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MERF News

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Middle East Reformed Fellowship—“Declaring the Whole Counsel of God”

Inspiring Arab Children Ministries



Adaima Winter Holiday School

It took MERF years of careful, diligent work to Arabize and publish the full 14 series set of the *Bible Building Blocks of Faith* curriculum by Children’s Ministry

International. Based on a simplified *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, the program is unique. Attractive reusable visuals teach the Bible to any age or mixed age groups. Use of this curriculum has been steadily increasing in churches throughout the Arabic-speaking world.

Invention

Last year, a technician on the MERF Egypt team invented a much easier and less expensive way to prepare and use the materials. Instructions for flannelgraph were

replaced by ready hook and loop strips (velcro tape). The loop strips are easily strung up between two nails. A small hooked piece is quickly stapled on the exchangeable visuals for catechism questions and answers, memory verses and story illustrations. This has revolutionized presentation, making the curriculum much more widely accessible.

Added Staff

This year, a new member of the Egypt team traveled to churches in different regions of Egypt to dem-

onstrate the versatile and biblically sound curriculum. This inspired more ministry to children and families. Meetings and short conferences were held to introduce the cur-



“Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.”
— Psalm 8:2



riculum to scores of pastors, evangelists, youth leaders and Sunday school teachers from many, many churches. This includes churches in Cairo, the capital, in the second largest city, Alexandria and in the Nile Delta. Up the Nile from Beni Suef all the way south to Luxor and Aswan, churches have eagerly embraced the program. They are excited to use this faithful means to share God's Word.

Needy Children

In Egypt many members of poor village churches are uneducated. Often they have little or no regular pastoral ministry. Young people from faithful nearby churches happily volunteer to help. In this way the *Bible Building Blocks of Faith* teaching manuals, attractive visuals and simple crafts give children of these needy villages solid Bible instruc-

tion. To encourage more ministry to children in these needy communities, MERF is regularly sponsoring training events up the Nile in southern communities. This year:

- A Bible day was held for children for Edfu churches.
- At Adaima village, many children came to the winter vacation Bible school. They were delighted to do the third series - *Wonderful Library of God*.
- In the summer 105 children and 30 volunteers from fourteen poor village churches in the Sohag region participated in a conference using the curriculum. It had two purposes. First, children were trained in the Word along with sport activities. Second, prospective teachers served as helpers and received training in skills for working with children.

Pray that these and other

events will inspire regular Bible teaching programs in more poor, underserved village churches of upper Egypt. Pray also for the new teachers to be blessed with wisdom and perseverance in their efforts.

To further encourage and support teachers of this catechism-based curriculum, a Facebook page was organized. Photos, videos and various presentation ideas are shared. Also, an Arabic Bible song was composed and recorded especially for the series.

New Project

In response to requests, a new project has begun to create workbooks for older children. They are to coordinate with each series. This will impact many thousands of children.

Praise God for this opportunity to solidly ground the new generation in

God's Word. These children ministries are springing up in many different denominations, including some traditional churches.

Churches in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia and the Arabian peninsula are using the *Arabic Bible Building Blocks of Faith* curriculum. *Pray for continuing efforts in the coming year to recruit and train more teachers, especially for ministry to needy villages.*

MERF-Canada

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