



My Beloved Children,

*In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, ONE God, Amen.*



A very long time ago, in the Old Testament days, there lived a strong, handsome, shepherd boy named David. David was a good child in the sight of God, obeying his father Jesse, respecting his seven older brothers, and without delay or grumbling, doing his chore of tending to his father's sheep. David, putting God first, could run fast on the hillsides finding sheep that were lost and did not show fear when defending his sheep from the lions and the wolves.

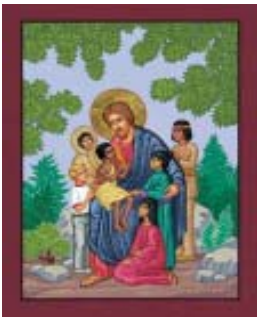
God looked at David's young heart filled with love and saw that it was good. Because of David's good heart, God chose him while still a young boy, to become the next king of Israel. When David grew up he became a fine king because he trusted God. He wrote praises and songs about his love for God and played them upon a golden harp. King David gave time to the worship of the 'House of the Lord.' From a young boy to his life as a great king, David faithfully and happily went to the 'House of the Lord.' He said with all his heart, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord.'"

Our Coptic Church, the 'House of the Lord' continues to fill children's hearts with gladness and love today. The Church is the sacred classroom where as a child you will learn about God's love in the Holy Bible, begin praying to God with the Agpeya, and stand in worship to God holding the Divine Liturgy Book.

Inside the Coptic Church many joyful memories are begun as you are baptized, as you take the Holy Communion, and as you hurry off to hear a new Sunday School lesson after the Divine Liturgy. The excitement of a Church feast day approaching, of the arrival of summer Vacation Bible School and days of longing to be old enough to be a Church deacon or a Sunday School servant are times of discovering the wonderful love of the Lord.

It is important to remember that the Lord Jesus Christ said, *“Let the little children come to Me, for such is the Kingdom of God.”* This tells us that **the Lord loves children very much**. So much so that He founded a Church which included children that would stand forever. The Holy Bible teaches us that the Lord Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit to make the Church strong and keep her strong, following His Ascension up high into Heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ said, *“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”*

**I pray that each time our beloved Coptic Church’s door is opened it is filled with children who love God and His blessed Church, and can hardly wait for its worship to begin!**



God bless you,  
Bishop Youssef

*I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go into the house of the Lord”  
Psalm 122:1*