



# Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

## كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

ABTS Newsletter

June 2013

### Assessing Outcomes: Is the Training of ABTS Making Any Difference?

In June 2012 we graduated the first cohort of our new curriculum. Our curriculum revision journey began back in 2006 by revisiting our vision and mission as an institution. We started by asking important questions such as: What is ABTS about? What are we called to do? And how do we know if we are being successful in fulfilling our mandate? The first two questions were easy to answer. We want to see an Arab church that is actively seeking to transform the Arab world. Our role is to support the church by equipping called and faithful leaders to help the church become a transformed and transforming community. The third question, however, is much more difficult to answer. How do we know if we are successful? How do we measure that? What kind of metrics do we use?

These assessment questions are increasingly being asked by educational institutions globally. They need to know what the return on their investment is and whether their education continues to be relevant in a changing social climate. Not many seminaries our size have had the means and resources to attempt to answer these questions. We are blessed to have partners that believe in the importance of what we want to accomplish and are willing to help us assess that. As a result, we embarked on an exciting assessment project this academic year. We developed a toolset for assessment at different levels: at the level of the graduate, at the level of the church community where our graduates are serving, and at the level of the community at large where these churches are located. We conducted research in several countries in the Arab world where we have recent graduates serving. Our partners have encouraged us that as we plan the toolset we keep in mind that we



**Elie Haddad**  
President of ABTS

**LIKE!** | In the past few months, [ABTS' Facebook page](#) has become more dynamic and includes many ABTS' activities and happenings through photos and text. We invite you to like our page if you haven't done so yet. Here's a small preview of what we have been publishing.

**Pastor Ayman Kafrouny led the devotions today at ABTS** | Ayman Kafrouny, pastor of the Nazarene Church in Sed el-Bouchrieh, led the devotions today at ABTS and reflected on the question "why we love?". [Go to album and read more.](#)

**Douglas Ley Giving a Course on Leviticus** | We are blessed to have Douglas Ley amongst us again teaching in class and preaching in chapel. [Go to album and read more.](#)

**Ministry for Syrian Children Refugees** | A small group of ABTS students and staff went up to Zahle, the Bekaa, on Saturday 13 April 2013 to implement a one day fun program for Syrian refugee children. [Go to album and read more.](#)

**A Course at ABTS on the Child, the Church and Mission** | Dan Brewster, Director for International Holistic Child Development Ministries within Compassion International, is currently teaching at ABTS a course that explores the relationships between the child, the church and mission. [Go to album and read more.](#)

**What do we do at 8 p.m. at ABTS?** | This Monday night [April 8, 2013], ABTS had two classes. [Go to album and read more.](#)

**ABTS' library achievement for the academic year 2012-2103** | [Go to photo.](#)

To view additional albums, go to ABTS's Page [www.facebook.com/ABTS.Lebanon](http://www.facebook.com/ABTS.Lebanon). And click like to get the updates.

are developing the tools not just for the benefit of ABTS but also for the benefit of other seminaries in other contexts. Accordingly, we invited an international reference group to come to ABTS to “assess” our assessment project.

On May 13, 2013, we hosted this reference group at ABTS. Experts in theological education from the U.S., Canada, Australia, Germany, India, and Lebanon were present. We had the opportunity to present our methodology, the toolset, and initial findings to this reference group. We received valuable feedback from these experts. They were able to highlight important improvements that will enhance the process, and a plan to widen the scope of this project is currently being developed to include other seminaries from other parts of the world.

We are very blessed to be serving in this part of the world where, despite the obvious challenges around us, God is actively preparing His church to be an effective agent of hope and reconciliation to our broken world. We are also very blessed to have strategic leaders from all over the Arab world coming to ABTS for training. We are blessed with faculty and staff who are gifted, called, and determined to make a difference. And we are blessed to have partners who believe in the strategic nature of theological education and leadership formation, who have a vision for a growing church in our region, and who come alongside us enabling us and empowering us to dare to attempt such projects. What a blessing it is to be part of this global body of Christ where each member serves and strengthens the others. We are most thankful to the Head of this body who draws us all to Himself and consequently closer to one another.

*ABTS is pleased to announce its annual graduation ceremony which is taking place on June 23 this year. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Hafiz Fassaha Mungisto, ABTS graduate and now pastor and director of the Church Council in Khartoum-North. A cohort of eleven students will be graduating this year to carry the torch to their countries in every corner of the Arab World.*



تشرف كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية بدعوتكم لحضور حفل التخرج للعام الأكاديمي ٢٠١٢ - ٢٠١٣ في قاعة الياس صليبي - مبنى الكلية وذلك يوم الأحد الواقع فيه ٢٣ حزيران ٢٠١٣، الساعة ٦:٠٠ مساءً المتكلم الرئيس: القس حافظ فسها منقسستو راعي ورئيس مجلس الكنيسة الإنجيلية في الخرطوم-بحري ورئيس المجلس القومي للتربية المسيحية في السودان	<p>We request the honor of your presence at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary <b>GRADUATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012 – 2013</b> at the ABTS Conference Center, Elias Salibi Hall Sunday, 23 June 2013, 6:00 PM Graduation Speaker: <b>REV. Hafiz Fassaha Mungisto</b> Pastor and Director of the Church Council in Khartoum -North The Head of the National Council of Christian Education in Sudan</p>
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## The Institute of Middle East Studies in June: the Middle East Conference and the Master of Religion in Middle East and North Africa Studies

June tends to be our busiest month of the year at the Institute of Middle East Studies (IMES).

First, as you have read in previous newsletters, the **Middle East Conference 2013** “Your Rights & My Responsibilities: Biblical and Islamic Perspectives on Human Rights” will take place June 17 to 21.

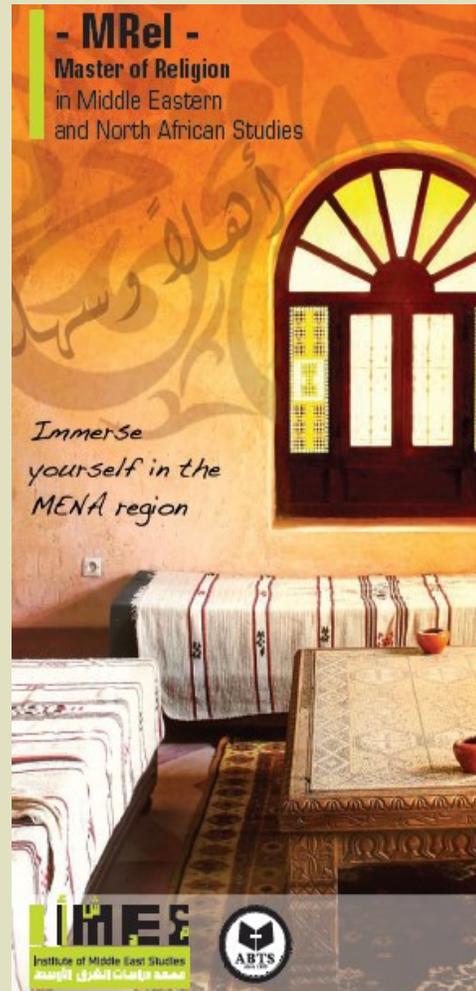
Second, immediately following MEC2013, students in IMES’s **Master of Religion in Middle East and North Africa Studies** (MRel in MENA Studies) program arrive to spend two very full weeks – June 24 to July 5 – for the residency portion of their Islam Module under the supervision of internationally respected scholar Colin Chapman.

As lead faculty for the Islam module, Colin Chapman will be assisted by Martin Accad as support faculty and Bob Robertson as faculty in charge of holistic formation.

Third, a group of students from Fuller Theological Seminary will be arriving this June to participate in IMES’s **7th annual Lebanon Practicum**. The Lebanon Practicum provides students with the opportunity to earn up to 12 quarter-units of coursework and/or fulfill an intercultural practicum requirement, while simultaneously exposing them to Muslim-Christian interaction in the Lebanese context.

For additional information:

<http://imeslebanon.wordpress.com/2013/06/07/whats-happening-at-imes-this-june/>



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