



Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

ABTS Newsletter

August 2013

Inside ABTS: The Finlay Graham Memorial Library

By Walid Zailaa and Rola Salloum, ABTS librarians — ABTS Library plays an important and direct role in achieving our vision and mission. It is one of the most important places where learning at our seminary takes place; it is where Christian leaders are formed. ABTS library seeks firstly to provide adequate theological resources for all library patrons; mainly our faculty and students. Secondly, we seek to provide the best service and environment for the library patrons to successfully achieve their assignments.

To provide adequate theological resources, we purchase a yearly average of up to 1500 books. Our students are from the Middle East and North Africa, so we seek to buy all the Arabic theological books that are in print. In addition to books, we have important theological periodicals in both languages (Arabic and English) where interesting academic articles can be found. For English speaking faculty, students and guests, we provide online access to all the important theological journals. The Finlay Graham Memorial Library contains more than 23,000 volumes, around 13,000 English books, 9,000 Arabic books, 1,000 periodicals; CDs, DVDs and other few books in French.



We equally strive to equip the students with the skills needed to become self-sufficient researchers. Our goal is not only to support them through their current work, but also to give them research skills they can use through their lives. In addition to standard office hours, the library opens 2 days during the week until 10:00 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, the library opens from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Part of the way we measure our success is by training students adequately enough in their first year so that they can effectively and efficiently use the library without assistance. In their second and third years of studies, they are expected to help first year students in research. We always emphasize on providing a quiet environment for the students in the library. This helps them in fulfilling whatever requirements they may have and enjoy their time while doing it.



Mobile shelving system installed in one of the library rooms

As ABTS librarians, along with the rest of the ABTS staff, we strive to equip faithful men and women for ministry by providing adequate resources and services in the library which help transform their lives for effective ministry.

Help us expand the library!

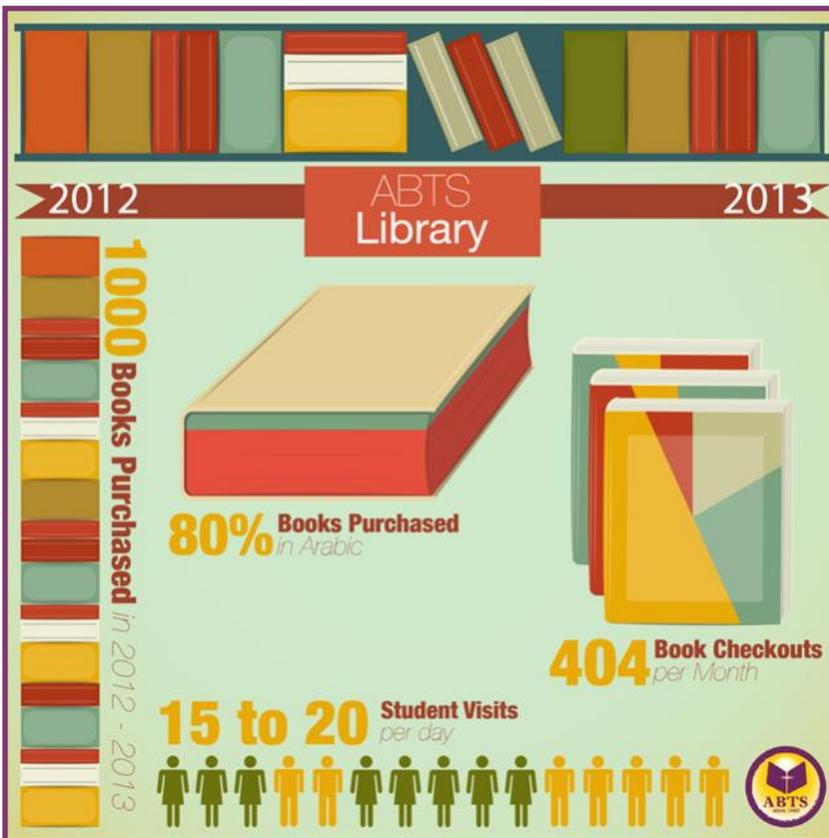
In 2012, ABTS received its accreditation status from the European Evangelical Accrediting Association (EEAA). EEAA’s recommendations included adequate preservation and expansion for library holdings, and developing variety, concentration and number with reference to academic levels, theological orientation and subjects covered.

Accordingly, ABTS pursues an annual library resource expansion plan in the value of around US\$ 40,000 in addition to installing periodical stacks.

To contribute to the expansion of the Finlay Graham Memorial Library, you can donate directly to ABTS, or for our U.S.-based partners through the Middle East Bible Outreach, our U.S.-based affiliate. For further information, please contact Wissam al-Saliby, ABTS Partnerships Manager : walsaliby (at) abtslebanon.org



Recent library acquisition



Librarian Rola Salloum



Librarian Walid Zailaa

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.

ABTS staff share their journeys with God

In the months of July and August, ABTS students are ministering in their respective countries. Daily morning devotions have a much lower attendance. So this year, staff and faculty decided to share their personal testimonies and journeys with the Lord.

What is the impact of this special summer devotions? This is the feedback of three ABTS staff.

Fadi, ABTS facilities manager, says, “It is always very interesting to see and hear how God uniquely handles and deals with his children in a way that specifically suits each of them. The greatness of God is beyond our understanding and analysis and in such occasions this greatness is revealed.” He adds, “Every time I stood and testified for the glory of our lord Jesus Christ and all the good and grace he has shown me I get overwhelmed with joy and peace. Getting to share my experience with God along with my colleagues is a privilege.”

Ali, Executive Assistant to ABTS president, says, “Giving a testimony is just like opening up to others so they could see through God's work in your life. Therefore, sharing my testimony with the ABTS community was a bit challenging, especially that each one of us comes from quite a different background. In my own testimony, I believe the part that had the most impact among the audience was how Jesus appeared to me in an open vision. Every testimony held with it a subtle fragrance of Christ's presence, which in return helped us get closer to God while getting to know more about each other. Now, knowing more what my colleagues need, we can have more focused prayer time.

Patricia, Academic Coordinator, says, “Starting from the beginning of July I started feeling excited about attending the morning chapel because we started doing something new and refreshing. Hearing the testimonies that my colleagues at



ABTS shared made me feel like we are a family. Also, giving my own testimony was to me an act of sharing with my colleagues an integral part of who I am. I believe that it was a big shock to them to learn that I used to go through depression during lengthy times, and that I used to cut myself. But that all brings glory to God because it shows how much He has changed me for the better.”

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