

ARAB BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

ABTS Newsletter

June 2015

Graduating Students, their Vision and their Ministries

As the end of the 2014-2015 academic year approaches, our staff members have been busy stuffing envelopes with invitations to our most exciting annual event: Graduation Day! This June 21st, ABTS will be sending 8 women and 11 men from 8 different Arab countries into service for the Church in our region. Our students are graduating with ministry visions for their communities and churches, and will be taking the knowledge and spiritual formation from their time with us at ABTS into their new ministry fields.

In this newsletter, we are proud to introduce you to some of our graduating students and their ministry visions. Please join us in praying for the ABTS Class of 2015.

Ehab and Susan, Egyptians, Diploma in Theology |

"I'll be in charge of the Awana ministry for the villages in the al-Miniya governorate in Upper Egypt," said Ehab. "Four days after graduating from ABTS, my wife and I will be contributing to a conference to train ministers in Lebanon on Sunday School ministry for children. Once we return to Egypt, I will be training local ministers on how to implement the Awana programs. We will also be launching an Awana ministry for teenagers and young adults, not just for children. Also, praise God, I will be leading an evangelism and counseling ministry. This will be in partnership with an international ministry that is interested in ministry in Egypt I connected with in Lebanon. Additionally I plan to find ways to continue my education in Egypt. I hope to pursue a Master's degree at a Baptist seminary there." Susan added, "I will continue with my ministry reaching out to young women through a partnership with a ministry in Finland. Before I came to Lebanon I



was one of the Awana leaders in our area, but now I want to focus directly on the young women in Egypt."

Ammar, Sudanese, Bachelor of Theology |

"ABTS has helped us shape our vision and pushed us to develop a special vision, guidelines, and goals for our lives. They also encouraged us to connect with our local churches in our home countries, using any means we could. I am still not 100% sure where I will go after graduation because there are multiple ministry opportunities open to me in Sudan, Nigeria, or other Arab African countries. However, I am still committed to my youth ministry and home church ministry back in Khartoum, Sudan. This summer I am planning a church conference for the young men and women at my church, the Presbyterian Church in Atbara."



Iraqi couple graduating with a Bachelor of Theology (husband) and a Diploma in Theology (wife) |

"Returning to Iraq is impossible for us now because of ISIS. So we will continue to grow our ministry among the refugees here in Lebanon after graduation. Through a church in Beirut, my wife and I minister to several hundred refugee families from Syria and Iraq. We mostly minister to them through

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home groups, but we also give them food baskets when we can. Four times a week we hold Bible study and discipleship meetings with 56 different home groups. We would like to expand this ministry and continue planting home churches. During our studies at ABTS, we ran 3 to 4 meetings a week. Most meetings are with Iraqis, but we also work with a group of Syrians. Please pray as for us as we transition from ABTS housing to our own housing in Beirut."

Elia and Hanna, Egyptian, Master of Divinity and Diploma in Theology respectively | Hanna: "My husband, son, and I will return to Egypt and will live in Cairo after graduation. There we will continue with the home group ministry. I will work alongside my husband. My heart is to serve with women in Egypt and I plan to compliment my husband's home group ministry by reaching out to the women attendees. I also hope to work with the 14-17 year olds in my home church." Elia: "I am thinking about church planting in Cairo after we graduate this June. I don't have any partners for this ministry yet and my home church is far away from the area we are thinking about working in. We want to work mostly among Christian-background believers in a Christian area of Egypt that doesn't have enough churches. Please pray for us to find an apartment and a school for our son Holy."



Micheline, Lebanese serving with Life Agape in Syria, Master of Divinity | "I may help here at ABTS while doing a part-time DMin or PhD, but for sure I want to use my knowledge of theology and my gifts after graduation. I want to give back what ABTS has given to me. I feel the urgent need of our Arab society that



needs people, local people, and especially women, to extend a helping hand. My husband is in Syria and I visit Syria every two months, in part to continue with my ministry work in Human Resources and Leadership Development for Life Agape Syria and Damascus Baptist Church. My vision is to reach out to women in leadership positions in media, business, philanthropy etc., to empower them to be active in the Church all over the Arab world."

Rachid, Moroccan, Bachelor of Theology | "I have been busy preparing for my ministry back in Morocco once I graduate next month. It's still not fully established but I look forward to discipling, church planting, evangelizing, and following up with Moroccans. I plan to move to and live in a city where there are no ministers, no one serving, and no church planters. I feel there is potential for ministry growth in many cities that do not currently have any servants working there. I am currently working on a website in the different Amazigh (Berber) languages as well as in Arabic, targeting North Africa. This is an outreach opportunity for me. It's a platform for outreach to and connection with seekers from my country. Some of the pan-Arab Christian satellite TV channels are going to connect me with seekers who contact them. This will provide me with the resources for follow up ministry, discipleship, and, in the long run, church planting. Please pray that God prepares me spiritually and financially for this ministry and provides the friends and partners. Pray for a spiritual revival in Morocco and for better harmony between church leaders."



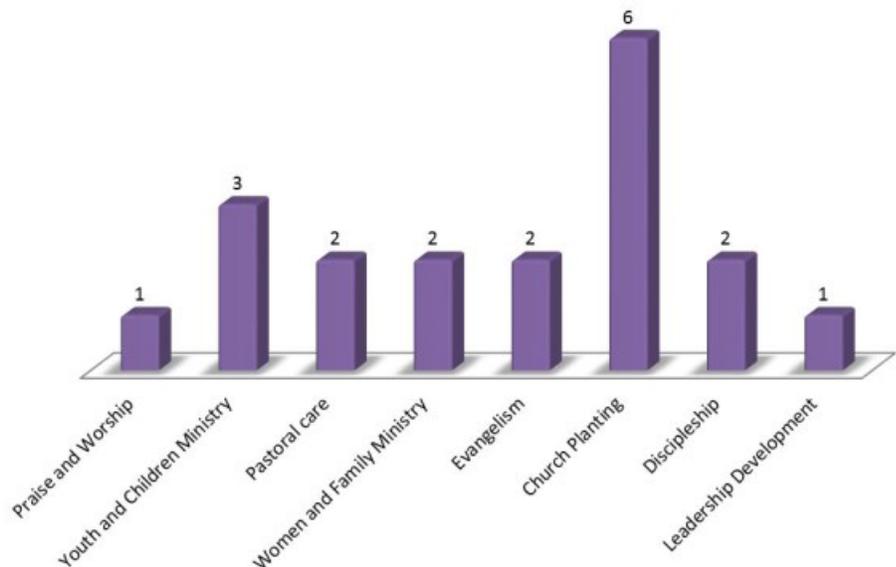
Female Egyptian student, Master of Divinity, serving for one year in Lebanon upon graduation while she waits for her husband, a second-year student, to complete his degree | "Together my husband and I are involved in many different ministries among mostly non-Christian groups in Lebanon. We run a home group ministry for refugees in East Beirut, doing Bible studies and discipleship. We started with 3 people and now we have 14 attendees, with many

ready to break off and plant their own home groups. Next year we will have 5 home groups, led by our former disciples. We also lead a ministry among the Bedouins in East Lebanon, where we work with 70 adults and 95 kids. We spend half our time with them running a Bible study and the other half discipling them, teaching them how to follow Jesus in their context. We also train potential leaders among the Bedouins, as we have done with the refugees, because we know we won't be here forever and the growing numbers require local leadership."



Tassadit, Algerian, Master of Divinity | "At the encouragement of my Algerian pastor, I am planning on pursuing my theological education in a seminary in France. I have been accepted and am hoping to secure full funding. Before leaving for France in the fall, I will be spending the summer teaching in Tizi Ouzou. I have been invited by two Berber-speaking churches to teach young adults theology. In the evenings I will work with the students at my home church. Please pray that I don't face any difficulties as I apply for my student visa to France."

2015 ABTS Graduates' Primary Ministry Fields



What's Happening this Month at the Institute of Middle East Studies?

June is consistently the busiest month of the year at ABTS's Institute of Middle East Studies (IMES). As such, we wish to highlight a number of the educational programs IMES has been working on as it seeks to fulfill its institutional mandate: *To bring about positive transformation in thinking and practice between Christians and Muslims in the Middle East and beyond.* June 15 to 19, we are hosting the Middle East Consultation 2015 – Discipleship Today: Identity and Belonging in the Middle East & North Africa. June 22 to July 3, we will hold the residency of the Master of Religion on MENA Studies – MENA History, Politics and Economics Residency. June 15 to July 17, we will be hosting five seminary students from the US in our Middle East Immersion program. And finally, The Feast's inter-faith youth work continues. Read about each of these programs on <http://imeslebanon.wordpress.com>

Middle East Bible Outreach [MEBO] is a 501(c)(3) organization based in Marietta, GA, that coordinates efforts among our US friends and partners to generate awareness and much needed financial gifts and prayers to support the work of ABTS. To learn more, visit: www.mebo.org

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