poor villages through the awareness sessions.
- The school also included awareness program in some important topics and a spiritual time which had a great impact on the students.
- 15 students enrolled in the admission test to enter the school to be enrolled in 1st preparatory (equivalent to grade 7) and 12 of them succeeded in the test.
- A hepatitis C analysis was carried out for all the students and 8 of them were infected and received the proper treatment at the government expenses.
  - ❖ My name is **Asmaa**, from the village of Sharona, I am 28 years old, married and have children. I was so depressed feeling that I have to do something valuable in my life. My

husband and some neighbours tried to push me to reject the school but I insisted to go to learn. I used to punish my son by slapping him on his face and I was thinking that this is good for him to be polite but I realized that I was hurting him and putting an obstacle in our relationship. In the life school, I learned to read and write, to cook new healthy meals for my family, to use the sewing machine, to use the hairdryer and the hair styles, to be clean in my house and take care of my children's health. I started to help my children in their lessons. I started to listen more than talking, stop speaking loudly and put boundaries in my relationships. I bought a sewing machine after learning how to use it in the school and I learned how to sew clothes and I started to generate income from this skill. Now I am full of hope believing that the future will be better. I have been so happy when I learned the skills and I felt that I am special and every time I learn something new in the life school, I feel I am more special. I am grateful to everyone, helped me to change to become better person.

Village Workers

We thank the Lord for continuing to deliver the message of Jesus to the needy people. Following are the achievements of the village workers in Minya, Sohag and Assiut governorates during 2023:

- 871 people were graduated from 52 leadership training schools last year.
- 115 trainees graduated from 5 training of trainers' schools (TOT) to become trainers and run leadership schools in their villages.
- At least At least 1102 people discipled through 105 new cell groups.
- Opening 32 new places for ministry.
- Running 251 home meetings where more than 2751 people attended.
- Organizing 50 medical outreaches to examine 2471 people.
- Around 34,232 people reached through the home visits, 27,234 through 449 spiritual days and 31,995 through 383 evangelistic outreaches.
- 19,183 people raised their awareness through holding 457 seminars discussing social and spiritual topics.
- 6,360 new home visits and opening 62 new meetings in the churches.
- 6,268 preaching opportunities attended by 162,517 people.
- Distributing 1002 Bibles, 2753 New Testaments, and 60,226 tracts.

- **Isaac** is 25 years old from a poor village, he had many problems with his parents. He insulted his mother, stole money, and took some personal things that belong to his mother. He then travelled to Cairo and befriended some bad friends, that taught him some bad behaviors. One of the servants visited them and told them the story of the lost son, and Isaac found a lot of similarities between him and the lost son. He prayed with the servant and reconciled with his parents, and now he attends the youth meeting. He completely changed because he accepted Jesus in his heart.

Children's ministry

- Visited 1080 children in 11 hospitals and distributing gifts and sweets.
- 8 visits to Helwan orphanage, where we served around 60 girls through offering counselling and spiritual support. 15 of them were trained on sewing vocation. Went with the 60 girls to a big Christian event where they heard the Salvation message.
- 7 visits to Bar Al-Aman orphanage in Ain Shams, serving 10 boys aging from 5 to 12 years old.
- 6 visits to Bait Al-Nazeer orphanage in the 1st settlement, serving 12 girls aging from 7 to 14 years old.
- Organized a conference at our conference center in the Oasis for 75 girls from different orphanages where they heard the Salvation message, worshipped and prayed together and enjoyed making handcrafts, playing games and having fun in the swimming pool.
- Holding an evangelical outreach for 450 Sudanese children in Al-Hagana and Ezbet Al-Nakhl.
  - During visiting an orphanage, we gave the kids some scraps written on it some of the psychological needs of the children (hug-love-care). Each child had to take a scrap and express himself through this need in front of the social workers. The social workers discovered the real needs of the children, and were surprised and prayed for repentance for not taking enough care of the children and vowed to God that they will try to fulfil each child's need by God's support.

Preschools

The role of the preschool department is to raise the level of the children by presenting the Montessori curriculum that addresses the 5 senses of the child to the teachers, and offering an awareness curriculum for the parents through workshops, family counselling to help them raise a healthier child.

- We held 7 trainings for 90 preschool teachers on Montessori curriculum in addition to the spiritual curriculum called “the seeds”, these trainings included 26 preschools.
- We held 15 follow up visits to 6 nurseries to help them in overcoming some of the obstacles they face and offer our advices to sustain the positive relationships.

- We held 10 awareness seminars attended by 530 parents. We presented different topics. The seminars included 9 preschools.
- We did 33 communications and visits to promote our work and open new areas.
- We organized one refreshing day attended by 9 teachers representing 3 nurseries.

❖ **Mary** went to the Montessori training just for knowledge, but then she felt she has a calling to help the children in slums and very poor places, where the parents hit the children and use violence with them. She searched for a place in a slum area in Fasel, and opened a nursery there. Within two months, the children began to improve, they sing good songs, and learn good values and behaviors. In addition, she regularly holds awareness seminars for the parents, with the help of Think & Do’s team.

Church Lending Services for Female Headed Households

The project aims to empower female headed households, whether they are widows or women who are responsible for their households to live with dignity and be able to fulfill their main family needs and be able to educate their children. The project helps these women by giving them church lending services to start their own microenterprises as a source of income for their families and to be successful in managing their projects. The local committees play a big role in helping this project to succeed. During 2023 we helped 297 women in Minya and Sohag governorates, through providing them lending services, whether to start new microenterprises or to develop old ones.

- 12 local committees encouraged the communities to share in this project.
- 5 women received vocational training in hard gel in Sohag, in order to start microenterprises to be a source of income for their families. The 5 women have already started their own projects.
- The project helped 33 women in receiving medications or doing tests and radiations.
- Holding a training day for the local committees in Minya and some of the team, attended by 12 people, tackling the topic of how to use different resources.
- Cooperating with Nahdet Masr Association for the 4th year to help the women in Al-Abadia village.
- Holding a seminar for 38 women in Bani Ahmed Al-Gharbia village, to talk about how to treat our children.

❖ **Aida** is 46, with 2 children. She wanted to help her husband in the house expenses, and her house is unfurnished. She took the 1st amount through lending service, and bought a little calve and two sheep. She began breeding them to sell them, and from the profit she furnished part of the house. She then took a 2nd amount to breed other cattle, and from the profit, she built a second floor for her children to marry in. She then took 3rd one, and furnished the rest of the house. She is a very active and smart woman, and wants to invest in her microenterprise because it positively affected her and her children.

Saft El Laban project

Saft El Laban project is aiming for integrated development in the village through various activities including strengthening the church. During 2023, we presented awareness to 300 women and helped them through the lending services.

❖ **Remonda** is married with 2 kids, and is working in one of the associations in the village. She attended an awareness seminar and realized the roots of her problem. She had a difficulty in putting boundaries in her relationship with others. She found out that this problem was originally caused because of the way she was raised up in. She said “this problem negatively affected my family, my character and my relationships.” She also learnt how to emphasize her rights and put boundaries to herself first and then to others. “It was difficult in the beginning and took me a long time to do it, but at the end it had a good impact on me, my family, and my relationships.”

El Nozha Community Center

The building is a tool to express compassion for the poor and the needy people who live in this poor area.

- The Nursery received around 45 children this year, and we have a garden for the nursery in 1st floor. We offer a lunch meal to the children, celebrate their birthdays, offer a dental examination to all children and organize with

the health units providing the children with the vaccinations.

- Furnishing a computer lap for computer courses.
- Distributing clothes for free for the poor people in the area including the Sudanese, in addition to some blankets and mattresses.
- Held medical outreaches helping more than 260 individuals, including breast cancer examination and awareness, gynecology, internal medicine, pediatric specialty and giving them the prescribed medications for free. In addition, 50 people had different tests done for free.
- 3791 sacks of food were distributed to the poor families and the Sudanese of al-Nozha.
- Holding a weekly meeting for the Sudanese, while holding the women's meeting 4 times a week. In addition to the Sunday school service, and distributing 3000 pictured Bibles for the children and organizing summer activities for 10 sequent days.

- Holding 3 outreaches for 3 days for the Sudanese in Misr El Gadida and distributing 90 meals, 30 blankets, and distributing bibles to all of them.
- Holding 10 vocational training courses for 93 trainees in sewing, hairdressing, barbering, and patchwork.
- Organizing 3 literacy classes for 36 women to have literacy certificates at the end of the course.

Ministry to abused women: "Mahbouba Shelter"

The aim of the shelter is to receive girls or women who were exposed to sexual abuse and violations or abused by their families and work on rehabilitating those girls psychologically, spiritually and physically. We helped 9 girls and women during 2023.

- **Taline** (fake name) was 32 years old when she first came to the shelter, and she was working as a teacher. She was exposed to sexual abuse from her fiancé, and then he left her afterwards and married another girl. Later the girl entered sexual relationships with other guys. She hated herself and her skin, this was the impact of the words of her toxic fiancé "you are only good at sex". Her relationship with God was broken, as she doesn't know where was He when all of this happened to her. The first month was very hard, as she at first refused to stay in the shelter. Her church prayed a lot for her which had a miraculous impact, as the girl now completed one year in the shelter. She learnt how to have a relationship with the loving God, who was closer to her than she imagined, and was there in all the details. She loves herself, and puts boundaries and has healthy, pure, and

powerful relationships. She graduated in December 2023. And she is very grateful to the shelter, and now she is working as a social worker in the shelter.

The Oasis:

- Mora then 130 events were held in the Oasis, attended by 9000 people.
- Recording 3 episodes of The Virtuous Woman program that is broadcasted on Al-Karma channel.
- Hosting the conference of the Collège des Frères Middle East and The Bible Society conference and High School Youth Committee.
- Hosting educational trips as Ramses College trip and the Catholic schools.
- Planting wheat, peas, carrots, string beans, beans, garlic, lemon, and tangerine.

- Planting clover and Jojoba with the sewage water.
- Renewing the wall paintings of the hotel and building B, renewing the hotel's curtains, and currently renewing the doors' painting of the hotel.
- Increasing the number of the chairs in the restaurant to 300 chairs, and installing elevators for buildings B & C.

Blessed indeed to give more than to receive, these stories are the proof that your generous donations, dear friends, had done a great impact in the lives of their receivers, and they gave the glory to God, who is the provider for us all.

Think and Do
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