



ARAB BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

ABTS Newsletter

October 2015

Faculty, Staff and Returning Students Pray Over First Year Students

ABTS's 2015-2016 academic year is officially underway! Second- and third-year students began their elective courses on September 7th, and first-year students began their Induction and Survey Module on October 12th. Praise God, the visas for most of our new students finally came through. However we are still waiting for several more and appreciate your prayers during this time. On October 15, we had the opportunity to gather and meet 15 new students. ABTS President Elie Haddad led the staff, faculty and returning students in prayer over them.



God at Work Through ABTS Students: Student Summer Ministries

Most of our returning students were able to serve with their home churches and among their people throughout the summer. Here are a few accounts of how God is using ABTS students across the Middle East and North Africa. Please join us in praying for these students, their studies this year, and each of their ministries.

Chaden, 3rd year, Bachelor of Theology, Lebanon

Chaden played a role in helping a ministry in East Lebanon make arrangements to build a clinic and educational center for children and women. She also contributed towards setting up an afterschool program in another area by making arrangements for believing teachers to be present, who would share and minister to the children. Finally, Chaden is also writing articles and



designing a magazine which aims to bridge gaps between Muslims and Christians.

In addition she shared with us, *"I continued to serve among house groups of believers from non-Christian backgrounds who meet in our family home weekly. The highlight of my summer was being able to reconnect with some of my friends who had distanced themselves from me when they found out that I was a believer. My friends began to open up a bit at first and then continued to visit me throughout the summer. In the beginning they were all just telling me individually how they were tired and about their personal challenges, but by our second visits they started to ask me questions*

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and really wanted to learn from me and about my faith. I was thrilled that they were opening up and seeking and asking for prayer or guidance.”

“Please pray for the many people in our ministry who are thirsty for God. May His Living Water refresh them. Pray for the ministry and school in the villages of East Lebanon; ask for strength for those serving there. Ask the Lord to protect my family and children. Also please pray for my sister who at one time seemed to also follow Christ, but is now pursuing other things.” Chaden

Abram, 3rd year, Bachelor of Theology, Sudan

In addition to serving in his home church, Abram led teams at a revival conference for two days. The first day of the revival 80 people attended, and 150 people came the second day! “Many people feel like the Church in North Sudan is gone, but we were able to encourage them that we are still there and want to be there to help them. We were using some of the reconciliation techniques we learned at ABTS.” Abram also served with the youth and had the opportunity to preach for the first time in his church.



“Please pray for my church in Khartoum; may they be strong and faithful in the midst of persecution. Pray also for the new ministry I am starting to help ABTS better reach our neighbors; it is not easy, but I want this ministry to continue even after I graduate.” Abram

Sameh, 3rd year, Bachelor of Theology, Egypt

This summer Sameh was able to return to the ministry he served with for 12 years before coming to ABTS. Sameh serves in a home for orphans with mental disabilities in Egypt. The residents have jobs on farms, making candles or glass, and some care for sheep. This summer was very hot in Egypt and many residents could not go out and work, so he stayed in the home with them. “At night we would share stories from the Bible with the residents. I was able to use what I learned at ABTS about sharing stories in the appropriate context for the audience and in ways that

they can understand.” Sameh also spent time with his friends, and had several opportunities to share with them. “This summer I learned a big lesson. We have a big role in teaching people who God is. There are a lot of Christians who don’t understand who God is.”

The highlight of Sameh’s summer was being reunited with his brothers. All three of his brothers live abroad, so it is very rare for them to all be home at the same time. While Sameh was in Egypt, he stayed connected to the groups he ministers to in East Lebanon and in East Beirut via social media.

“Thank you for your prayers and support so we can study at ABTS. Please pray for our ministry in East Lebanon and East Beirut. Pray for God to work in the lives of believers and that they will begin to grow, serve, and lead. Pray for transportation for us to get to East Lebanon. In 8 months I will graduate; pray that God will show my wife and me where He would like us.” Sameh



Wahiba, 3rd year, Bachelor of Theology, Algeria

Wahiba’s house church pastor gave her several opportunities to share with their church what she had learned last year in her studies at ABTS. “I was able to share from my History of the Church class, which everyone was interested in, because we don’t know the history of the Church. Even though my church is small and held in peoples’ homes, I was able to encourage them that we can have an effect on our society. We need to be reaching out to the rest of the community and not just staying to ourselves. I was also able to encourage my church to recognize the importance of finding ways to take care of and teach the children in our ministry, as they are the next generation of believers,” she shared.

“Please pray that the Lord would work in my heart. My desire is that the Lord would be living in me and would change me from the inside out, taking away anything in me that is not from Him. Pray that the Lord would give me the strength to serve and that I would study well my last year.” Wahiba

The Middle East Bible Outreach (MEBO) is a 501(c)(3) corporation based in Atlanta, 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.

ABTS Mission: To serve the Church in our region as it realizes its Biblical mission of having Christ acknowledged as Lord by offering specialized learning resources and equipping faithful men and women for effective service.

Toufic, 2nd year, Bachelor of Theology, Algeria

Toufic spent one month of his summer break serving in East Lebanon with Syrian refugees before returning to Algeria to serve with his small church, where he disciplined other believers. Ministry for Toufic in East Lebanon included leading a daily chapel devotion, helping translate for Western volunteers, leading times of prayer, and helping with children's ministry. In Algeria he is in a church leadership position, which includes counseling and preaching. Toufic saw many benefits of his studies at ABTS in his ministry this summer; *"I used what I learned in the Communication Module, when I was working in both East Lebanon and Algeria. In Algeria, I taught my home group hermeneutic principles in one on one meetings, and also taught how to understand the Biblical idea from the context."*

Although the most challenging, the highlight of Toufic's summer was to be able to counsel his sister after she separated from her husband. Through what he had learned at ABTS on Biblical relationships and how to love in Truth, he was able to help his sister and brother-in-law to reconcile. Not only that, but his sister also delivered a healthy baby boy, which is a huge praise, since she had previously lost two children. *"Now my sister has a better understanding of God!"* Toufic exclaimed.

"Please pray for my family; I have two brothers who are not believers. I want to know God more so that I can be more effective in serving the Church. Pray that God will

give me discernment to better understand and help others so that I can be a blessing to them." Toufic

Milad and Samia, 2nd year, Bachelor of Theology and Diploma in Theology, Egypt

Milad, Samia, and their two daughters served with their home church in Egypt this summer. The goal of their ministry was to build relationships, love people, and lay the foundation for a church in a new area without a church. Milad was also a disciple-maker in a discipleship ministry. *"We felt that the Lord was with us as the people were accepting us and listening to us share. We were not saying God says this, but we were turning people to the Bible to see what it says. It was exciting to see people become passionate and want to live a better life after receiving our message of love. We were using what we learned at ABTS to help people have restored relationships."*



"Pray that the Spirit would work in our hearts and reveal to us His vision for the church. May we better understand the truth of the church and the way of God. We thank God for sponsors like you so that can study here another year!" Milad and Samia

What can the Arab Church learn from the story of Ruth?

Check out this article on the ABTS website from Faculty Walid Zailaa, ["The Story of Ruth in its Revised Version"](#)

Partner with ABTS!

Your scholarship donations have directly supported the students in this newsletter and many others to be transformed and better equipped to return and serve their churches and ministries across the Middle East and North Africa. Please consider giving towards our scholarship fund to support other future leaders whom God is preparing for His mission field.

In addition to your regular support to ABTS, please prayerfully consider giving towards our current construction expansion projects. *US Contributions are tax-deductible.*

For more information, contact Partnerships Manager, Wissam al-Saliby walsaliby@abtslebanon.org

Prayer Requests from our Community

"Please pray for my family in Syria as they are applying to immigrate to Canada. May the Lord give them a better future there. Praise God for this opportunity and also for granting me opportunity to remain in the Middle East where I wish to serve." 2nd year female student from Syria

"Pray that the students this year will bond quickly and have wisdom in how to relate well to one another as they are all coming from different cultures." Marcelle, Student Affairs

"Pray for my husband and me, as we are experiencing spiritual warfare in our ministry. Pray for equipped leaders to emerge from our groups who will go out and multiply. Ask the Lord to give my husband and me wisdom for our future plans." An Egyptian student

"Please pray for times of rest and refreshment for my wife and me." Ali, Executive Assistant

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