



Children sign 'I love you' showing appreciation for the craft session



Encounter Team members (from left) - Lionel, Reti (Coordinator), Isaiah, Colton, Grace and Michael



Taking time to explore the culture

MECO Encounter Team travel to Cairo, Egypt!

What happens when a team of young people leave the familiarity of their Western homes to minister to disabled children in Egypt? Lives are changed! A MECO Encounter team reflects on their time spent teaching and interacting with children and staff at a Deaf Unit:

WHYGO.ME

At the beginning of the year, a MECO Encounter Team helped out at a Deaf Unit in Egypt. This inspiring team of 6 young people shared their daily experiences on a blog site at www.whygo.me. Read about some of their experiences.

"Visiting the children's Deaf Unit was heart warming and inspiring to say the very least. Seeing these deaf and mute children show genuine love to each other, respect and love for their teachers and most importantly an enthusiastic love for Jesus Christ was incredible. They all named us based on a visual sign that described us the most - that was hilarious!"

"All six of us are increasing our aptitude in sign language with each passing day. Today some visitors to the Deaf Unit were shocked at how well we could

communicate with the children - even more so as they discovered we had only been at the school for a total of three days."

"... we had great opportunities to 'chat' with the kids and try out our new [sign language] vocab ... the kids were so excited they kept forgetting to eat, so we had to keep reminding them! Then the kids put us through our paces in the playground playing hide-in-seek and other energetic games."

"We're all learning a lot of sign, and it's really cool to actually be

able to communicate with the kids ... I was actually able to teach today. I would sign words, and the kids would type them, or I would point to words and have them sign them. It's really cool, because I'm also learning. It's cool to see each kid learning at their own pace, and I actually really enjoy teaching them. It's awesome to see the smile on their faces when they correctly spell words like answer, dog, after, etc."

"As overwhelming as the culture and language has been, we all love what we have experienced of Cairo, especially the people ... the Egyptians definitely show an exceptional kindness and hospitality unique to them."

"I truly love this city, and the people in it. It always brings a smile to my face when an old man yells, 'You are welcome to Egypt!'"
"All six of us are having so much fun! God is good!"

"We've had great ministry opportunities and have fallen in love with the kids, the centre and the staff. Saying goodbye was so hard."

"The smiling, jumping, twirling and boundlessly energetic children will be on our hearts and minds as we leave Egypt." m

Could God use you to change lives in the Middle East?

MECO is looking for people who could serve as:

Personal Assistant - Deaf Unit, Cairo, Egypt

Description: Daily administration and support of Deaf Unit Director
Length: 2+ years **Language:** Arabic useful.
Useful Qualifications: Previous experience as a PA and in administration desirable.

Encounter Team 2010 - Jordan

Description: Help provide a 3 week children's programme at a local church in Amman, Jordan - focusing on teaching English and sharing the love of Christ!
Length: 4 weeks (8 July - 4 August 2010). **Language:** English.
Visit www.aboutmeco.org or email encounter@aboutmeco.org to find out more

Encounter Team 2011 - Egypt

Description: Travel to Cairo, Egypt to help share the love of Jesus to children with disabilities and their families in poor areas of Cairo!
Length: 4 weeks (20 January - 16 February 2011). **Language:** English.
Visit www.aboutmeco.org or email encounter@aboutmeco.org to find out more

For more opportunities and information, visit www.aboutmeco.org/opportunities

