# Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

# كليّة اللاهوت المعمدانيّة العربيّة

**March 2026** | www.abtslebanon.org

Dear friends and partners,

Once again, Lebanon finds itself in a war it did not choose, and facing widespread displacement. Once again, the roads are filled with families carrying what they can, leaving behind what they love. For many of us, this is not unfamiliar territory. We have walked through such crises before. Yet each time, the weight is real, the toll is deep, and the ache is new.

Around us, the region is shifting. What may emerge from this is a new Middle East order and a new regional security architecture that will define the next decades.

But for us this is not a geopolitical story only, it is a human one: people uprooted, villages emptied, livelihoods crushed, and a nation already exhausted asked to endure again. In a matter of days, hundreds of thousands have been displaced. Behind every number is a name, a child, a mother, a grandfather, a home now silent.

As Christians, we are people who take reality seriously without surrendering to it. We do not minimize the gravity of what is happening, but neither do we yield to fear. Our hope is anchored in the living God: steadfast, sovereign, and near to the brokenhearted. When the future feels uncertain, His mercy does not. The Psalms do not teach us denial, they teach us refuge. They give us permission to tremble and still to trust, to lament honestly and still to pray boldly.

In moments of upheaval, the instinct of the Gospel is not to move away from pain, but toward it. We have often said, half-seriously but with deep conviction, that we must never waste a good crisis. Not because suffering is good, but because the Spirit often opens doors for witness when the world's false securities collapse. Crisis has a way of clarifying what is real: who our neighbors are, what love costs, and where our true kingdom lies.

This is why, as the displacement has begun, ABTS has opened its doors since the first hours of the conflict. Our guesthouse and campus are receiving families who have nowhere else to go. Our wider sister ministries are mobilizing, preparing meals, and coordinating help. In a time when so much is being taken, the people of God are called to give: space, bread, dignity, prayer, and the simple gift of presence that says, "you are not alone".

We are convinced that this is not a public relations gesture. It is Christian witness. To receive the displaced is to echo the heart of Jesus who "did not come to be served but to serve".

Still, we feel the tension: the urgent needs of today and the long work of tomorrow. We must respond to the emergency without abandoning the enduring, faithful task of forming leaders for the church in the Arab world. This is why all of our programs, serving around 250 students across the MENA region, are still fully operational online.

So, we ask you to pray. Pray for Lebanon: for restraint, for real peace and for mercy upon this land. Pray for the displaced: safety and shelter. Pray for our community: calm in spirit, firm in hope, generous in love, wise in decision-making, and ready to serve. And pray that in this kairos moment, the Gospel would not only be spoken, but also seen and embodied.

**In Christ,**

**Wissam Nasrallah**

# A Haven of Love and Care: Hosting Guests due to War

Lebanon is facing a difficult season once again. During the 2024 war, the guesthouse hosted many displaced families who were forced to flee their homes. Today, a similar situation has unfolded. As the conflict escalated, hundreds of thousands of people living in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the South of Lebanon, and the Bekaa areas have been forced to evacuate. Bombing continues in these areas, leaving many homeless and uncertain about where they will go next. Moved to live out what we teach, our guesthouse has once again opened its doors, responding to God's call and trusting that He will provide.

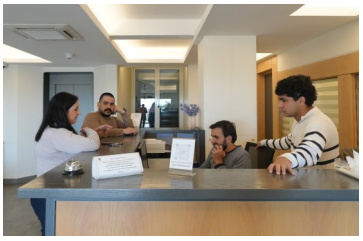
Our guesthouse and dorms building surpassed their usual capacity, welcoming more than 170 people who were forced to leave their homes, not knowing if they will be able to return. People of all ages, including elderly individuals, adults, and children, have found our campus a safe place to be their temporary home.

Guesthouse welcoming the displaced families

Many of the families now staying at the guesthouse also sought refuge here during the 2024 war. For some, returning to the guesthouse has meant being reunited with people they met during the previous conflict. Friendships formed during hardship have grown into bonds that now feel like family.

Despite the fear and uncertainty surrounding them, guests often express a sense of relief upon arriving. At ABTS, they find not only shelter but also a place where they feel welcomed, valued, and loved.

The guesthouse team works tirelessly to meet both the physical and emotional needs of the families. They prepare meals, provide clean well-equipped safe accommodation, and serve our guests with love and compassion, helping them feel that they are not alone.

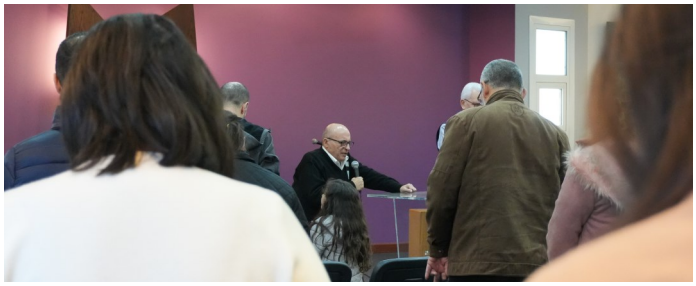


Guesthouse team meeting

Answering calls

The team's phones rarely stop ringing as people reach out seeking safe accommodation. Krysten Mansour, Guesthouse Manager, and Rana Wazir, our Registrar and Director of Quality Assurance who also directs the Moore Conference Center and Guesthouse, with their team, work tirelessly forgetting the long hours and serving guests with a constant smile.

Providing care for the guests goes beyond offering shelter and meals. Mental and emotional support are also priorities. A central part of this care is the daily chapel services organized for both guests and staff. Families staying at the guesthouse are invited to attend these gatherings, which include worship, prayer, and a devotional message designed to encourage and uplift them. The chapel services remind us of the Lord Jesus's promise that He is with us, and that He is our rock and anchor. This is an important time of renewal for the staff, helping them remain spiritually, mentally, and emotionally strong so they can continue serving others wholeheartedly.



During chapel with staff and guests

Alaa, a guesthouse staff member, shared: "In the midst of everything happening, welcoming displaced families has been a powerful reminder that even in difficult times, hope and compassion remain. Jesus stands at the center of that hope."

Rana expressed the following despite the overwhelming circumstances:

> *I am deeply encouraged to be able to help during these difficult times. I am aware that many people are on the road and have nowhere to go, but being able to help even a few people to the best of my ability is a great blessing. I do not want those who come here to feel that they are only escaping the bombing. I want them to feel safe and welcomed. I want them to see the special thing we have, and that is Jesus.*

The kitchen staff, perhaps the unknown soldier, play a vital role in caring for the guests. Nermin, who is helping in the kitchen, reflected on her experience during this time:

> *We are doing our best to ensure that our guests affected by these difficult circumstances receive proper meals. Moreover, it feels that this season led us to become more united. We all do our best to make sure all our guests are happy, especially the children.*

Nermin, helping in the kitchen

By offering practical help alongside genuine care and compassion, our hope is that many will experience the love of Christ firsthand.

As Lebanon continues to endure the weight of the war, the ABTS community remains committed to serving those in need. We pray for peace in Lebanon and throughout the region, that the war will end and that those affected will find healing and hope in Him. Above all, we trust in God, who is able to transform pain into good, mourning into dancing, and despair into hope. Our prayer is that, even in these challenging times, many will encounter His presence and discover the lasting hope that is found in Him.

# Pray with Us!

**George S. | Head Librarian**

May God grant us wisdom and strength as we serve our guests. May He give us the wisdom to serve the families we are hosting unconditionally, knowing when and how to speak and act. May He also grant us the strength to continue faithfully.

Please also pray for our students in Lebanon who are serving, that God may bless their ministries. Especially as they face challenges, may He give them the strength to balance their studies with their ministry responsibilities. Pray that the war may come to an end and that our country may know lasting peace, free from further destruction.

**Krysten | Moore Conference Center and Guesthouse Manager**

Please pray for the people we are serving who have been forced to flee their homes. I personally live far from the areas being bombed, so I am not living in constant fear for my own home. However, the people we are hosting are deeply afraid. Whenever they hear news of bombing or threats, they become terrified and rush outside [to look at Beirut], anxious about their homes and families, fearing they may receive terrible news. Please pray that these people may find hope in Christ and that His perfect love will cast out their fear.

**Alondra Samya | Back-Office Coordinator**

Please pray for Lebanon, that the war may come to an end and that peace will prevail throughout the region. I traveled to Dubai to attend a conference, but because of the conflict affecting Lebanon and the wider region, including the UAE, my flights home were cancelled multiple times. I was unable to return home for a week, and although I was safe, my heart remained in Beirut with my family, church, colleagues, and community. Thankfully, I was eventually able to return home.

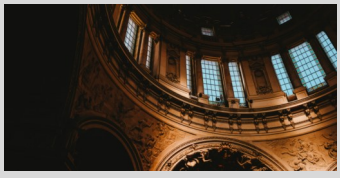
**Pray for Lebanon and the Region**

Please pray that peace may prevail in Lebanon and throughout the region, and that the war will come to an end. Pray also for those who were displaced and forced out from their homes, whom we are hosting in the guesthouse, that they may find refuge, feel safe and at home, and experience the love of Christ through us.

Pray for those who have nowhere to go, that God may comfort them in these difficult times. Finally, pray for ABTS, that God may sustain us, strengthen our staff to serve faithfully, and enable us to continue fulfilling our calling.

## Our latest blog posts:

Reclaiming Valentine's Day for Kingdom Couples



The Quadrilateral We Don't Talk About: Piety, Politics, Power, and Honor in the Life of the Church