



# Think and Do

*"The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless... You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more." (Psalm 10:14, 17, 18). The Lord honoured Think and Do to be tools in His hand to reach those referred to in these verses. This is especially true following the 25 January revolution, which has had several positive results but also some negative results. One of these negatives is what has happened to the economy in Egypt, which has had a bad impact on those needy people. Following is a brief report about Think and Do's efforts to help them.*



## Female headed households

During the last four months, the number of women we help through this project increased to 105. They are women who are heading up their families because their husband is dead, or suffers from chronic sickness or disability, or has abandoned them with no trace. We help them for a year through empowering and strengthening them to face their challenges and to be productive in society by establishing a micro enterprise as a source of income, helping them to meet their family's basic needs.

A day event was held for them on a boat in Minya, celebrating Mother's Day. They enjoyed the day programme, which included fun and social times, Mother's Day presents, a meal and a spiritual time. Their feedback was very encouraging, and they expressed their thanks.

One of the women said:

*"I am Elina, I am 23 years old. My husband died and left me with two children and no source of income. Life became very tough, but God sent me workers from Think and Do to help me to start a duck-raising project. Now we have ducks in our home to eat, and also money from selling some."*

## The Life School project

On 25 March, the "Life School" project started. It aims to serve 90 women and girls aged 14 – 30 years old, from Sanabo and Komboha villages in the Assiut governorate, who have dropped out of school and whose rights have been violated by their families and society. We aim to teach them life skills to enable them to face all situations in life, and to exert influence in their community as agents of change. Our focus is on young women because their rights tend to be less respected than those of men, and because they represent the future generation and will be responsible as future mothers.



The life school will offer a mixture between **basic education** (reading, writing and mathematics), **behavioural skills** such as dialogue, discussion, rejecting wrong habits and traditions, **skills for self development** such as self acceptance, care for one's appearance, decision making, **advocacy skills** such as how to ask for one's rights, rights to education and health, family planning, how to face violence against women. **skills for economic development** such as acquiring vocational skills which will help to raise their economic level, recycling the resources available at home, **spiritual skills** such as the basics of a relationship with God, inner healing. The project staff (20 people) received special training in preparation for starting the project.

## Vocational training:

During the last four months, 93 young people received training in Think and Do's Oasis centre in different skills such as masonry, driving, and maintenance of refrigerators and air conditioners. Fifty received the Lord as their personal Saviour. A telephone survey indicated that of the 80 trainees who responded, 34 had succeeded in working with the skill that they learned, 36 had worked in different vocations and 10 were still searching for work.

A trainee's testimony:

*"I am Boules, I was a deacon in an Orthodox church and preparing to be more involved in ministry there, but I passed through a dramatic crisis which turned my life upside down. I was very close to my cousin, who was killed while he was trying to make peace between people fighting in the street. It was a great shock for me, especially as the killer did not receive the punishment he deserved because the judge declared that the killer was innocent and my cousin had died of nervous shock. "This had a bad impact on me; I became violent, and was*

*practising every kind of evil such as drug addiction, sexual promiscuity, stealing, dealing in weapons etc. I went to the Oasis training centre just to have fun, and I joined the ceramic tiling course. God met me there on 14 March and He changed my life completely. I repented of all the sins I had committed, and God freed me. Now I am working in the ceramic tiling vocation and I have a pure source of income."*



## Towards job opportunities

On 12 April the NGO celebrated the graduation of 50 young people from the project 'Towards Job Opportunities', which is funded by an Egyptian foundation. The youth were trained in different vocations such as women's hairdressing, sewing and cell phone maintenance. We also helped 40 of them to obtain work in the skill in which they trained, and provided 60 with the vocational tools to start their own micro enterprise.



***God is still working and using us, and using you also together with us, to fulfil His will that His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.***