

The Beni Suef Bookshop

"Opening a Bible Society Bookshop is like opening a Church..."

On November 27, 2006, the Beni Suef bookshop was officially opened! We want to say "Thank You" for giving generously and praying for this project. The Beni Suef governorate is located in the center of the country. With a population of 2 million, the percentage of Christians there is estimated at 7 - 8 %. There are no public Christian Bookshops "on the streets" in the whole governorate.

The new bookshop is on a well known and busy street, strategically located directly across the street from one of one of the largest Orthodox churches in the city. Eight other churches are in the near vicinity. This excellent position is really ideal and a gift from God. Church leaders and Christian residents of the city are delighted to have such an easily accessible and attractive shop making the Scriptures accessible.

The shop is a masterpiece of artistic design in keeping with the same spirit of design as other BSOE bookshops! A professional architect, who also designed our bookstore in Mina, was able to utilize the space well with a good balance between display and storage. The lighting and modern storefront is sure to attract attention, with plenty of space for in-shop advertising seen by those passing by.

The opening ceremonies began at the bookshop with prayers in the Coptic language. The Orthodox Church then hosted the assembly in a festive pavilion on church premises. Many pastors and priests spoke of their joy and gratitude for the bookshop, expressing positive support and appreciation for the projects and ministry of the Bible Society. The speeches and statements recorded in the guest book were indeed humbling, as people shared heartfelt praise for the role of the Bible Society in Egypt.

Not only did people express appreciation for the bookshop, but for the occasion itself. The Bible Society has become identified as a place where members of all denominations can meet together on the common ground of God's Word, and this was felt clearly throughout the inauguration service. Leaders and representatives from all of the churches were in attendance, and the relaxed atmosphere was that of unity and encouragement, as they sat together in one place.

The Catholic Bishop shared thoughts from the Lord's Prayer, how all of us are children of One Father. Speaking of the beauty and blessings of unity, he acknowledged that there was still much to do in moving forward together. The Orthodox Bishop picked up the theme and continued with similar thoughts.

The evening was a wonderful success, and we look forward to a blessed future in Beni Suef. As one leader stated that evening, "Opening a Bible Society Bookshop is like opening a church. In fact, there are many situations where the bookshop is able to do more than the church can."

The Bible Society staff working in Beni Suef believes that this bookshop will help tremendously in making God's Word available to the many churches as well as the thousands who frequent this very busy area.