



EGYPT REPORT from the BUSINESS SPHERE

By John Warton



These young Egyptians were genuinely excited to see an American tourist in Alexandria. There aren't many tourists in Egypt today and the economy depends heavily on tourism. But they are excited too by the new freedom and security that have been restored in Egypt. Just 6 months ago they would not have dared even to be out in public.

Nonetheless, the younger generation remains 'at risk' in Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East. Unemployment is high. Egyptian president Fattah Al Sisi said as much while in New York this fall to address the United Nations: "Egypt has not faced problems of this scale for over 40 years. [We have] striking poverty, unemployment, idleness of the young people. This is fertile soil for problems."¹

James Clifton, chairman of the Gallop polling organization, predicted as much in *The Coming Jobs War*: "The lack of good jobs will become the cause of hunger, extremism, out- of-control migration patterns, reckless environment trends, widening trade imbalances, and on and on."² The creation of jobs and the development of businesses is the work of business men and women – not missionaries or pastors. This is the role of Business as Mission, or BAM.

"Business as Mission" seeks to exploit the natural opportunities business people have to fulfill the purposes of God in their working environment. While 'economic development' does occur as businesses are developed through BAM, and the standard of living for many is improved, the real mission of BAM is 'church growth' – winning souls to Christ, building up leaders, creating income to fund local churches locally, demonstrating ethical conduct within business, and building a positive reputation for Christians in their communities. The Apostle Paul virtually mandated the inclusion of

business people in missions when he wrote: "the whole Body... causes the growth of the Body" (Ephesians 4:16).



On a survey trip to 4 cities in Egypt this November, John Warton, facilitator of the Business Sphere for TW, was able to meet with church planters and entrepreneurs who hope to remain in their native country but need help creating jobs to support themselves and their families. What is needed is training in contemporary business practices of the free market economy. This kind of training was presented in the 2013 Transform

World meeting in Amman, Jordan, covering the role of entrepreneurs, integration of faith and business, personal management, and business planning. Since then dozens of small businesses have been started in Egypt by participants in that training. Small business loans will spark new enterprises for young entrepreneurs who cannot yet obtain capital for their ventures from normal sources.

Similar training will be an integral part of the Million Village Challenge launched by Transform World to bring wholistic transformation to one million villages worldwide. This Challenge will address six key areas contributing to cyclical poverty, one of which is the lack of family income source. The Business Sphere is inviting leaders who share this vision to the next meeting in March 2015 in Ephesus, Turkey.



At the TW 2020 Global Leadership Summit in June, Bishop Ef Tendero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches arranged a series of meetings held in Manila this summer for denominational leaders and business executives on BAM. John Warton presented BAM concepts – like the Reformation view of the dignity of work and the Biblical examples of righteousness and justice in business – to various audiences the Bishop felt would benefit greatly by hearing. The Philippines is facing all the challenges that Transform World is addressing. Business people can be significant factor in the Church's response. Please contact me for more information on the Business Sphere or questions about how to organize BAM in your country.

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Download a "BAM Matrix" tool to compare the various models of BAM and assess which are most appropriate in various situations.

¹ **After the Revolution**: Sitting Down With Egyptian President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi" Time magazine, September 24, 2014, <http://time.com/3426794/after-the-revolution-sitting-down-with-egyptian-president-abdul-fattah-al-sisi/> (accessed November 27, 2014).

² **Jim Clifton**, The Coming Jobs War, (2011), p. 3.
<http://www.gallup.com/businessjournal/149144/Coming-Jobs-War.aspx> (accessed November 26, 2014).

BAM Matrix:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/14741411b49b6bc06b54b7960/files/TW2020_Business_Sphere_BAM_Matrix.pdf
