

## **Servants Meeting Minutes February 22, 2015**

### **Spiritual Word – by Fr. Youssef**

How can a servant make his/her ministry spiritual, fruitful and successful?  
.... Continued

Last week we explained that the main foundation for successful service is love; love to God, love to other and love to the people whom you serve.

### **Other foundations for a successful and fruitful service are:**

#### **Faith**

- One of the reasons that may cause the service to fail or not be fruitful is not having faith in God's words.
- Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
- This belief in things we cannot see should be strong enough that we are willing to walk forward and act on the things God calls us to do, even though we cannot touch or see them.
- If we believe and trust in God, then we will have faith in all what we do.
- The heart of pleasing God, of doing anything that satisfies Him, is to have faith in Him. We must believe in Him first: have total and complete trust in who He is, before any of our actions can produce anything useful.
- Moses sent men to spy the land of Canaan. They came back and said, "the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large".
- Caleb said to Moses: "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."
- Caleb commanded the people to immediately trust and obey God and to take the land, because God had made them able.

- We must have faith that God's grace is manifested and magnified in us. When we are weak in ourselves, then we are strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we feel that we are weak in ourselves, we go to Christ and receive strength from him.

## **Praying**

- A fruitful servant needs to be mature spiritually. One cannot grow or mature spiritually without a deep, intimate, and real relationship with Jesus Christ.
- This real relationship is achieved by personal prayer, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:5-7). The devil tempts us most in personal prayer since this is the most powerful type of prayer in developing a relationship with Jesus. The fruits of this type of prayer are infinite.
- Through personal praying the servant gains strength, support and blessing. Through praying God will lead us to serve in a way that pleases Him and will serve according to His own will.
- Don't let your service take you from praying. Acts 6:4: "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The disciples were concerned about giving themselves continually to prayer.

## **Administrative Items**

### **1. Updates on upcoming services:**

#### **March Break Activities**

- Deadline for March break registration is today Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### **Gr. 3- 8 – Sherif Yousef**

- The total number of kids who have registered is 35
- We have a problem in the counselor servants to help on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
- We still don't have confirmed registration from youth servants for the above three days.
- On the trip days, we don't have a problem as we have enough number of parents who will be going on the trip and will help supervise kids.

- We have 1-2 adult servants / day.
- Sherif suggests that if we don't have enough youth servants, we may need to cancel the activities on these days.

#### **JK – Gr. 2 - Amany Hanna**

- No updates – Amany Hanna could not attend the servants meeting.

#### **Volunteer Counselor Servants**

- Theresa suggests we accept boys youth servants from Gr. 9.
- She has a positive experience with their service in previous events. She knows 4-5 youth boy servants who are committed and responsible.

#### **Parents Meetings**

- Parents' meeting for today has been cancelled and will be rescheduled to a later date.
- Parents' mental health sessions for children and adolescents on March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> are the same, no change.

#### **2. Rooms Booking**

- Should a servant require using a room, he/she must book the room.
- There have been incidents when a room is booked for a specific service and servants show up to use the room without prior booking.

#### **3. Divine Liturgies Schedule**

- There have been some changes to the divine liturgies schedule during the holy lent.
- A late divine liturgy is added every Tuesday, from 4:30 – 7:00 pm
- The late divine liturgies on Thursday and Friday have been cancelled. It is now only one Divine Liturgy from 9-11:30 am on Thursdays and Fridays.
- The services schedule on the website has been updated.

#### **4. Deacons Service Schedule**

- A deacons' service schedule has to be set up. Deacons need to be pre-assigned to the liturgy service to avoid any cancellation of service that may happen if no deacons are present.

## **5. Ontario Children Sex-Education Curriculum**

- There is a curriculum proposal mandate to start teaching children sex education from Gr. 1 through Gr. 8.
- Ministry of education intends to have the new curriculum in place for the start of the school year in September 2015
- If you do not agree, you could join a rally on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Queen's Park, Toronto to stop explicit sex education for early grades.

### **Other discussions:**

- Can we have one late Divine Liturgy that starts at 5 – 5:30 pm for people who work? By the time parents go home and pick up their children to come to church, it is around 5:30 pm. For boys who would like to serve as deacons, this may be late.
- Fr. Shenouda explained that the Divine Liturgy starts with the raising of incense and prayers. It is okay for children deacons if they arrive at 5:20 pm, they can still serve in liturgy.