



# Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

## كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

ABTS Newsletter

May 2013

### ABTS Students' Ministry Plans

Every student comes to ABTS with a vision. During their time of study and practice, this vision develops according to what they feel God is calling them for. The following is a glimpse of what some of our returning students are up to this summer and how some of the graduating students envision the new journey ahead. This year, the graduation ceremony that will be held on June 23, will be a celebration of 13 graduating students who will be going back to their respective countries in all the corners of the Arab world to serve the Arab church and people.



Assaad & Amal, 2<sup>nd</sup> year students, couple from Egypt:

"We have a very full summer. Aside

following up on the church planting ministry that we have in Egypt, we will be organizing and leading four different conferences: one in Egypt to train around 50 church planters and 50 women leaders serving among abused and marginalized young girls, and the other three confer-

ences are to train church planters in Jordan, Sudan and Iraq."

Majid, 2nd year student from Algeria:



"This summer I am eager to go back to my local church in Tizi Ouzou to practice everything I have been learning. I am also planning to travel to an area called Wahran,

West of Algeria, to minister to the Arabs alongside the Timothy School for Leadership formation."



Ammar, 1st year student from Sudan:

"Everything I learned this year will be of great benefit to me in my summer ministry

with the youth at my local church in Atbara, Northern Sudan. One of my goals this summer is making connections with Christian leaders with the purpose to organize a youth conference gathering Sudanese youth from different churches and backgrounds."

Malak, 2nd year student, Morocco:

“This summer I will be involved among youth and families in my Church in Morocco, to help them to grow up in knowledge of God, faith and organization. I need to help people change their view of the church in the society.”



Christine, graduating student from Egypt:

“The main highlight this year has been discovering the vision for my future

ministry. God made me realize how much I love to serve people who are marginalized, oppressed and poor. I really pray for open doors for ministry among the vulnerable back home. Moreover, I have become excited about planting churches in regions where there are no churches, in addition to carrying out discipleship and Bible courses.”



Rasheed, graduating student from Morocco:

“The ministry I plan to be engaged in is discipleship, church planting and evangelism through creating a Christian website in Amazigh language targeting Moroc-

co’s Amazigh and founding a social organization to reach out to a larger number of people and spread the gospel.”



Hayat, graduating student from Sudan : “I thank God for giving me a vision & a calling of my own after I came here as a support to my husband. After I graduate, I would like to serve

with the women at our church in Khartoum, in addition to helping my husband in reaching out to the Sudanese from Ethiopian origins.”

Tarek, graduating student from Algeria: “I believe the dominance of practical courses in the ABTS curriculum is critical for me as I am preparing to graduate this year and set off for practical ministry. The partial vision is to serve among youth (18-28 years old) in Algeria starting with my local church through discipleship, leading worship and mentoring. I also plan to contribute to my church in being member of its committee. As to my next step after graduation, the bigger vision is to pursue my studies for a PhD and help in theological seminaries in Algeria through teaching.”

### International Speakers at the 2013 Middle East Conference

June 17 to 21, the Institute of Middle East Studies at ABTS will hold its annual Middle East Conference. This year, the conference's theme is "Your Rights & My Responsibilities: Biblical & Islamic Perspectives on Human Rights". The following are some of the international speakers at the conference.



**Paul S. Fiddes** has the title of Professor of Systematic Theology in the University of Oxford, and holds the degrees of D.Phil. and D.D. from the same University. He is a minister ordained in the Baptist Union of Great Britain. He was Principal of Regent's Park College, University of Oxford for 18 years, and is now Director of Research in the College and Acting Director of the Oxford Centre for Baptist History and Heritage. He was Chairperson of the Doctrine and Inter-Church Commission of the Baptist World Alliance 2005-2010, and the Baptist Chair of international theological conversations with both the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church. He has written or edited 17 books and more than 90 articles in the areas of Christian doctrine, ecumenical theology and the theology of culture, and has a particular interest in the interface between

theology and creative literature.

Paul will be presenting or participating in the sessions: "Theological & Biblical Foundations for Human Rights Based Approaches," "Balancing 'Freedom of Expression' with a Christian Concern for Social Responsibility," "Religious Rights & Freedoms



within the Baptist Tradition: Principles & Practice," and "Islam and Christianity in a Pluralistic Society - Is a Common Understanding of Human Rights and/or Social Responsibility the Key?"

**Ziya Meral** is a London based Turkish researcher, academic and writer. He is a Research Associate at the Foreign Policy Centre and a PhD candidate in Politics

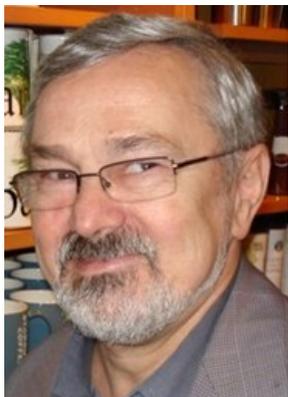
IMES still needs USD 9,000 to cover the cost of 10 strategic leaders from the Arab World to attend the Middle East Conference this year.

You can donate directly to IMES, or donate to the Middle East Bible Outreach (MEBO is US based; donation is tax-exempt). The funding will cover conference participation fee, full board and part of the plane ticket.

For further information and bank account details, please contact Wissam al-Saliby, ABTS Development and Partner Relations Manager, at [walsaliby \(at\) abtslebanon.org](mailto:walsaliby@abtslebanon.org) or +961 440 1922 ext. 251

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at the University of Cambridge. He has published opinion editorials and academic essays on Turkish and Middle Eastern politics and foreign policy, religion, human rights, philosophy, social theory, comparative literature and theology. Ziya will be presenting on “Religion, Identity and Conversion: Perspectives from Social Sciences and Human Rights,” “Balancing ‘Freedom of Expression’ with a Christian Concern for Social Responsibility,” and “Implications for Human Rights & Interfaith Relations within Societies Emerging from Arab Uprisings.”



**Danut Manastireanu** has a PhD in Orthodox Theology (2005) from Brunel University, London. He taught theology for five years, and has worked since 1999 as Director for Faith & Development of the Middle East & Eastern Europe region for World Vision International, a Christian humanitarian organization focusing on children.

He continues to teach theology and supervise theological research, having published several books and theological articles. He is an Anglican, theologically, and worships in a Pentecostal liturgical church.

Each morning, Danut will be presenting the daily devotionals for the conference and he will be participating in the session: “How Should the Church Respond to the Arab Uprisings: Challenges & Opportunities within the Emerging MENA Region.”



**Ehab el-Kharrat** serves as a member of the Egyptian shura council, the upper house of the Egyptian Parliament, directs the Freedom from Drugs and HIV Program in Cairo, and is a member of Qsra Dubarra Arab Evangelical Church.

Ehab will be presenting or participating in the sessions: “Implications for Human Rights & Interfaith Relations within Societies Emerging from Arab Uprisings,” “How Should The Church Respond to the Arab Uprisings: Challenges & Opportunities within the Emerging MENA Region,” and “Islamization of Society & Human Rights For All - Is It Possible?”

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