

Servants Meeting Minutes February 15, 2015

Spiritual Word – by Fr. Youssef

How can a servant make his/her ministry spiritual, fruitful and successful? The following are the basic foundations in service.

1- Divine Love

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am nothing”. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. When a servant has love in his heart for God, his service will be successful. Service is an expression of love overflowing from the heart; it is a desire to serve and it is a reflection of my love to God. If the service is without love, it becomes dry, routine and without spirit or fruits.

A servant has to search his soul constantly, and look how to build a close relationship with God? There are many ways to so this; reading the bible, reading spiritual books, .. etc

2- Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God

When we serve, we must keep in mind that our purpose is to glorify God. John the Baptist exalts Christ saying: “He must become greater; I must become less.” John 3:30

The service is an expression of love for God and the people. Servants should not look for pride in self or getting praise from people. The true servants try to make others happy and work for their benefit, and suffer for their sake. If our services are done without the purpose of glorifying Jesus, then we toil in vain and we are uselessly only exalting ourselves.

3- To love others and bear others' burdens

The successful servant must have love and compassion to others. In Romans 15:5 God tells us: “ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another according to Jesus Christ.”

Be concerned about the people who you serve, do I give them enough time, do I have compassion for them, do I pray for them, do I visit them?

If the people became as sheep without a shepherd, they will be given up as a prey to their enemies.

In the book of Ezekiel Chapter 34, those shepherds were called to an account because they neglected to do their duties. God will charge those who did

iniquities towards the weak in the flock. "Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?" Ez 34:19

Administrative Items

1. Updates on up coming services:

March Break Activities

- Numbers of registrations for the March break activities as of Sunday, February 15 are:
JK – Gr. 2, 33 registrants
Gr. 3 – Gr. 8, 32 registrants
Gr. 9 – Gr. 12, 9 registrants
- Deadline for March break registration is next Sunday, February 22nd

Volunteer Counselor Servants

- Amany Hanna had only one servant from servant prep. volunteered to help in the March break activities.
- Ihab Louis has 5 more volunteers registered.
- The total number of volunteer servants is 6 servants from Gr. 12
- No update yet from Sadek as to the number of servants from Gr. 11
- Watch out for the youth trip date to St. Anthony Monastery, Perth (Mon, March 16 – Tue, March 17).
- Eight counselor servants are needed (from the youth in each group: jk-Gr.2 & Gr. 3 – Gr. 8), in addition to adult servants for the March break service.
- Amany Hanna suggested we accept registrations from servants in Gr. 9 & 10 to cover for the March break activities. They can do good job in the games and sports activities.
- Fr. Shenouda agreed to consider registrants from Gr. 10.
- Gr. 9 will not be included in this service, as they don't yet have all the skills required to serve the kids.

Mental Health Sessions for Children and Adolescents

- Servants questioned if the church priests have been able to reschedule the March 15th adolescents' mental health session to another date as it falls in the March break.
- First option, to reschedule to end of April. The speaker has offered us few dates early in April, but they did not work for our liturgical events in April,

as the first Sunday of April is Palm Sunday and the second Sunday is the feast of Resurrection.

- Second option, to go by the number of registrants. So far we have 24 people registered for both events. 1-2 registrants (of the total number of registrants) have registered for one event only. So according to the number of people who will register for the March 15th session we may not consider changing the session date.

Parents Meetings

- Servants are to promote the meeting to the parents and ask them to attend the meeting according to the age group of their children.
- Servants must attend the parents meeting of the age group that they serve.
- Servants will send an email to all parents informing them of the up coming parents meeting on Sunday, Feb. 22 for the age JK – Gr. 2

Child Care during the parents meeting

- Volunteer servants from Gr. 12 are needed to baby sit children while parents are attending the meeting next Sunday, Feb. 22 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm.
- Children Choir is from 1:30 – 2:30 pm, childcare will be needed for kids not attending the choir and to prevent children from interrupting the meeting after the choir finishes.
- For older age group parents meetings, childcare is not needed.

2. Servants Issues

- Servants of second Sunday school are asking that we finish the English Divine Liturgy at 12:00 pm including the announcements in order to allow some time for the kids and the servants to have coffee or food before the Sunday school classes.
- It is a collaborative work between Abouna and the deacons to finish the Divine Liturgy on time. Deacons also need to be informed about that.