Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

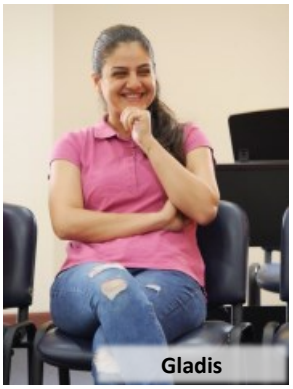
كليّة اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

June 2017

The Future Ministry of our Graduating Students

Our 2016-2017 Academic Year has reached an end, and ten of our residential graduating students are getting ready for their coming ministries. Along with them, one part-time Diploma in Theology student, three Master of Religion and eight Certificate in Ministry (ABTS Online) students will be graduating on June 25, the latter being our first group of ABTS Online graduates. We are excited to share with you some of our graduates' plans for ministry after graduation and their prayer requests. Join us in prayer for each one of them as they march on forward, as Arab church leaders, towards fulfilling God's will in the MENA region.

Gladis, Syrian, Bachelor of Theology (student speaker at graduation): "Currently, I am serving with the Free Evangelical Church, Mathaf, Lebanon. The focus of my ministry is home visits for Syrian refugee families. After I graduate, I will continue with the home visits ministry, and I will be editing resources for youth at Katalyst.


Gladis

"My family members are emigrating one after the other to Canada, so I ask you to kindly pray for them. I hope to get a Masters in Theology abroad in the future, if the Lord allows. Also, please pray for my ministry in Lebanon with the Free Evangelical Church. May the Lord give me wisdom in my dealings with others so I may be more effective."

Milad and Samia, Egyptian, Bachelor and Diploma of Theology (respectively): Milad describes his future ministry as such, **"**After we graduate, my wife Samia and I intend to serve in my town Minia, Egypt. I will be shepherding the home church I started there, which is made up of nearly 30 adults and 30 children. I am also thinking about forming a leadership team so I won't be the only one leading. We hope to find a place in the future where we can gather as one church. Until we find a good church building, I hope that the lack of it won't be a hindrance for our missional life." His wife Samia also adds, "My ministry will mainly be with the ladies of our home church whom I will be visiting on a regular basis."

As for their prayer requests, Milad asks, "Please continue to pray for us and for the challenges ahead such as finding a good church building. Also, pray for us to find good schools for our kids. The move will be hard for them. Rahma has now finished grade 3 in Lebanon and will be going to an Egyptian school where the curriculum is entirely different." Samia also asks, "When we get back to Egypt, we will be looking for the right school for our children in order to maintain the knowledge of the English language that they acquired here."

Milad & Samia

Chaden, Lebanese, Bachelor of Theology: My husband and I co-pastor a church in the area of Ras El Maten. We have about 20 to 30 committed members and many others who come and go.

Other than shepherding my church, I give Bible studies to nearly 60 Iraqi women through Heart for Lebanon, a Lebanese Christian relief and aid organization. I also have been serving as a liaison between the evangelical churches and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for almost a year. We have developed a protection program to help the church to bear

the burden of helping refugees. I am also the executive manager of Lahza magazine, an online magazine that highlights social issues relevant to the Arab world, especially to the youth whose values have been shifting in the past decade. It also aims to instill biblical values in society.

Chaden

May the Lord seek my people and my family. Some who are coming to the faith – especially the community leaders – are being rejected and persecuted. Please lift them up in your prayers.

Wahiba, Algerian, Bachelor of Theology: "When I first came to ABTS, my vision was to serve among children. I later felt called to be among the youth of my church, the Protestant Church of Tizi Ouzou. We have around 30 youth members there; I intend to start a program especially for them. I also intend to integrate the culture of counselling into the church, appointing mature members to mentor younger people.

Wahiba

"Please pray that I will be serving wholeheartedly. I should find a job in order to support myself. This means I will not be able to be in full time ministry at a time my church is in need of a lot of ministers because it is growing. Please pray that the Lord would give me the wisdom and strength to go on in my ministry and to be a blessing for the church."

Andrea, Male, African country, Bachelor of Theology: "I will be reaching out to and discipling families. Our culture values hospitality, so home visits is a great way to share Christ. I will also be teaching a Christian curriculum to kids at church so that they would know God's Word and hide it in their hearts (Psalm 119:11). I will also be preaching and teaching at church and spreading the gospel through speaking at the houses which believing women open to non-believers.

"Please pray that by God's grace, I will bring many into the Kingdom of God. May He also give me patience and perseverance to bear the trials that face my home church today. May I also be able to serve Him fully despite the fact that I will be working in order to provide for myself."

Abir & Maher

Maher and Abir, Egyptian, Bachelor and Diploma of Theology (respectively): "My wife and I intend to start a clothes factory in our village (Nazlet Al Fallaheen, Minia) for the purpose of employing widows and empowering them while showing them the love of Christ," says Maher.

He also adds, "We pray that God will provide for this ministry and that we may stand firm despite the recent terrorist acts that took place in Minia, Egypt." His wife, Abir, also requests, "Please pray that we would find the right school in Egypt for our children in order to maintain their acquired English in Lebanon. Also, pray for the clothes factory we intend to open when we get back to Egypt."

ABTS family praying for the graduates, June 2017

ABTS' Institute of Middle East Studies is organizing this month the **Middle East Consultation**, focusing this year on the themes of persecution and suffering, minoritization, hopelessness and despair, and emigration. This exciting event will feature four keynote speakers: **Ramez Atallah**, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Egypt, **Yohanna Katanacho**, Academic Dean of the Nazareth Evangelical College and Professor of Biblical Studies at Bethlehem Bible College, **Martin Accad**, Chief Academic Officer of ABTS and Director of ABTS's Institute of Middle East Studies, as well as **Elie Haddad**, ABTS President.

Throughout MEC 2017, we will hear contributions from **Ehab el -Kharrat** from Egypt**,** an Elder and a member of the senior leadership team of the Presbyterian Evangelical Church in Kasr El Dobarah, and the Founder and President of the 'Freedom Program', the largest drug and HIV program in the Arab world., and from **Rebecca Atallah,** former Representative of *World Vision Canada* in Egypt; she established the *Center of Love* for children with special needs in Cairo and is currently the Chairperson of the Board of the *Sudanese Displaced Children's Learning Center* in Egypt.

Other contributors include **Daniel Bannoura** from Palestine,

Round table discussions, MEC 2016

Panel discussion, MEC 2016

instructor in Comparative Religion and Church History at Bethlehem Bible College; **Harout Selimian** from Syria**,** who is the Chair of the *Educational Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Community* in Syria and President of the *Armenian Protestant Community*; **Nahla Ishak** from Syria, the Founder and President of *Generations Over Crisis* (an NGO) in Damascus; **Nadia Khoury** from Lebanon, the Director of *Tahaddi Health Programs* and **Haitham Jazrawi** from Iraq, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Kirkuk, northern Iraq.

Morning devotions will be led by **Gary Nelson**, President of Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto, Canada.

Furthermore, we are excited this year because of our partnership with the Commission for Theology and Education, and the Commission for Freedom and Justice of the European Baptist Federation. During two workshops of MEC 2017, the two commissions will be presenting papers exploring the following topics.

Michael Rohde, Lead Pastor of the Baptist Church Hannover, and former professor Old Testament in Elstal, Germany, will present a paper titled: 'Israelites' Foreign Experience and Dealing with Strangers: Theses and Questions about an Old Permanent Challenge.'

Marion Carson, Lecturer at the Scottish Baptist College, Paisley, Scotland, and secretary of the European Baptist Federation's Anti-trafficking Network, will give a paper titled 'After Emmaus: The Bible and Spiritual Growth.'

Christer Daelander, Chair of the European Baptist Federation's Commission for Freedom and Justice, will present a paper on 'Liberation and Suffering – Biblical Reflection and Christian Experience.'

Subscribe to the IMES blog at www.imes.blog to receive updates and reports on the this consultation as well as on future consultations.

Join us in prayer for this upcoming week that it would present a space for transformational dialogue among its diverse audience.

Founded in 2005, the Moore Conference Center and Guesthouse at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary currently provides 44 diverse guest rooms, offering quality services and amenities all year long.

The Moore Conference Center team strives for excellence, and is delighted to host your events and banquets. Because ABTS students have moved to newly constructed classrooms in the next-door building, our conference center now has the ability to offer three modern conference rooms of different capacities, well equipped with audiovisual and translation services. Our venues are designed to cater for different events, accommodating up to 280 people.

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