



Our Students' Summer Ministry

The Academic Year 2014-2015 has begun with second and third year students resuming classes as of September 8, 2014. During the summer break, our students are required to return to their homes and to their respective ministries. Only four students remained at ABTS during that period due to ongoing armed conflicts in their respective countries. Below, we share with you about the summer ministries of some of our students.

Fouad from Sudan | In the first part of my summer, I had to work in order to generate income for my second year at ABTS. In the second part, I led and taught worship at the "Worship and Fasting" camp for youth at Atbara church, which is a 4-hour drive away from the capital, Khartoum.

The camp was organized by Ammar, a 3rd year student at ABTS. It was such a blessed time. I had lots of time connecting and praying with the youth who fled the mountains of Nuba because of the war. An important moment I had from the camp was when one of the young people shared a devotional, but he misinterpreted the Bible verses. I stood up and told the youth that we should not handle our Bible lightly and we should be careful with how we deliver the word of God. I have never done such a thing before, so I was surprised by the positive transformation this caused. I approached the young man and we started reading the same verse together using principles from ABTS's Hermeneutics course. I pointed out the background and context of the text and he was thrilled because he felt he was reading it for the first time. He even shared this same verse with the

youth the next morning. After returning to Khartoum, I joined our church worship team on a trip to Kassala in East Sudan. This trip ignited in me a passion to go back to Sudan and serve in places like Kassala where the church needs encouragement and where the community is thirsty for worship.



Fouad leading worship in a youth camp, Sudan



Rachid from Morocco | As soon as I arrived in July, I designated two weeks exclusively for my family as last summer I was not able to spend time with my siblings and parents. It was an opportunity for fellowship and getting closer to them. The following two weeks, I took time

to relax and to prepare for the radio broadcast ministry of which I am a part. I prepared 50 episodes in the Tamazight language for a Christian radio talk show broadcasted twice a week. In August, I helped supervise the annual conference with my church in Agadir, which was ten days long and attended by 105 people. I was also assisting the pastor of my

church so I led Bible study during some evenings. Another highlight this summer was ten days I gave to visiting churches, leaders and new believers all over Morocco from

the South to the North. Then, I organized with my friend a four day conference for leaders with their wives. The conference was a starting point to form the ministry team with whom I will serve once I graduate from ABTS this year.

This summer was different from last year's because I was shaped crucially by the second year courses. ABTS's Kingdom of God and Missional Church modules deeply affected my perceptions and approach to ministry and my vision for Morocco.

Ehab and Susan from Egypt | Susan's Perspective: Ehab was blessed with 62 days of ministry during our 68 days in Egypt. I joined my husband in a ministry for people with special needs in Al-Menya province, which is a marginalized population in our province representing 10-15% of the total residents. I was terrified at the beginning and did not want to join him because I do not know how to deal with them. I finally joined the conference and in four days of ministry God changed my heart towards the people and I learned so much from them. It was the most blessed time in my life. My sister and I also organized a women's ministry to distant rural areas in Al-Menya. We would travel for two hours each day by car and start small women's groups. We started our meetings with prayer and ice-breaker discussions, and then we would take time in sharing the gospel and counseling these women. I heard the most heart-breaking and shocking stories during this ministry. People are enslaved to sin and even Christian families are so broken because they lack Jesus in their lives. This summer my eyes were opened to the huge need for Christ in my country and it moved my heart to pray more for Egypt.



Elias in ABTS classroom, September 2014

Elias from Lebanon | I had a very fruitful summer in Lebanon this year. In the first week, I joined a YWAM outreach team in a street evangelism ministry. We shared the gospel with pedestrians and prayed with them. In my group, two pedestrians accepted Christ

and we saw miracles take place. We really felt God's hand at work through us. In the second two weeks, I joined a medical ministry team among refugees in camps in south and north east Lebanon. We ended up praying with every person we met and made sure that local servants are following up with everyone we met. I also had the opportunity to deliver two sermons about love and dry bones at my church for two different congregations. I had many opportunities in leading worship during Sunday services and other church meetings. I was able to give more time to youth leadership, leading worship and talks. I kept in mind, throughout my ministry this summer, what I learned from Dr. Perry's class about Evangelism. I also made use of the courses we took in preparing for and delivering a sermon.

Atheer and Aseel from Iraq | Aseel's Perspective:

My husband and I had planned to go back to serve the church in Iraq this summer but God had a different plan for us. As a result of the expanding conflict in Iraq and the progress of ISIS in the area we intended to visit, we had to abort our plan and stay in Lebanon. We found



Aseel in ABTS classroom, September 2014

our ministry awaiting us in Lebanon, especially with the high number of Iraqi refugees who fled to Lebanon as a refuge from persecution. We started visiting Chaldean churches in order to meet with Iraqi Christian families and serve them. We ministered to two Iraqi families before they immigrated to Europe. We have also been following up on Lebanese and Syrian families. My husband is leading a discipleship program with a group from different backgrounds, using Al-Massira, an eleven-week audiovisual discipleship tool. I have also been involved in a women's ministry among Syrian refugees and I am so thrilled because this is a group I will keep following up with until I graduate at the end of this academic year.

The ABTS Nursery: Caring for our Students' Children

This year, God blessed us with more than 40 full-time degree students from across the Arab World, most of which are residential students. Many of our residential students are married couples with both husband and wife enrolled full-time. We have also been blessed with an exceptionally high number of children – 9 boys and 8 girls; 13 are school age and 4 are nursery age. Because both parents attend morning and evening classes, ABTS provides a nursery to take care of all the children throughout the day while their parents are in class, undertaking research, or studying for exams.

For each child, ABTS covers the cost for room and board, and schooling or nursery. This summer, we enlarged and renovated our daycare room and increased its accommodation capacity. The daycare room caters to children under school age and to children age 10 and below during afterschool hours. We have recruited new staff on the nursery team. It is not an easy task to keep 17 children all together and busy during the day, so the daycare workers are doing a great job coming up with activities for the children while also taking care of their physical and emotional needs.

Benjamin, a second year BTh student and a father of two, said: *"We wouldn't be able to study if it weren't for the nursery. Our younger son Jason is only one year old while our older son Pierre is five. It is good to see the new changes the seminary made to the nursery. It is now twice as big as the old room. This is healthier for the kids."*

Susan, a second year BTh student and a mother of two, said: *"The best thing about having a nursery on campus is that we do not have to worry about leaving our children alone while going to class. I have a ten-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son. Even though they are fairly grownup, I find more peace when they are being fed, kept warm and taken care of at the nursery."*

Sponsor a Student's Child | In addition to providing scholarship support, we invite friends and partners to help us provide for the additional cost of US \$7,000/child ABTS incurs each year to cover the school tuition or nursery costs and room and board of our students' children. For more information, please contact ABTS Partnerships Manager Wissam al-Saliby at walsaliby@abtslebanon.org

The ABTS Nursery, September 2014



September's Prayer and Praise

We praise God for the safe arrival of our second and third year students, but we are still awaiting the first year students. We are glad to inform you that we have received the visas for 13 new students. We are still waiting for two more visas. Please join us in praying that all of our first year students will arrive safely.

We praise the Lord for the completion of our kitchen and dining room renovation. Our restaurant is ready to cater to a larger number of students, guesthouse residents, and conference participants.

Please pray for a spiritually enriching new academic year. Also pray for the logistics and facilities team to oversee a smooth and comfortable living experience for all our students and their children, and a warm and hospitable environment for our guesthouse visitors.