

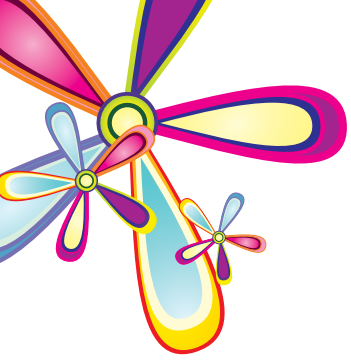


Mahragan Alkeraza

2011



English Edition
SK



H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Pope of Alexandria



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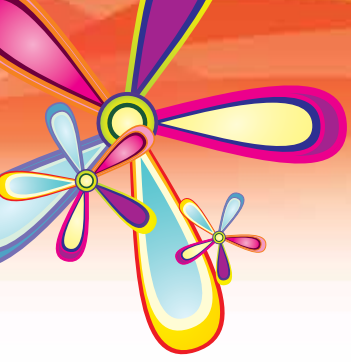
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INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2010

Through the Grace of God, the prayers of H.H. Pope Shendouda III and the guidance and blessings of H.G. Bishop Moussa, Bishop of youth, we are pleased to invite you to take part in the world's largest Christian competition with over a million participants from all parts of the world.

This year's Mahragan is promising to be another truly amazing experience for all participants. This event will include Coptic churches from all around the world.

Last year, around a million contestants participated in the Mahragan competitions, and about 106,000 participants from all age groups completed the final round of competition activities.

This included participants from Egypt, Sudan, and the Lands of Immigration (who represented about 10% of the total number of participants). His Holiness Pope Shenouda III honoured all by handing out trophies to the first place winners of the Mahragan Alkeraza 2009.

His Holiness was pleased with the work done in this service thanking the bishops, priests and servants who were responsible for making it happen.

The Mahragan material was translated from Arabic to several languages including English, French, German... etc. Children accounted for about 50% of all participants.

May the Lord use these activities for the glory of His Holy Name, in Egypt and abroad.

Always Faithful

The following are some suggested dates:

- Participants Registration Start Date: May 1st, 2010
- Expected Opening Ceremonies of the Mahragan: May 30th, 2010
- Participants Registration Closing Date: June 27th, 2010
- Expected Church-level Competitions: July - August, 2010



- Expected Regional-level Competitions: September 11th, 2010
- Expected National-Level Competitions: September 18th, 2010

Competition Rules

The Mahragan competition this year consists of seven age group:

1. SK – Grade 2
2. Grades 3 & 4
3. Grades 5 & 6 (Same book as Gr. 3 & 4)
4. Grades 7 & 8
5. Grades 9 & 10 (Same book as Gr. 7 & 8)
6. Grades 11 - University / English Adults
7. Arabic Speaking adults

The Competitions will be conducted at three different levels:

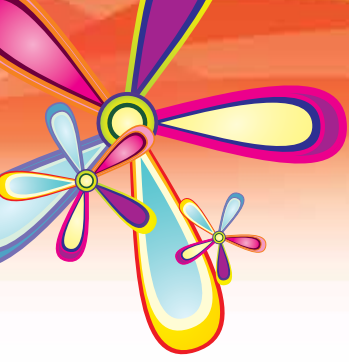
1. Church Level: This will be a team competition where each group will consist of 3 to 7 participants.
2. Regional Level: This will be a competition between the churches in each region. The top participants at the Church Level competitions will be invited to participate at the Regional Level.
3. National Level: This will be a competition between the regions. Top participants at the Regional Level competitions will be invited to participate at the National Level.

The spiritual competition, which is mandatory for all participants, includes 5 sections covering Bible, Dogmas and Church studies in addition to memorization.

Additionally, ten optional activities and sports competitions are also organized based on the age group of the participants. They are:

1. I am seeking my brothers
2. Research
3. Hymns & Tasbeha





4. Coptic Language
 5. Drama & Mime
 6. Praise & Music
 7. Arts
 8. Creative Writing
 9. Multimedia & Technology
 10. Sports
- Participants may choose to join different groups for each of the different activities and sports competitions available for their age group, based on their interests.
 - Members of competing groups must be of the same age group.
 - The Regional Level competitions and National Level competitions will be held on the second and the third weekend of September respectively (timetable to be confirmed and published at a later date.)

Anba Moussa, General Bishop

✙
My best wishes for a happy
and fruitful Festival

✙ Bishop Moussa
13 Feb 2010





In this book the spiritual material is divided as follows:

1. Faithfulness of my Heart: We must all love everybody with all our hearts and pray for our mom and dad, our brothers and sisters and everybody we meet.

2. Faithfulness inside my Church: As a son or daughter of our Father Jesus Christ we should be on our best behaviour in his house at all times. We will know how amazing and deep the prayers of our Church are.

3. Faithfulness with my Talents: I have many talents and gifts that God has given me to do. I should use them and practise them very well to make our Lord Jesus very happy with me.

4. Faithfulness with my family: We are all brothers and sisters with everybody we meet. We must help and care for everybody around us. When God sees this, he will give us many blessings and bring great joy to our hearts.

5. Faithfulness with all others: We must be faithful all the time and in everything we do. Many of the saints were faithful in small and big things. We have to be like them and be faithful in all that the Lord gives us to do.

May the Lord bless and encourage this work, which is blessed by His Holiness Pope Shenouda the Third and his partners in the service the bishops, priests, servants and all those who laboured in Mahragan Alkeraza. May God bless this service with the prayers of our beloved shepherd, His Holiness Pope Shenouda. May God bless you all!



1-THROUGH CHRIST EVERYTHING WAS CREATED

The Blue Colour -

Every Sunday Fady takes his Sunday school kids out to a different place where they can play and have fun. He also prepares nice surprises for them. This time, the surprise was the place they are going to.



Fady: Let's go kids! We're here, this is a very nice place where you can play and have lots of fun.

Maria: Wow! What a beautiful place! See all these colours... the flowers, the trees, and the water flowing.

Kids: Yes, this is really beautiful!

Marko: Who made this place?

Maria: Let's take a picture together here. But before we take the picture, let me get my sketchbook and crayons to draw this beautiful place.

Marko: Oh! I like your crayons... when you take them out of your bag they start playing and jumping. They are full of fun!

Maria: What do you think? We will start with the colour pink. It's my favourite. But where did it go? It was just here. Pinky... Pinky... Where are you?

Pinky: I'm here Maria. I am with Brushy the brush... she's in charge of guarding the Grey City.

Brushy: How are you Maria?

Maria: Do you know me?





Brushy: Of course I know you. All your playful crayons are my friends. They told me about your beautiful drawings.

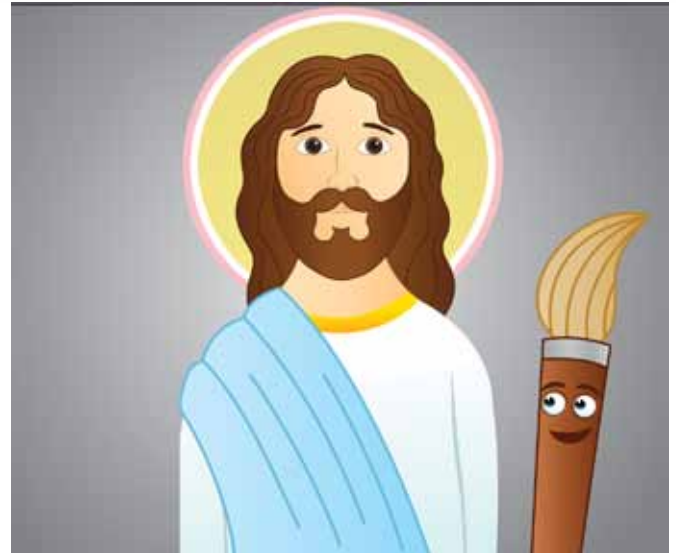
Marko: Is your name Brushy? That's a beautiful name!

Maria: Sorry, I forgot to introduce you to each other... Brushy, this is my brother Marko, he likes to colour just like me.

Marko: Can you tell us what this big gate is?

Brushy: This is the gate of the Grey City.

Maria: Brushy, can we please go and see what's inside?



Marko is pulling Maria, he is scared.

Marko: No, no Maria... I'm scared! I don't want to go inside. Let's leave this place.

Maria: Don't be scared Marko, it seems like a beautiful place.

Marko goes in while holding Maria's hand.

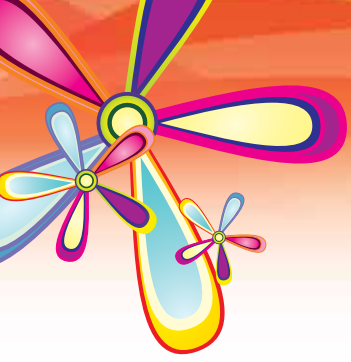
Marko: What is this? Why is everything here grey? And

why is nothing moving?

Maria: Marko wait! Do you see the colours in the picture over there?

Marko: Wow! That's a picture of our Lord Jesus, it is very beautiful! Did you draw it Brushy?





Brushy: Yep, and I also coloured it.

Maria: But why didn't you colour the rest of the city instead of leaving it grey like that?

Brushy: Let me tell you my story. There was once a very nice artist, he liked to draw and colour very beautiful pictures. One day, he took me and drew this beautiful picture of Jesus and then he left. Now I'm here, all by myself and although I have colours, I can't do anything without the hand of the artist.

Maria: Where are those colours? Everything here is grey and boring.

Brushy: You know... the painter told me a secret. The colours in Jesus' picture have life in them.



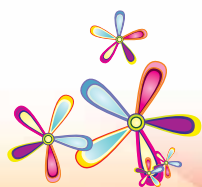
Maria & Marko: *The colours have life?*

Marko: You mean that if we take colours from that picture and colour anything in the city it will move and have life?

Brushy: Of course! Maria, hold me and take some of the blue from that picture and put it in the water.

Maria takes some of the blue colour (from Our Lord Jesus' cloth) and puts it on the water.

Maria: Oh! Look Marko! The water is moving.





Fish jumps in and out of the water, looking very happy and starts talking.

Maria & Marko: What? The fish talks! How is she talking?

Fish: How did you colour the water?

Brushy: My friends took the colour blue from the picture of Jesus that is over there and put it in the water.



The Story of the Creation Genesis 1

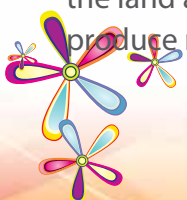
Fish: Let me tell you the story about how I came to be. It was God Who created me. Through Him all things were created, and now He is giving me a new life.

Maria & Marko: What do you mean by “through Him all things were created”?

Fish: I mean He created the heavens, the earth and the plants. He also created you and me.

Marko: He created you and me? What did He create first?

Fish: Because He loves us, He created the blue sky and the sea where I live. Because He loves us, He created the land and the mountains and made the land produce many types of fruits and veggies. Because He





loves us, He created the sun to light the day and the moon to light the night. So why did He create all of this?

Maria & Marko: Of course because He loves us!

Fish: That's right! Because He loves us, He created me and all the other fishes in the waters. He also created many different kinds of birds.

Marko: Do you know when the cats, the rabbits, and all the other animals were created?



Fish: After God created me, He created all the living creatures that move on the earth.

Maria: Oh cool! So God created the heavens and the earth, the fish, the birds and all the animals? But when did He create me, my brother Marko and all the other people?

Fish: Because God loves you so much, and so after He prepared everything first, then He created man in His own image. He gave him power over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

Maria: Oh wow! How great is God's love for us! He made everything for our sake to make us happy. I love You Jesus!. We have to thank Him for everything He has done for us and because He created us in His own image.

On day one, God said, "Let there be light." God called the light day, and the darkness He called night.

On day two, God made the sky.

On day three, God separated the land from the waters and created the flowers, the trees, and the grass.

On day four, God made the sun, the moon, and the stars.

On day five, the birds and the fish were created.

On day six, God made the animals and then He made people to be like Him. He named the man "Adam", and Adam named his wife "Eve".



MEMORY VERSE

"How many are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You have made them all."
Psalm 104:24



2-JESUS TOOK OUR BODY AND BECAME MAN FOR ME

The Colour Brown

Maria: Marko, let's colour something else.

Marko: How about if we colour the cow that's over there?

Maria: Okay, I will take some of the brown from Jesus' picture and colour it.

Marko takes the brush away from Maria

Marko: I want to colour this time.

Maria: Why not me? I want to colour!

Marko: No, I want to colour!

Maria: Don't take the brush from me!

Brushy: Take it easy, please!

The story of the nativity Luke 2:8-20



The brush flew in the air and landed on the cow that was in the manger and coloured it.

Manger: Ouch!

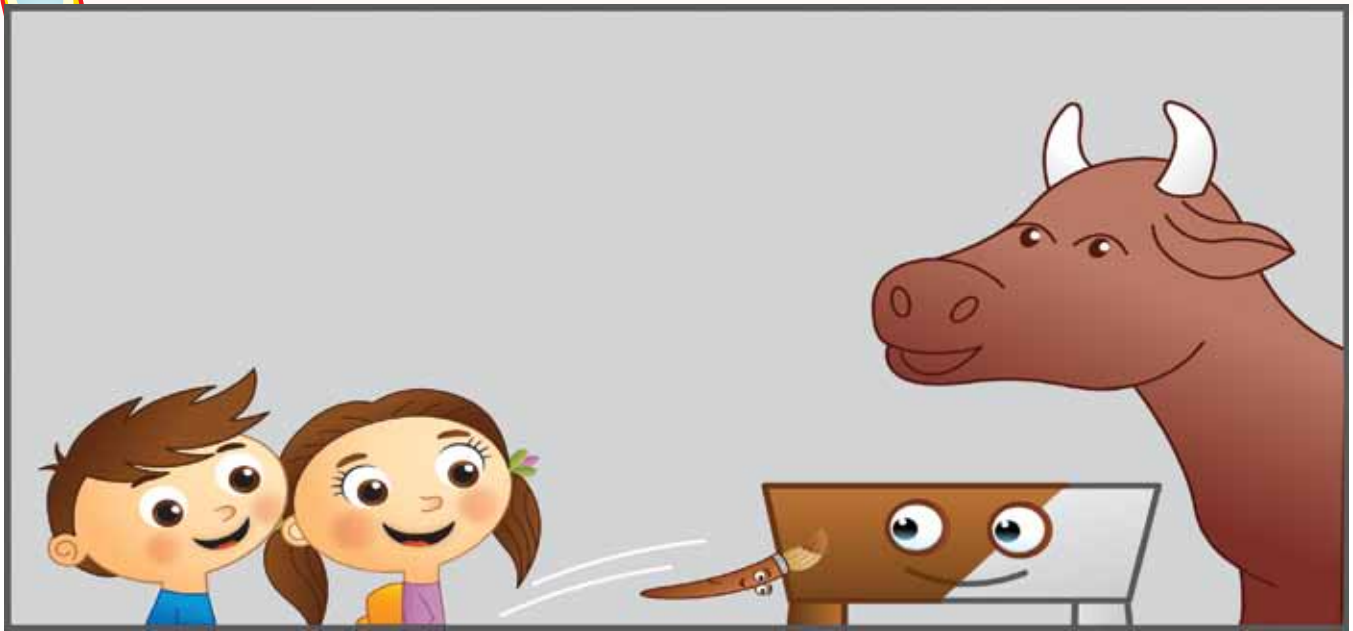
Cow: MOOOOOO!

Brushy: Sorry!

Marko: Wow! The cow is moving and the manger is talking!

Cow: Who throw the brush at me?





Maria: It wasn't me!

Marko: We're sorry, we did not mean to bother you.

Maria: I'm Maria, this is my brother Marko and we are Brushy's friends.

Cow: I am Cow and this is my manger. I used to eat here every day until something strange happened...

Marko: What happened?

Cow: For a long time I used to come every morning and eat the straw that was in the manger. Until one day...

When Cow finished talking, Manger opened his eyes.

Manger: I saw an old man putting lots of straw inside me and a beautiful girl putting a baby on it. Do you guys know who that beautiful girl was?

Maria: Of course, Saint Mary!

Marko: She gave birth to Jesus, whose picture is over there.

Cow: I will never forget that day! Suddenly, all the animals gathered around the manger. The shepherds



came to worship the baby with lots of joy. When they saw Him, they told the story of how the angel appeared to them while keeping watch over their sheep at night. The angel told them "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord" Luke 2:11 (Memory Verse)

Manger: They praised God and everybody rejoiced with the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The sheep and Cow were happy too.

Marko: Wow! How is that possible? Our Lord Jesus, the King of kings was born in a manger? Wasn't He supposed to be born in a palace or something?

Manger: You know... when Jesus was born and they put Him in me, I felt that I was very important. After being just a simple manger that went unnoticed, everyone started coming to me because baby Jesus made me valuable when He was born here.

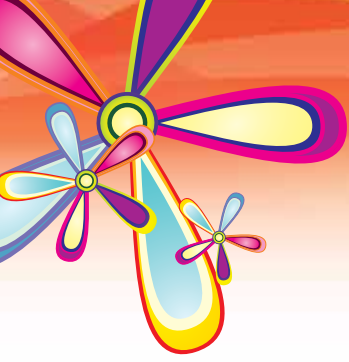
Cow: You guys are so lucky! Baby Jesus loves you so much. Let's praise Him.



MEMORY VERSE

"My soul magnifies the Lord" Luke 1:46





Maria: I will use the same praise like St. Mary when baby Jesus was still in her womb. "My soul magnifies the

Marko: I had a lot fun with you guys!

Brushy: Maria and Marko, can you come with me? We need to finish colouring the whole city.

Maria: Okay! Just tell us where to go.



3-IT IS JESUS WHO FEEDS ME

The Color White



Brushy: We finished colouring half the city. Now let's finish colouring the other half.

Maria: How can we get to the other side when there's lots of water in our way?

Marko: We don't know how to swim, what are we going to do?

Brushy: Don't worry guys, there's a boat over there.

Maria: Yeah, that's great Brushy! Let's take some of the white from Jesus' picture to colour the boat.

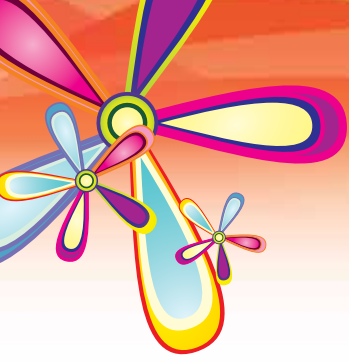


Marko: That's right Maria, we can use the white to color the boat which will come to life and take us to the other side.

Brushy: Maria, what are you doing? You took white and yellow; we only need white for the boat, why did you take the yellow?

Marko: That's Okay, we will use the white for the boat for now and I'm sure we will





need the yellow for something else sooner or later.

Boat: Thank you guys for colouring me.

Brushy: You're welcome. Can you please take us to the other side of the shore?

Boat: Of course. Come on in, I will take you there right away.

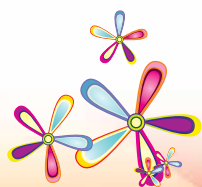
Marko: Maria look, what is that?

Maria & Marko: Oh! It's a fishing net.

Marko: Maria, let's throw the net and try to catch some fish.

Maria: Okay, I will throw it from the right side of the boat.

Boat: Throw the net from the right side...Hmmm... you just reminded me of what happened a long time ago at the Sea of Tiberius with Jesus' disciples.





Brushy: Please Boat, tell us the story.

Jesus feeds the disciples at the Sea of Tiberius.

John 21:1-14

Boat: After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection from the dead, Peter decided to go fishing and six of the disciples went with him. They spent the whole night fishing but they did not catch anything. Not even a single fish!

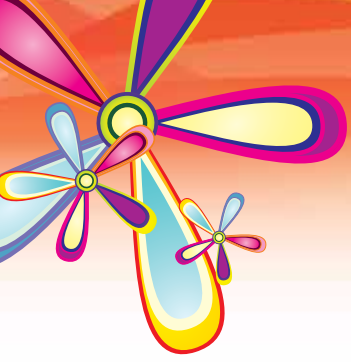
Maria: Oh! The poor disciples, they must have been so tired. What happened next?

Boat: Don't worry Maria, they were Jesus' disciples and He loved them so much, he would have never left them sad or in need.

Marko: What do you mean He would have never left them? Does that mean He came to them? Is that even possible?

Boat: Yes it's possible, He went to them. In the morning they found Him standing on the shore and He said





to them "Children, have you any food?" They answered "No" and so He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat".

Maria: Did they?

Boat: Of course they did. They caught so much fish that they had to drag the net to the shore since it was too heavy to put on the boat. When they came back to the shore, they found that Jesus had prepared a surprise for them.

Marko: A surprise! What did they find?

Boat: The Lord prepared for them a meal of fish and bread!

Maria: Wow our God is an awesome God! He knew that the disciples were very tired from fishing all night so he prepared food for them.

Marko: Let's all thank Him and say:



MEMORY VERSE

"You open Your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing." Psalm 145: 16



4- MY CONFIDENCE IS IN JESUS

The Colour Yellow

The boat arrived on the other side of the city. Marko was holding Maria and Brushy's hands. On his way out of the boat, Marko tripped and Brushy fell from his hand and hit a stone on the shore. The yellow paint that was left over in the Brushy touched the stone.

Maria: Look, the stone is moving!

Stony: Who touched me and gave me life?

Brushy: I am sorry Stony. When my friend Marko tripped, I fell from his hand and hit you.



Stony: By the way, you are not the first one to hit me. Others did that before you a long time ago. Some feet kicked me and pushed me out of the water.

A sign from the Jordan River Joshua 3:15 - 4:8 & 20:24

Marko: Can you please tell us this story? How did they kick you and take you out of the water?



Stony: All my life I lived under the water; I never saw sunlight before. One day while I was playing with my friends, the water split in two and stood like a wall. For the very first time, I saw sunlight and I felt feet stepping on me and pushing me.

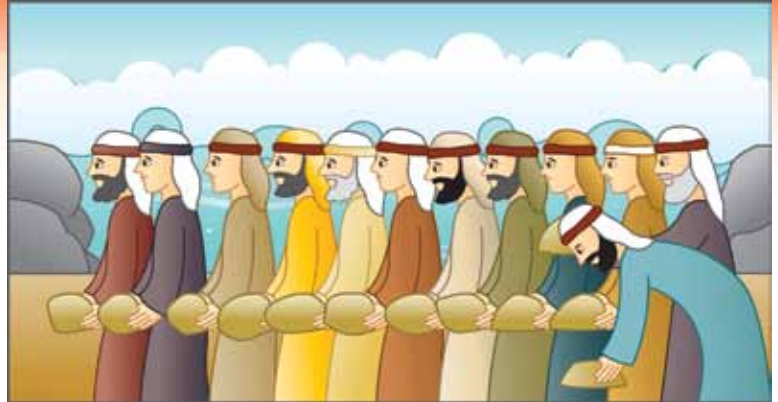
Marko: What do you mean the water split in half and people stepped on you? This is a very strange story.



Stony: Wait until you hear the rest of the story, you will be really surprised.

Maria: Okay please go on and tell us more!

Stony: We were very surprised when the water split and we felt the sunlight. We heard someone saying with a loud voice: "Oh! You people of God, let a man from each one of the 12 tribes of Israel take a stone up on his shoulder, out of the midst of the Jordan that this may be a sign for your children. When they ask you, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before us ... we were then able to cross and go to the Promise Land (Canaan)." After the man finished saying those things we heard the people say: "Yes! Joshua is our great leader!"



Maria: What did they do with the 12 stones?

Marko: How was it a sign for their children?

Stony: They took the stones to a place called Gilgal. They made a memorial there to remind them that God split the Jordan River in two so that His people can cross to the other side. After they took the stones and crossed the Jordan River, the water went back to the way it was.

Marko: This is a great miracle! It teaches us not to worry because God will never leave His children whom He loves. No matter how difficult the situation might be, God is always with us.

Maria: That's what He always tells us:

MEMORY VERSE

"Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Mark 6:50



5 - JESUS TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOVE

The Colour Pink



Brushy: All that we have left is to colour the garden that is by the seashore.

Maria: I will take the pink from Jesus' picture and colour this flower. Oh, wait a minute! Where is my pink crayon? Where did it go? We forgot it by the gate. Pinky! Pinky!

Marko: Just relax, we'll find her. Look in your bag one more time. Pinky is a very playful crayon so just look again.

Pinky: Hey Maria, I'm right here. I'm not in your bag.

Maria: Where are you?

Pinky: Just in front of you, in Brushy's pocket.

Brushy: That's right. Pinky is my friend that's why I took him with me.

Maria: You should have told me instead of...

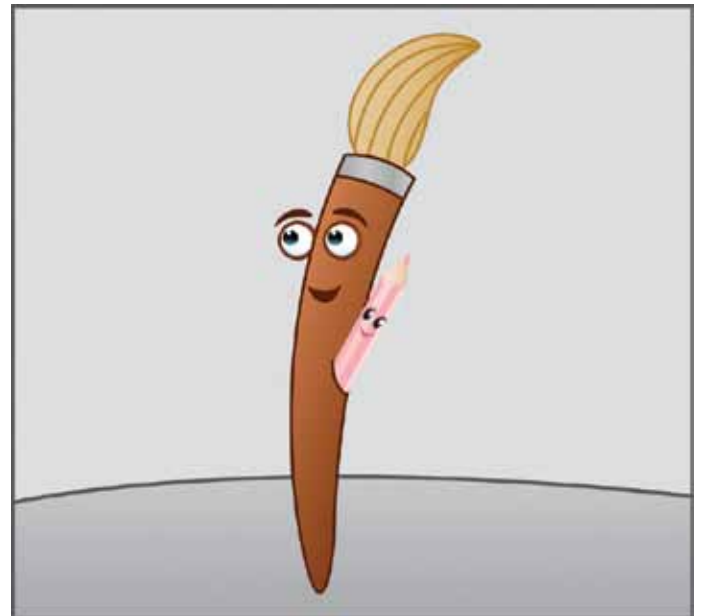
Fady (calling from outside the city): Kids, it's time to go. Let's go to the bus. When you hear me call your name, say "God is love".

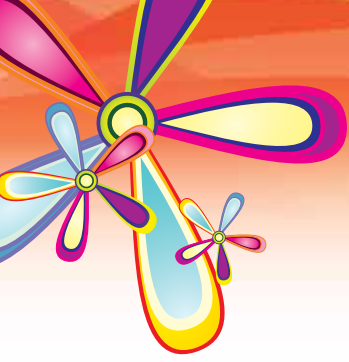
Maria: Marko, did you hear that. We have to go back. Fady, our servant is going to be calling our names soon and we don't want him to worry.

Marko: I can't run my foot hurts since I tripped on Stony.

Maria: What are we going to do?

Marko: Just go by yourself and leave me.





Maria: I can't leave you! But what are we going to do? I know, hold my hand, lean on me and I'll help you.

Marko: How am I going to lean on you, you can't hold my weight and you're already holding your bag.

Maria: You are more important than my bag; I will leave my bag behind.



Brushy: But how are you going to colour the garden?

Fady: Let's go. I will start calling the names.

Maria: Brushy, it's not going to work; we won't be able to colour the garden. The bus is going to leave without us if we don't get there on time.

Maria & Marko: Bye Brushy. We will miss you.

Brushy: You are not taking your bag?

Maria: Keep it with you. I have to take Marko to the bus and I can't carry both the bag and Marko. For the very first time, Maria was willing to leave her bag and her crayons, which are very valuable to her, to help her brother. She held him until they reached the bus.

Fady: Finally, Maria and Marko are here. What is the matter Marko? Why can't you walk?

Maria: Oh! It is a long story.

Maria started to tell Fady all that happened to them. Fady was very happy with all that Maria and Marko did. He was even happier, when he knew that Maria left her bag behind to help her brother.

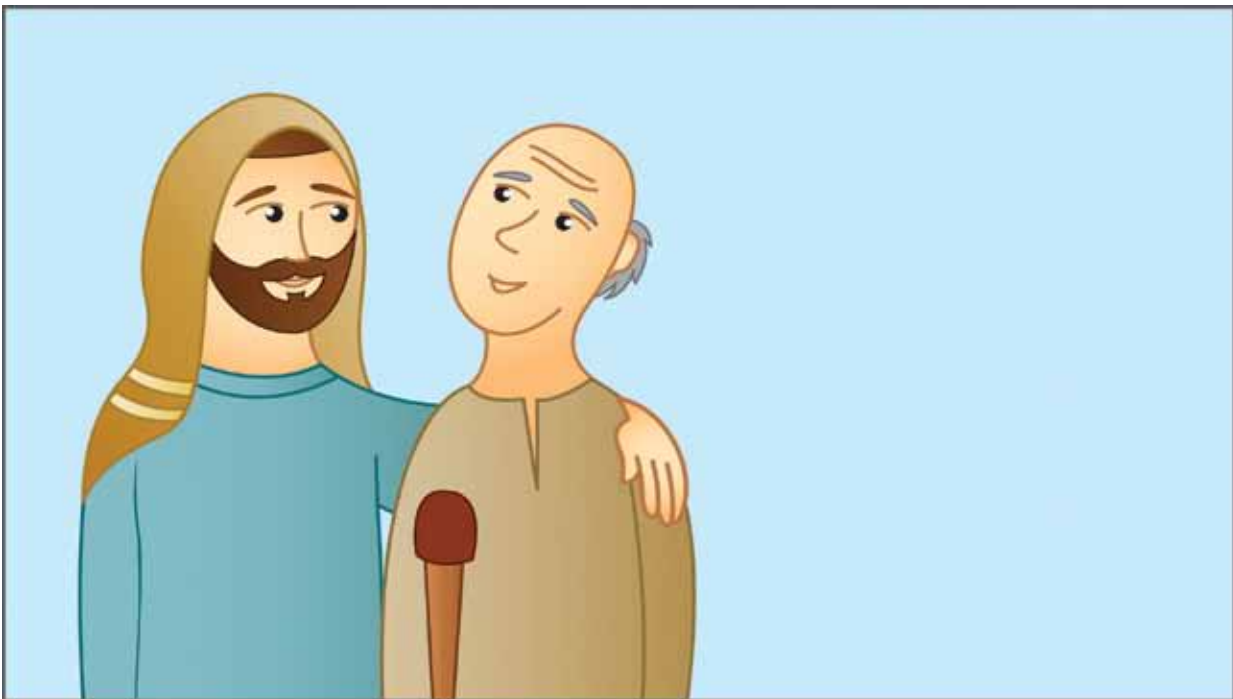
Fady: Very good Maria, you left your bag to help your brother. This is the love that our Lord Jesus taught us. You did exactly what St. Ologious did with the lame man.

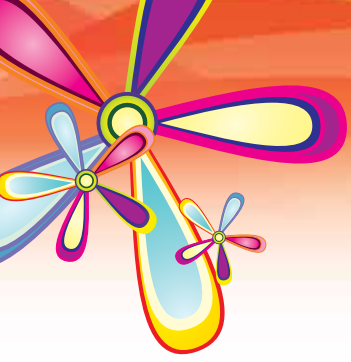


ST. OLOGIOUS AND THE LAME MAN

Kids: What did St. Ologious do?

Fady: St. Ologious lived in Alexandria. He was a great teacher and a very rich man. Because he loved God so much, he gave his money to the poor and left very little for himself. One day, he went to the market and there he saw a lame man who couldn't walk. St. Ologious had compassion on the man and took him to live with him. St. Ologious promised God that he will take care of this man for the rest of his life. For 15 years, St. Ologious served the lame man bathing him, feeding him and giving him all he needs. St. Ologious was always nice to the lame man, although sometimes the lame man was not very nice to him. St. Ologious continued to serve him no matter what. All of this was because St. Ologious loved God.





Memorization

Psalm 67

(Psalm 66 in the Agpeya Prime Prayer)

God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him. Alleluia





Activities



I am seeking my brothers

Hymns & Tasbeha

Coptic Language

Drama & Mime

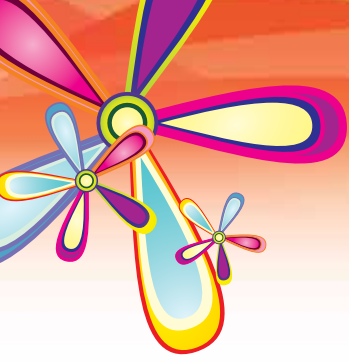
Arts

Creative Writing

Sports







Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.

