



# Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

## كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

[www.abtslebanon.org](http://www.abtslebanon.org)

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We rejoice in the opportunity of visiting our alumni and seeing the extent to which God is using them in their contexts. Both our Alumni Relations Coordinator José Sabbagh and our Administrative Coordinator Mirella Kazan, who are part of the Registrar's Office, joined a conference from March 6 to March 9 to encourage some of our Sudanese alumni and build better relations with church leaders so we can serve them better. In the past few years, visits to alumni had been on hold due to pandemic restrictions, so José had been communicating with them virtually. But now that these restrictions have been lifted, José and Mirella were able to meet with Sudanese key leaders face-to-face, and they had much to say about God's work in Sudan.

**Mirella** - We met many Sudanese church leaders at a conference, and some of them are our alumni. During our time there, we introduced these leaders to our theology programs, and we caught up with our alumni. Many of these leaders expressed their interest in having their congregation members study theology so that their churches experience growth.

**José** - Before we presented our programs, our graduate Philemon, who is a pastor of a local church and the Head of the Baptist convention in Sudan, introduced us and expressed his gratitude for his theological formation at ABTS. Later, a key leader who belongs to the Evangelical Church of Bahri came to us. The church is pastored by our graduate Hafiz, and many of our alumni serve there. He said that whenever our students graduated, he would see how big of an impact their journey of theological training had on the overall growth of the church's ministry. In one of the group discussions, they talked about the role of women at church. They wanted women to have more active roles in Sudanese churches, so I encouraged the women

who were present to study theology and get equipped for ministry.



**Mirella** - When I first started working at the Registrar's Office, students had recently moved to online learning, and they were no longer with us on campus. When I met them on this trip, I

was able to see the fruit of our work. I saw how much these Sudanese church leaders are hungry for knowledge and how much they love what they do. I was able to see how wonderfully God is using the seminary's ministry. I realized more than ever that it's not just about my work at the office, but many are depending on me and on every person at ABTS.



**José** - Their excitement is so touching. Despite everything going on in the country, they are on fire, and they press on in ministry. It's not easy to serve God under pressure; they have to do it with much caution. This is the first time I travel to meet alumni and other church leaders. It made me see the vastness of God's work. It is staggering once we think about it because we often fail to see beyond our limited scope.

**Mirella** - At the end of one day, there was a prayer for Sudan. Many of the participants were praying, and we felt that they were troubled by their country's situation. One sister was praying, "Until when will we see ministers in prisons and courts?" They needed deliverance from this situation. However, in spite of it, they are witnessing the growth of God's kingdom in many parts of the country. They never thought that the Sudanese Church could reach certain areas in the country, yet to their astonishment, it continues to grow steadily.

**José** - We saw their tears when they prayed at the end of the day, men and women. They need much prayer for things to calm down in their country and for them to have more freedom to worship and serve God. Our trip was very fruitful, but I pray for its long-term fruit. I pray that we would be able to follow up with them, to really know what their needs are and to help them enroll in our programs for the service of their churches.

**The Sudanese Church continues to realize its need for equipped leaders, so we humbly come alongside it and watch the amazing ways God has been growing His Kingdom in Sudan through the Church. We ask you to keep our Registrar's Office team in prayer as they strive to follow up with our alumni and help identify new leaders to be trained.**



## A Theological Treasure for the Arab Church



“Providing e-books for our students is still a challenge.” This was a statement that we wrote on many reports for many years. Back then, a digital library containing Arabic theological resources seemed a far-fetched dream. But the need was always there, and with the move to online and hybrid education, it became an urgent one. A growing Arab Church demands deep, independent critical thinkers. And to develop such thinkers we require good and accessible resources.

We had previously introduced our [translation project](#) as a step in that direction. In addition to this, God’s grace led us to start working on an Arabic theological digital library that serves the Arab Church. This library will soon be available to many Arab Bible scholars and researchers. It will also include an electronic copy of the commentary series we are currently translating so our students can access it wherever they are.

After we moved to a hybrid form of learning, many of our students who reside in the Arab world no longer have regular access to theological libraries. The need for a digital library became more crucial. Furthermore, this library will not only benefit our students. We are developing it in collaboration with [MENATE](#), and thus, it will benefit all regional seminaries including their faculty, students, and churches in their respective communities.

During the past year, we were looking for an online platform that provides a full search functionality with adequate digital rights management. After much research and testing, we found a powerful platform that is uniquely designed to serve our Middle Eastern context. In the meantime, MENATE is signing agreements with Arab publishers to use their material and, therefore, make available a good number of valuable resources.



We look forward to the launching day soon. We pray that this library will be used for shaping the minds and aiding the lifelong learning of faithful men and women for His glory. We also look forward to seeing the Arab Church producing more resources locally that benefit the Church globally. But most importantly, we look forward to seeing what God is planning for the growth of His kingdom in the Arab world.

**“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”**

**1 Peter 1:3 NIV**

**During Easter, we remember that we serve a living Savior whose redemptive work is still changing so many lives today!**

**Happy Easter from our family to yours!**





As you may know that Lebanon is in a deep crisis and the country's infrastructure continues to degrade. Currently, our generators are running for 20 hours a day to keep our operation going.

With fuel subsidies lifted by the government, and fuel prices continuing to increase,

**The rising electricity bill for our ministry is no longer sustainable**

**We are in the process of installing a PV system to solve this problem. Help us invest in green, renewable energy. Contact our Director of Partnerships here.**

## A new Blog Post goes out every Thursday!

Check the latest posts below:



[Practicing Theology in Ramadan: How Actions Shape Our Talk](#)



[Even Super Moms Need Serious Support](#)



[Political Theology in an Antireligious World](#)



[Drawing Lines in Our Wartime Prayers](#)

## Pray with Us!

### Prayer Requests from Some of Our Sudanese Alumni

#### Abeer | 2020 Bachelor of Theology graduate

The Church in Sudan and all who are laboring in God's field are in need of prayer in these difficult circumstances. They are not able to move freely because of the daily protests and the closure of bridges. There is little movement on the roads. We are able to reach young people through the internet, but some communities do not know how to use the internet. Please pray that God shows us the most effective means to reach the people of Sudan.

#### Habil | 2019 Bachelor of Theology graduate

Pray with us for the current situation. The ongoing protests have hindered church activities due to road closures.

#### Fahmi | 2019 Bachelor of Theology graduate

I ask you to pray for my ministry at my local church especially with the youth. Pray also for the economic and political situation in Sudan because it is a challenge to all the people of Sudan.

#### Talal | 2019 Master of Divinity graduate

It is hard for churches to worship God together because of the demonstrations that are taking place almost daily. Please pray for political stability and security in the country so believers can worship God and practice their faith without disruptions. Pray that believers obtain their rights to worship freely and build churches in unreached areas of the country.

#### Sabet | 2018 Bachelor of Theology graduate

Please pray for the economic, political and security situation in Sudan. Pray for the ministry in Sudan and for my ministry with youth at Youth for Christ in Sudan.

#### Eilia | 2020 Bachelor of Theology graduate

Please pray for a revival in the Sudanese Church. Pray for its leaders, its youth, its missional impact, its teaching and its discipleship programs.