



ARAB BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

ABTS Newsletter

February 2014

ABTS Graduate Emad Botros Teaches Old Testament Background

February 10 to 14, ABTS Graduate Emad Botros taught the “Old Testament Background” course. The purpose of the course was to explore the historical, geographical, sociological, and cultural backgrounds with respect to the interpretation of the Old Testament. It equips students to diligently engage in the process of OT interpretation in order to better understand its message.

Emad is from Egypt. He graduated from ABTS in 2003 with a Bachelor of Theology. Following graduation, he pursued his calling to continued theological education and in May 2013 completed an M.A. in Christian Studies from McMaster Divinity College, Ontario. His thesis focused on writing biblical theology of the Old Testament in the context of Islam. He is currently working on his PhD at the same college.

During his stay, Emad delivered one of the daily morning devotions wherein he discussed key elements of his journey and how God used ABTS to shape his personality and clarify God’s calling on his life.

According to Emad, “ABTS was a place where God transformed my life, shaped my vision, and

developed my skills. I came to ABTS with a feeling of inferiority. I did not believe in myself, nor did I think that I was qualified for such a calling. I also had



doubts that I would be able to succeed. However, God had a different agenda. He brought one of the

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Emad Botros

ABTS faculty members into my life, a godly man who believed in me and was able to see things that I did not see in myself. This was a transformational moment in my life. With a touch of love and the trust of this man, I was able to trust myself once again, and discover the real me. Now, I enthusiastically look forward to what God has in store for me.”

Emad added: “At ABTS, I fell in love with the Old Testament and started to ask: what does it mean to
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read the Old Testament in a Middle Eastern context? How can the Old Testament be used to help Muslims understand God and his work through Jesus Christ? Would the Old Testament assist Muslims in their journey of searching for God? Since then, I have been on a journey to answer these questions. I have a



passion to teach the word of God, particularly the Old Testament. My dream is to revive the message of the Old Testament in the life of the ABTS students, as well as in the church, and to help Christians as they make the message of the Old Testament relevant to our Middle Eastern context today. I trust that teaching at ABTS is part of accomplishing this dream.”

Emad is married to Almass from Iraq and has two boys, aged 8 and 6 (photo). Emad and Almass met at ABTS when they were both students. Almass’s current ministry is among Arabs in Waterloo, Ontario.

View photos from Emad’s course [on our Facebook page](#).

Roundtable Discussion: Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World

Posted on the [IMES blog on 13 February 2014](#)

The Institute of Middle East Studies in collaboration with World Vision Lebanon was privileged to host an important discussion on the Arabic language version of the landmark document, *Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World: Recommendations for Conduct* [[Arabic/English](#)] on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, held at the ABTS.

Following an introduction by Rev. Charles Costa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ABTS, two of the key contributors to the document, John Baxter-Brown, former consultant on evangelism to the World Council of Churches ([WCC](#)), and Rosalee Velloso Ewell, Executive Director of the World Evangelical Alliance ([WEA](#)) Theological Commission, presented the document and the process by which it was developed. Of the document, Velloso Ewell

affirmed: “This document is unique and its necessity lies in its nature: it is genuinely a mission document, it is genuinely an ecumenical document, it is genuinely an inter-religious document, it is genuinely a biblical document, and it is a historic document. Despite its brevity and simplicity, it is necessary in that these things have never been said jointly, by these three bodies who represent about 95% of Christians worldwide.”

Published initially in Geneva in 2011, the document is the result of a collaboration between the WCC, the Vatican’s Pontifical Council on Inter-religious Dialogue ([PCID](#)), and the WEA, who together represent hundreds of Christian denominations, including Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal, and independent churches.

Continue reading about the event and the discussions [on the IMES blog](#).

View event [photos on our Facebook page](#).

ABTS Students Serving Syrian Refugee Children

“That Saturday morning we were feeling very cold as we entered the camp and saw the impoverished conditions under which the refugee families lived,” said a female ABTS student from Egypt. She added, “Joining this ministry was a challenge for me, a challenge that faded away when I watched the children play and heard them laugh from the bottom of their hearts - despite the pain and poverty. What touched me the most is how they believed that God loved them so genuinely as soon as we shared about God’s love. I learned a lot from my first ministry among Syrian refugees.”

On Saturday February 1st, 2014, 11 ABTS students organized a half a day of activities for 60 children at one refugee encampment in Zahle, in Lebanon’s Bekaa Vally, in collaboration with local NGO Heart for Lebanon. The program included games, physical activities, a sketch with a Kingdom message entitled “All Are Invited,” a hymn declaring “God created me because he loved me,” coloring sketches, and a small snack. In the coming months, the students will organize additional activities for Syrian refugee children in the Bekaa Valley and in the Mansourieh region, where ABTS is located, until graduation in June 2014.

The ministry will also include a one-time distribution of Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

View photos [from last year’s ministry.](#)

For information on how to support our students’ compassionate care ministry, please contact us at: information@abtslebanon.org



“All are invited” sketch, games and coloring with Syrian refugee children in Zahle, January 2014

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.