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| **Language Barrier**Shocking Incident:The following is written by a convert to the Coptic Church.  Please read and comment:   In my own experience, God used a Muslim to inform me about the Coptic Orthodox Church and to suggest that I should visit. The Coptic Christian I worked with was a bit shy, and did not talk about his faith; although he was very kind and I could see he was 'different'. So, God sent someone else! His Coptic friend even suggested I might not 'enjoy' the Coptic church, as it was so different! I think this incident should shock us into being more prepared to share our faith.  It's true that many of our churches need help to prepare to be missionary churches. =================================================

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Dear brother, As the title of your message indicates, it is really a "shocking incident." We need to pray for more appreciation, by us, Copts, for our beloved Coptic Orthodox church. We do not know fully well the treasure we have at hand because we were born with that golden spoon in our mouth. Only those converts get to know and understand her value. =======================================================

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I agree.  We need to awake our youth. ============================================================Dear Friend,I can understand your sense of shock by this incident. However, I am not at all surprised, as the Coptic Church is indeed very different, especially to a Westerner. I myself have been a member of the Coptic Church for almost four years. And yet I still struggle with its culture and ethnicity. But the most frustrating thing for me is that theologically, it has so much to offer the world.Recently, eight of my Evangelical friends visited our Church. All of them loved it, and had only positive things to say about their experience. Nevertheless, they said that it would be impossible for them to attend the Church. This was because in their eyes, we are a Church for Egyptians only.My prayer to Almighty God is that one day the Coptic Church will form a branch that will cater for Westerners. Where the Liturgy will be wholly in English, and where anyone regardless of nationality will feel truly at home.     In Christ,Keith ===============================================================

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| Peter Farrington |

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There is a Coptic church for British people and it is the British Orthodox Church. =======================================================

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My personal opinion is that while Coptic church is still an ethnicity based church, it it’s doing better job than many sister orthodox churches such add Armenian, Assyrian, Romanian, etc. The Antioch an & Greek are doing better mainly because the started to attack the social ethnic club issue in car of Greek church, or because they have been abroad for too long that majority of the congregation its already western (3rd or 4th generation) in case of Antiochian church. Also, the smaller a Coptic church, the easier it seems to adapt.In order for us to appreciate the importance of letting language & identity go, in favor of opening doors to others to be saved with us, I suggest we:1. read the Pauline presage about talking in tongues2. pray for God's guidance3. Attend liturgies in a regular fashion at an Assyrian church & receive Holy communion, and compare our spirituality when we attend at Coptic church vs. Assyrian. Maybe we can do this as a group to share our thoughts, but mainly to feel how non-Coptic feels when they attend in our churches.4. We can come up with a set of recommendations, or suggestions, of adoption-models a Coptic church can follow. There are already couple successful citric models that we can learn from.5. We put together a presentation, and assign a group to present it to all Coptic churches, either they go themselves to present, or assign someone from that church to do the job.Just a thought.+sh

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Hi Victor,In response to Keith's concern below, the Coptic church is moving in this direction.  With programs such as this evangelism course and the few churches popping up throughout this USA.   I know that we now have a church in Ontario, Canada, DC, Chicago, and Los Angeles that caters to this very missing service.  I don't believe our transition is complete by any means to serve non-Egyptians, but at least the church is now making some attempts at serving them.  Personally, I attend St. Paul American Coptic Orthodox Church in the Los Angeles area.  The services are entirely in English and culturally neutral.  St. Paul is roughly 35-40% non-Egyptian families, where one of the spouses is not Egyptian.  Most of the other 60-65% are Egyptians either born here or grew up in this country.  While it’s not perfect, it's by far more accommodating to non-Egyptians than any other church in the diocese.  The fact that these churches are popping up gives me hopes that my children and eventually grandchildren will be served.Before St. Paul and the churches similar to it, I would have agreed with Keith, however now that they exist, there is hope.In Christ,Mike=============================================================

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| KEITH |

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| Dear Mike,Thank you for your reply.In Christ,Keith =========================================================== |
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***Thank God for the vision of our late H. H. Pope Shenouda III in this regard by allowing the start of the Coptic Orthodox Missionary Churches that are growing every day:******1.    2007 St. Maurice and St. Verena, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*** [***www.smsv.ca***](http://www.smsv.ca)***2.    2008 St. Maximos & St. Domatius, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada******3.    2010 Saint Peter & Saint Paul, Montreal, Quebec, Canada*** [***www.stpeterstpaul.ca***](http://www.stpeterstpaul.ca)***4.    2011 Saint Mark & Saint Monica, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*** [***www.smsmottawa.com***](http://www.smsmottawa.com)***5.    2012 Saint Paul, Chicago, IL*** [***www.stpaulchicago.com***](http://www.stpaulchicago.com)***6.    2012 Saint Timothy & Saint Athanasius, Arlington, VA*** [***www.stsachurch.org/***](http://www.stsachurch.org/)***They may be even more missionary churches that I am not aware of.******Let’s pray for more Missionary Coptic Orthodox Churches that promote true Christian love, outreach, and embrace of non-Egyptians to share our rich and beautiful Coptic Orthodox faith.*****Laurence**  |
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**"Go into the entire world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15)**

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