

# MAGGIE GOBRAN—MAMA MAGGIE

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## PROFILE

Mama Maggie was born in Egypt in 1949 where she was raised in an affluent Christian family. She studied business at the American University in Cairo and at INSEAD in France. . She got married to Mr. Ibrahim Abou Seif in 1975 and they have two children. After her marriage, she stayed at home to raise her two young children and then moved onto her career. She worked as a marketing and business executive at BMW Egypt and taught business at the American University in Cairo. Mr. Ibrahim Abou Seif was a student at Victoria College where princes learned, then at the Faculty of Engineering where he was the first to achieve Distinction grade. he was MBA holder from the American University in Cairo and a very successful business owner - the family had the largest tea producing factory in the country. Her son studied construction engineering and he got his B.Sc and, M.Sc. from the American University in Cairo, his MBA from INSEAD France. He worked at the most prestigious construction company in Egypt, Orascom Construction Industries and then in investing banking at the Deutsch Bank in London. Then he became a monk at St. Macarius Monastery and is currently studying for his Ph.D. at St. John's College – Durham U.K. Ann, Mama Maggie's second daughter, also holds a degree in Mass Communications from the American University in Cairo and Master degree from EBS in UK, and is the mother of four children.

## FAMILY BACKGROUND

Mama Maggie's siblings are all high-achieving members of Egyptian society, including Professor Dr. Nabil Gobran, a Consultant Cardiologist and the Head of the Cardiology department of National Heart Institute in Cairo, hospitals health organization and Hayat Medical Center. He is a Member of Royal College of Physicians M.R.C.P (U.K.), Fellow of Royal College of physicians of Edinburgh F.R.C.P (Edinburgh). He is examiner for the final examination of Royal College of physicians examination (U.K.), and one of the first Egyptian doctors to hold the British exam of the Royal College of England in Egypt. Her two other brothers, Moheb is a successful businessmen holding various distinguished community roles; Board member of many charities, national and International. Engineer Gamal, Founder & CEO of COTACO Construction Company Bridge board member, trustee of several NGOs like The Bible Society and the head of the Rotary Club. Her only sister Nadia lives in the United States with her husband, a renowned Egyptian doctor, who is head of Hematology in Geisinger Medical Center, Pennsylvania. Mama Maggie's nephew, Dr. Martin Makary, is a distinguished surgeon and intellectual at John's Hopkins University.

## EXPERIENCE

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Founder and head of Stephen's Children Ministry, Egypt — 1988- Present  
<https://stephenschildren.org/>

Mama Maggie has founded an organization that helps hundreds of thousands of poor children all over the world - regardless of their color, creed or religion - to get dignified lives and education. She faces intolerance with sweets Mama Maggie started Stephen's Children Foundation in 1988. At that time she accompanied some friends to visit some poor, suffering, needy, hungry, miserable families in the slums around Cairo, they carried gifts to them. The poverty and misery of the children were unbearable and she got the call: "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."-This was the aim of all her work "A man is what he thinks". The whole purpose is to bring up generations filled with positive energy and positive image of themselves and others, focusing on the value of every human as the most valuable creation in the world, so they become constructive knowing that human fraternity is the most important value that relieves tension between cultures and beliefs across the nation, with the conviction that "All Humans are One", the Middle East and the whole world. Inspired by Mr. Mohamed M. Abdel Rahman who was the Head of English Schools in Egypt who made the whole school every morning say Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Graduates of this school were prices, Government members and very successful business men.

The work started with two workers visiting the children. Today it has more than 2000 workers and volunteers serving hundreds of thousands of families.

The work reaches urban slums villages in Upper Egypt and expanding to other countries. Reaching and touching more than 1 million lives with a new spirit of self-respect, self-esteem, accepting and respecting all humans.

Founder of many different NGOs all work for the poor children and their families to provide Medical, Educational, Social, Vocational & moral aid.

We are in the process of founding an international Foundation to serve poor communities.

Mama Maggie and her team have offices in Egypt, USA, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands, UK and Cyprus.

The work serves hundreds of thousands of families, employs a staff of 2000 including volunteers and 100 Community Educational Centers with clinics, schools and High School, serve and educate in more than 100 homes for the homeless

Touched the lives of more than one million apart from those who were inspired including the 21 martyrs of Libya who gave their life for their belief

Mama Maggie is the symbol of giving and charitable work in Egypt

Mama Maggie spoke in renowned Universities , inspiring and empowering students including:

Lipscomb University Nashville,  
Wheaton University IL,  
Christopher Newport University, Virginia  
Biola University LA  
St. Vladimir Seminary, NY  
Spoke t the Aga Khan Foundation - Canada

Faculty Member, Haggai Institute, Singapore and Miami 1988-2000  
Faculty member teaching advanced business training

Professor, American University in Cairo — 1982-1993  
Faculty Member teaching business to adults at the Center for Adults and Continuing Education

Marketing director, BMW Egypt — 1980-1982  
Head of marketing and advertising for BMW in Egypt and in the Gulf

#### EDUCATION

American University in Cairo — Diploma in business administration and advanced secretarial studies, 1976.

Training at BMW in marketing

Several Management Trainings - Sheraton Hotels

INSEAD — Diploma in management and humanities, 2008.

#### SKILLS

Mama Maggie is an avid swimmer and has a national award in swimming. She plays the piano, sports, basket-ball, likes traveling and reading. She especially focuses on reading the Bible, writings of Saint Isaac the Syrian, the writings of the desert fathers, and the writings of Pope Kirolos the sixth.

## RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Mama Maggie is the first Egyptian woman to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for more than 10 times and lately in 2022.

The Top - BBC 100 Inspirational and Influential Women 2020.

The Top 10 most inspirational women in Egypt 2019.

The Recipient of the 2019 William Wilberforce Award to be received in May 2019.

First Egyptian Woman to receive City of Los Angeles Award , 18 March 2019

First time in 14 years, the First Egyptian woman to receive “International Women of Courage (IWOC)” by the US Department of State Delivered by First Lady Melania Trump & Secretary of State Mike Pompeo– March 2019

TAKREEM Award Lebanese award received in Kuwait November 2018.

“Appreciation Award” by HH Pope Tawadros II , August 2018. This appreciation Award was presented to Mama Maggie at The First International Forum of Coptic Church Youth held in August 2018

“Appreciation Award” from President El Sisi for her social work “Mother of the Year” dated 21st of March 2018.

The Charles W. Colson “Courage and Conviction award” from BIOLA University in March, California, USA, 2018.

Mama Maggie was the First Egyptian Lady to receive “Arab Hope Maker Award” – Presented by Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashed Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai & Vice President of UAE, May 2017

“Extraordinary Achievement Award” from the Ministry of Social Affairs in Cairo 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2014.

Catholic Council Award 18th of March 2014.

Rotary Club of Cairo 2012.

Best Teacher Award; Haggai institute for Leadership 31st of March 1992