Introduction Egypt

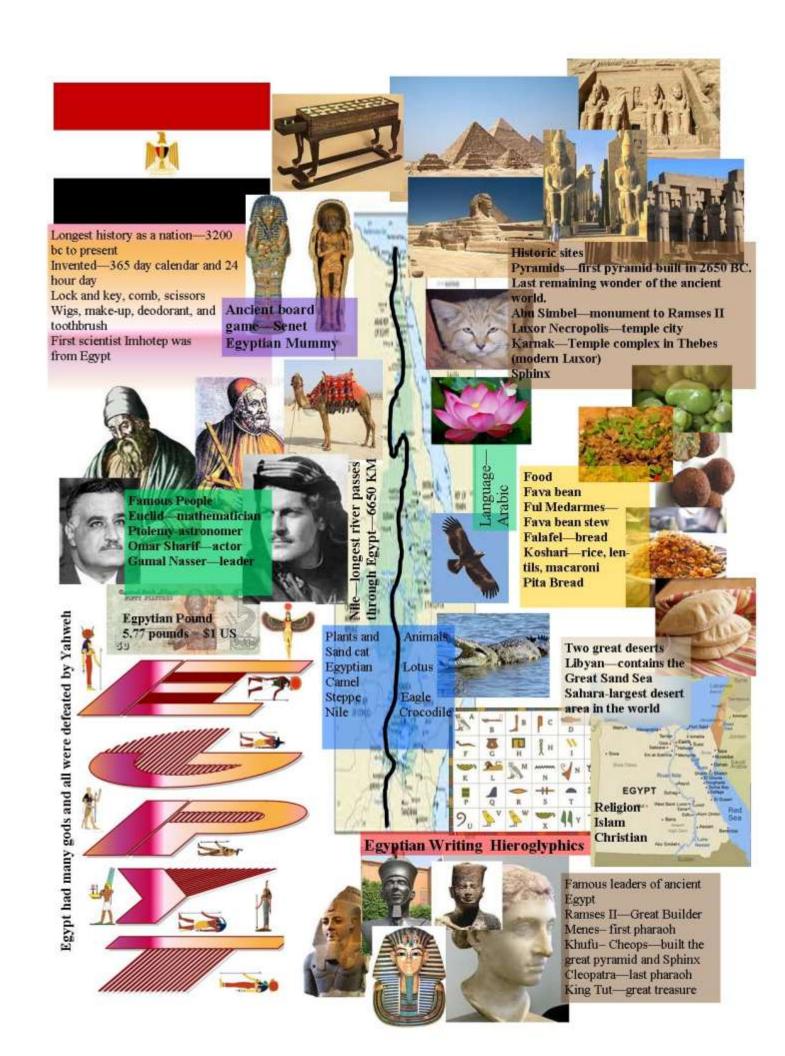
The Wesleyan church started in Egypt through a missionary who came from the Standard Church in 1919. He came to Nekhela village of Assuit in Upper Egypt. The Standard Church grew to include 25 churches around the country. Then it joined with the Wesleyan Church in 2007.

The work has slowed in this land because of the bad financial and political conditions of the country. But our work focuses on serving the children through Sunday Schools. Also we try to send the message of Jesus Christ to those who are outside the church. We do this by giving them some gifts and aid during the Feasts, at Christmas, and when

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school open. For example: at Christmas we buy some new clothes for the children. At the beginning of the school year we pay the school fees for them and also buy school supplies. We support some families who have special needs, especially those who have lost their father.





Sunday Schools

The Sunday school ministry is an effective ministry in our church. God blesses the children through this ministry. It declares the word of God to the children in a simple way. It teaches them to share this with their parents or their friends. In summer the children are very excited because our Sunday services offer several activities.

Also there is something called the summer bible school. This bible school has a program. Every day there is a topic and this makes the children very excited about attending and they don't want to miss a day. At the end of the bible school we have a party and invite the parents and we tell them what we did throughout the summer. We encourage them to attend the church. The children are always very happy because their parents came and because they received presents. This party encourages the children very much and the bible school helps them to know God the good Father.

Also we visit those children in their homes, not only to encourage the children, but also to encourage their families to know God and to tell them that we care about their sons and daughters and we pray for them all the time. Also we tell them that the church is the safest place for their children, especially these days. The children learn about God, how to deal with the world, how to solve their problems in a correct way, how to love and respect their parents, and how to live with God.

There are a lot of children who grew up in Sunday school and now they are working in this ministry. They are skilled in working with the new children and they teach them how to be effective for the sake of God's glory. We have seen God' hands through this ministry, He touches children's lives and they grow up to touch the lives of others.

Memory Activity

Daniel 3:29c "...there is no other god who can rescue like this."

Give each child a blank piece of paper and different colored crayons. Have each child cover the paper with various colors - except black. Color over the colors using a black crayon, making it as dark as possible.

Have each child use a Popsicle stick to scratch the verse on top of the black color. The verse will appear in bright colors.

Bible Lesson

Daniel 3:8-30

We learned that the country of Egypt has had many, many gods, but all of them were defeated by the One True God. In this Bible story, we will see how a very proud king learned about the True God from three young men who chose to obey Him rather than man.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were young men who believed in God. But, the king had a huge statue built and wanted everyone to bow down in front of this statue and worship it. (Read Daniel 3:1 to explain how big the statue was.) What were these young men to do? They knew they could not bow down to an idol and worship it. That would be against God's commandment. (Can anyone recite the first commandment? Exodus 20:3.)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the statue. When the king heard this, he became very angry. He had the fire in a furnace heated seven times hotter than normal and had the three men tied up and thrown into the fire. It was so hot that those who threw them into the fire were burned up! The King stood by and watched. He wanted to see those men burn because of their disobedience to him. Suddenly, he jumped up in surprise. "Why do I see four men walking around in the fire?" he asked. (Who do you think the fourth person was? Daniel 3:25).

The King went to the door of the furnace and called the three to come out. They had not been harmed by the fire. Their hair was not burned, their clothes were not burned, and they didn't even smell like smoke. God had protected them from death.

What do you think the King did next? Do you think he became even angrier? No, the Bible says that he praised the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He realized that it was their God who had saved them. And, he realized that the three young men had decided to disobey his orders because they loved their God so much and knew that He could protect them.

The King gave an order that all people, of every nation, race or language should not speak disrespectfully of the true God. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were witnesses that day to the King. They knew they had to obey God, rather than man, and God used them to teach the King about who God is and how great He is.

Catch the Stick is an Egyptian children's game which requires quick thinking and good co-ordination.

Equipment: one stick for each player (about 1.5 metres/5 feet long)



Time: 5-10 minutes per round

Aim: To catch the next stick on your right before it falls down.



1. Players form a large circle, with about 5 paces between each player. Players must hold their sticks upright in front of them with one end touching the ground and the sticks held towards the middle of the circle



2. The leader calls out the word 'Change'. Everyone lets go of their stick with it remaining balanced. They run to the next stick on their right and try to catch it before it falls to the ground.



3. If a player fails to catch their neighbour's stick before it falls to the ground they are out of the game and take the stick with them.



4. The circle is reduced in size to remove the gaps and make it easier for all players to compete fairly.



5. The winner is the player who is left after everyone else's sticks have fallen.



[Variation - All children around a table and each has a straw instead of a stick]





- 1. Peace in the country
- 2. More resources for ongoing ministry
- 3. Ministries to the poor in the country
- 4. Opportunities for more evangelism
- 5. That the people will have a vision to lead people to Jesus

Activity

