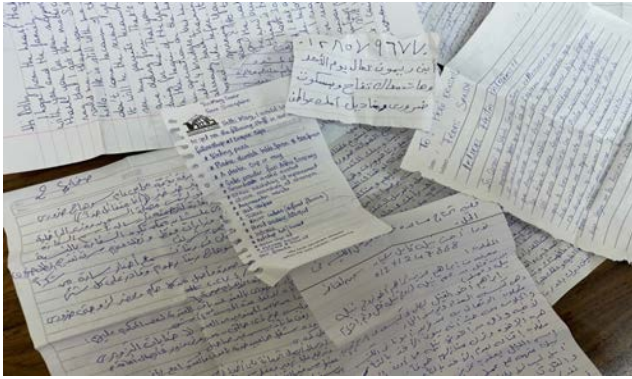


PRISON MINISTRY

CAIRO, EGYPT



Kanater Prison houses both men and women, Egyptian and non-Egyptian. The prison authorities provide less than half of the inmate's needs, as it is partially expected that their families will provide for some of their basic needs. The Prison Ministry of the Diocese of Egypt focuses on non-Egyptians who do not have family to provide these basic needs, stepping in as the church and becoming their family.

For more than 15 years, members of the Diocese of Egypt have travelled once a week to visit Kanater Prison. They help to meet material needs through providing basic food supplies, medicine, clothes and blankets, as well as pastoral support, sharing the Gospel, and praying with the prisoners. For example, we bottle the soap in our Diocese with the help of volunteers (picture on the right) and put them along with the rest of the supplies to be delivered.



The Diocese of Egypt does not only provide internal support to the prisoners – our reverend and volunteers help with creating an external connection between the prisoners and the world. In the first picture, we see an example of letters given to us by the prisoners to deliver to their families. Moreover, we help them get in touch with their embassies (if non-Egyptian), and always try to connect them with legal aid if needed.

Recently, the prison warden was so impressed with the work being done and the effects it has had on the general atmosphere of the prison, that he provided a hall for our reverend to be able to have Christian meetings comfortably. Considering Egypt is a Muslim country, this was a big deal – and it made a huge difference with the prisoners in feeling respected and cared for. In those meetings, they fill out a “service answers” sheet (to the right) where they rethink and summarize what they learned during the prayer service. Their answers always blow us away.

