



# Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

## كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

www.abtslebanon.org

June 2019

### To Make Him Known: Stories from Some of Our Graduating Students

These men and women answered God's call, and their lives will never be the same. Nor will the region, for that matter. As these men and women move forward and begin to serve the churches in their home countries, they know not what to expect. For some, hardship and rejection are the only sure thing. Yet, as they face this great difficulty, their eyes are set on the Lord so that in all they do, He is magnified and made manifest in their communities. In this newsletter, we share with you the accounts of some of our graduating students. Join us in praying for their futures and the Lord's plan for the future of the region.



#### Fahmi from Sudan, Bachelor of Theology

Life on campus forced me out of my comfort zone and into a vibrant community. I learned biblical analysis, anthropology, and apologetics. When I first came here, my calling was to serve with Sunday school children and youths. After taking courses like *Child Psychology* and *Growing in Life and Faith*, and after attending conferences like Katalyst (a ministry for the youth of the Near East), my understanding of God's calling became clearer.

After graduation, I will serve at my local church, the Sudanese Church of Christ, and will lead the Sunday

school and youth ministry. I will teach Math and Christian education at a school that the church runs. I will also have to find a job, as our local churches cannot support us financially.



#### Zainab from Syria, Certificate in Ministry

The Lord used my online theological training to enhance my home group ministry, which started three years ago with Resurrection Church Beirut. I currently lead a home group of women, but I feel called to start more home groups after graduation. I also desire to make leaders who in turn make more leaders. Studying online taught me much about time management and

meeting deadlines. Moreover, because of the *Hermeneutics* course, I am learning not to project my thoughts onto the biblical text. Instead, I let the text speak for itself. I juxtapose it with other biblical texts and study its historical and cultural context. This is of great importance when leading Bible studies. The *Home Groups* course taught me to rely on group discussion and participation rather than on preaching. I allow others to seek God for themselves, and I depend on Him to do the work.



#### Habil from Sudan, Bachelor of Theology

When I first came here, I was very shy. During the past three years, however, I

### Pray for Sudan



Sudan is going through dire times. In light of recent events, we lift our Sudanese students and graduates in prayer. May God safeguard His church and His servants.



became more outspoken, and I can confidently say that I am ready for ministry. One must stay firm during trials and put aside complaining, as it does not glorify God. Most importantly, I have learned to seek God's will in all things.

I used to serve with young adults, but I had no clear purpose. Today, I want young adults to reach new heights in their journey of faith. Moreover, I no longer fear opening up to non-Christian communities in Sudan. When I return, I will be teaching God's word and working with young adults at my local Anglican church in Omdurman. I want to spend the rest of my life sharing the gospel.

**Makki from Sudan, Bachelor of Theology**

I sense a remarkable improvement in myself. My time management skills are much better. I now am more of a planner and a goal setter, and I'm ready for ministry in Sudan. I really enjoyed the *Main Concepts of Paul's Theology* course. I learned about obedience, and it made me think of my upcoming ministry. Before coming here, God called me to teach. I will continue to do so after graduation. This time, I will integrate what I learned here.

**Nason from Sudan, Diploma of Theology**

This was the best year of my time here. The module, *Disciples Make Disciples*, taught me to offer learners the keys needed to understand a biblical passage,



so they can extract lessons for themselves. During the past three years, I practiced constructive dialogue with nonbelievers, and so my communication skills have noticeably improved. When I go back home, I will be serving with the women and young adults of my local church.

**Sam from Sudan, Bachelor of Theology**



This experience has changed my life. I am now punctual and more faithful in the minute details. I have also learned about obedience, building others up, organizing and managing ministry, and understanding Scripture. Coming here was very challenging at first because it was the first time I travel. Getting used to schoolwork once more was another challenge. The team spirit and the supportive atmosphere here, however, helped me get over them.

I will be leading Bible study home groups and outreach programs at my local church. I will also train Sunday school teachers based on what I learned at seminary. Initially, I wanted to study theology so that I can be a better servant. The Lord gradually showed me that just as I received training, I should train others too.

**Student from Sudan, Master of Divinity**

I have matured both on the theological and intellectual levels. I gained the ability to contextualize my biblical knowledge. I now listen more than I speak. I am able to better understand people, have empathy towards them and respond to their needs. The *Disciples Make Disciples* module has given me new tools through looking at discipleship movements around the

world. Often, discipleship requires no big plans. What we need is simplicity. We need an open Bible and hearts willing to learn.

When I return to Sudan, I will focus on discipleship. I will also teach at a Bible school run by my local church and will serve with college students. We offer them training, workshops and conferences, and we send them on outreach ministries to different areas across Sudan. We want to see them become servants in society.



**Raja from Syria, Certificate in Ministry**

I have been in Lebanon for five years. At first, I used to lead the worship and praise ministry at Riyaq Baptist Church. I later began to speak at church and to lead the young adult group. I currently lead home groups of both Lebanese and Syrians, and I teach refugees at a school that is run by my local church. Online education requires commitment through attending courses, participating in forums, meeting deadlines, sitting for exams and so on. Through it all, God spoke to me and shaped me. During the *Biblical Theology* course, we reflected on Jacob's statement, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" as he wrestled with God. It urged me to seek God persistently. The *Home Groups* course was very helpful for my own ministry, as I learned that I should periodically assess the progress of the group members. I want to use everything I studied for God's glory.

**Male student from Mauritania, Bachelor of Theology**

God has immensely shaped me during my



A photo from last year's graduation

time here. I have matured on the intellectual level as I opened up to different cultures and opinions. My critical and hermeneutical skills developed, which has helped me greatly when studying Scripture. I now have the right tools to share the story of Jesus and His good news with many others.

I constantly pray for my people in Mauritania, and I pray to return one day and tell them about Christ as I feel called to do. For now, the Lord has granted me the opportunity to study towards a Master's in Theology in Europe.

#### Female Student from Jordan, Bachelor of Theology

I have matured intellectually. I learned that helping others grow is more important than winning an argument. I am more passionate about God's mission in the world. I understand my part in it, and that places a huge responsibility before me. The *Spiritual Disciplines* course helped make that change.

I currently serve at my local church, the Nazarene Evangelical Church, Beirut. I mainly lead Bible studies and serve the women's group. After graduation, I will continue to teach others and to serve among refugees. I

will soon be giving new believers a Bible study series on God's plan from Genesis to Revelation. The more I teach, the more I learn about Him. Moreover, I want to work on my English proficiency, so I can work towards a Master's degree.

## MIDDLE EAST CONSULTATION 2019 مؤتمر الشرق الأوسط

17 – 21  
JUNE  
Beirut, Lebanon

THINKING BIBLICALLY ABOUT  
MUSLIMS, MUHAMMAD  
& THE QUR'AN:  
Practical Implications for the Church Today

نظرة كتابية تجاه  
المسلمين ومحمد والقرآن:  
إبعاد تطبيقية للكنيسة اليوم



IMES  
Institute of Middle East Studies  
Beirut, Lebanon

المعهد الإسلامي للدراسات والبحوث  
Beirut, Lebanon

Our annual Middle East Consultation will begin this Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and will run until the end of the week.

This will be a very busy time for us, and we would like to ask you to pray with us for:

- ◆ God to be glorified first and foremost.
- ◆ Participants to grow in their discipleship journey and skills for making disciples.
- ◆ Protection against attacks from the spiritual enemies.
- ◆ Strength and wisdom for the organizing team and speakers.

Our Development and Partner Relations (DPR) team meets every Monday morning to pray for our friends and partners all over the globe.

Do you have specific prayer requests? We would love to pray with and for you, send in your requests at [information@abtslebanon.org](mailto:information@abtslebanon.org)

## Pray with Us: Prayer Requests from Some Graduating Students

### Fahmi | Sudan

Please pray for my upcoming ministry in Sudan with children and youths. Please pray that I would find a job so I can support myself while serving God at the same time. Pray that I may find a place of my own as well, as I intend to get married soon. I also ask you to pray for Sudan in this time of unrest between the military government and protesting civilians.

### Zainab | Syria

Pray for my people, the Kurdish Syrians of Afrin. Turkish forces have occupied the area, and they are planning to build a fortress that separates it from Syria. People cannot leave Afrin for fear of their belongings being confiscated, and no one is allowed to enter it. Please pray for the safety of my parents who are in Afrin.

### Habil | Sudan

I ask you to pray for me as I return to my home country. I have been away for a while, so things are different. There is no doubt I have my fears, but I trust that the Lord will put me in the right place to serve Him. Please pray for my future ministry and marriage. I also ask you to pray for Sudan and that I may someday see my parents who are stuck in Darfur again. I have not seen them for years because of the war in Darfur.

### Female Student | Jordan

Please pray that God would grant me the opportunity to continue my graduate studies. May He smooth my path and grant me and my children stability. Pray that I may be able to balance between ministry, home and work.

### Makki | Sudan

As my return to Sudan approaches, pray for me, for my wife Nason and for my son Nelson. Nelson spent most of his life in Lebanon, and he has received excellent education here. Pray

that he would cope with his new reality in Sudan, and that we would find a good school for him. Pray that I would be an effective servant, and that I would be able to study for my Masters.

### Nason | Sudan

Please pray that my husband and I find a good place of our own. We are also thinking of reopening a Bible institute that had closed its doors after its leader passed away. Please pray for us; we cannot do it on our own.

### Male Student | Mauritania

Please pray that the Lord would help me as I go to Europe to continue my graduate education. It will be a completely new experience, and I will need the support of my brothers and sisters in faith. Pray that I always be a servant with a clear vision set before my eyes.

### Sam | Sudan

Please pray that I would be able to cope with whatever comes and be strong in the Lord. Pray that I would find a good job so I can support myself while serving the Lord.

### Male Student | Sudan

I ask you to keep praying that I would take all I received here to my people. The current economic situation is very challenging. Pray that the Lord provides, and that all things go smoothly.

### Raja | Syria

Please pray for the Lord to guide me if it is His desire that I continue my studies full time at ABTS. I want to move to the next level in my service to God. Also, pray for my family, especially my mom who is battling with cancer.



ABTS Graduates dinner 2019