



Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

كلية اللاهوت المعمدانية العربية

www.abtslebanon.org

June 2018

Graduating Students: Vision and Future Ministry

Daoud, Bachelor of Theology, male student from Sudan

Before I came to ABTS, my vision was to teach Sudanese people God's Word through sermons, conferences and workshops. Even now, this is still my vision, but it has gotten clearer. I aim to start a Bible school for training Sudanese leaders. The school will offer sound biblical teaching. There will also be lessons on Bible interpretation, effective preaching and forming home groups. Many church leaders have no access to theological training, as there are hardly any Bible schools, centers or institutes. Therefore, they lack the needed theological knowledge. This school will give them the skills to lead a high quality ministry. Moreover, this school will welcome leaders from different denominations. I will also be teaching at my local church.

Moreover, I will be adapting the [Khebz w Meleh](#) content into the context of the Sudanese culture with the help of Sabet [ABTS student from Sudan who is to graduate this year]. We will call it "Lo'ma w Meleh" as part of its adaptation into the Sudanese culture. [Lo'ma means bread in Sudanese dialect.]



Eman, Bachelor of Theology, female student from Egypt

I will graduate this year, and I can wholeheartedly say that ABTS has changed many things in my character. I learned so much from the professors' walk. Here, I met many people who live what they believe, and that is why I listened to what they had to say.

My vision has been refined although it is still the same in essence. My heart is still for the deprived areas of Egypt, but it has now embraced people who have been traumatized such as teenagers coming from dysfunctional families. After I graduate, I will be working in the Egyptian villages in which many social ills abound where I will be counselling and following up with people. I will most likely be serving in the Fayyum district, but I am open to serve in other districts of the country.

Hazem, Certificate in Theology, male student from Syria

When I go back to Syria, I will be starting a ministry through my local church, The National Evangelical Baptist Church in Damascus. The ministry aims to help people who suffer a physical disability due to the war. These people are on my heart, and I want to help them heal from the inside. Pray for me that I will be sensitive to their feelings and that I would give them the honor and respect they deserve. Pray that they may also be open to hearing God's Word. In addition, I aim to focus on the young adults' ministry at my local church and help it to flourish. Finally, I will resume my ministry of home visits.



Master of Divinity, female student from Sudan

When I first came here, I was timid and found it difficult to express myself. Now I recognize my strengths and my gifts thanks to the constant encouragement of my professors.

It is on my heart to start a business that offers educational resources for the people of my church. Before, I used to feel guilty for not wanting to be in full-time ministry, but now I know the workplace can also be a place of ministry. I want to use my own experience, being a computer science graduate, a former administrative staff member at a school and bilingual, to help others. I am ready to offer courses inside and outside the church. I will also be teaching God's Word to the women and children of my local church. Finally, I will be serving at my local church in whatever ministries I am needed.



Subscribe

Diploma in Theology, female student from Jordan

I am now more of a leader, and I am learning to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and to build a healthy relationship with God. I want to lead a group towards finding out God’s purposes for their lives. When I first came to ABTS, I wanted to serve with abused Arab women. I still do, but now I also feel called to disciple the young men and women of my local church. I also want to write effective resources for youth ministry in Arabic.

At my current church, I taught the youth group how to share their faith with others. I have also served with refugee women from a non-Christian background through a ministry run by my local church. I will be setting up a conference for young men and women this summer, and I will also be training them to be future leaders. After I graduate, my ministry will continue to be with Arab women and with youth groups.

Sabet, Bachelor of Theology, male student from Sudan

These three years were very formative and beneficial for my ministry, and I can’t wait to reap the fruit of it. I have been shaped at the spiritual, academic and psychological levels. I learned many things in the past few months. I particularly enjoyed taking the Leadership module. It taught me to change myself before changing others. It also showed me ways in which I could be a good team leader that empowers others.

My vision has been to serve with kids and youth ever since I came here, and it is still the same. When I get back to Sudan, I plan to start a center similar to that of Youth for Christ where we offer classes to kids who cannot go to school. In addition to educating them, I aim to teach them God’s Word. I will also be adapting the Khebz w Meleh program in Sudan with the help of ABTS student Daoud.

Moreover, I aim to start workshops for training Sudanese youth leaders through the help of Maher El-Hajj, National Director of Youth for Christ Lebanon.



Master of Divinity, male student from Sudan

Studying here has helped me grow in many ways. First, it has helped me teach Scriptural truth for people coming from different backgrounds. I have learned to be constantly faithful to the biblical text as I explain it while looking at the socio-historical implications.

My vision is still the same regarding teaching. However, it is no longer constrained to the pulpit. I currently prefer teaching in small cell groups because it gives individuals the chance to ask questions and comment. This sort of interaction and grappling with different perspectives ignites change. Therefore, when my family and I return home, we aim to start home groups. I aim for my ministry to be unconstrained within church walls. I want to be taking care of other planted churches. In addition to this, I will be teaching at my local church’s discipleship school. I will also be taking part in outreach ministries and follow up. We are also thinking of expanding this school so that it reaches a bigger number of believers.



During ‘The book of James’ course with Dr. Mark Young

Middle East Consultation 2018 Speakers



We are only a few days away from our Middle East Consultation! The focus of this year’s consultation will be on our understanding of the religious other and how it impacts our Christ-like witness. Our keynote speakers will be:

Ida Glasser (UK): Director Emeritus, Oxford Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies (OCMCS) and Associate Staff at Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford

Imad Shehadeh (Jordan): Founder and President, Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary (JETS) and Senior Professor of Theology

Havilah Dharamraj (India): Academic Dean and Professor of Old Testament, South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS)

Martin Accad (Lebanon): Chief Academic Officer, ABTS, Director, Institute of Middle East Studies (IMES) and Associate Professor of Islamic Studies, ABTS and Fuller Theological Seminary

Rose Mary Amenga-Etego (Ghana): Senior Lecturer in the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana

Ekram Lamie Hennawie (Egypt): Senior Professor of Comparative Religions, Evangelical Theological Seminary Cairo (ETSC)

Karen Shaw (Lebanon/USA): Assistant Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministry, ABTS

Anton Deik (Palestine): Director of Online Education and Instructor in Biblical Studies, Bethlehem Bible College (BBC)

Richard McCallum (UK): Senior Fellow, Oxford Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies and Lead Faculty for MENA Cultures, ABTS

Mike Kuhn (USA/Lebanon): Assistant Professor in Discipleship and Biblical Theology, ABTS

Throughout MEC 2018, we will be led in scriptural devotions by:

Emad Boutros (Egypt/Lebanon): Lecturer in Old Testament Studies, ABTS

Karen Shaw (Lebanon/USA): Assistant Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministry, ABTS

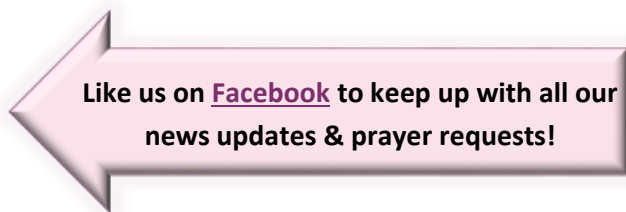
Abed El Kareem Zien El Dien (Lebanon): Lecturer in Communication Studies, ABTS

Chaden Hani (Lebanon): IMES Peacebuilding Initiatives Coordinator, ABTS

David Gregory (UK): President, The Baptist Union of Great Britain



We look forward to a challenging week that will stretch our minds and help transform our understanding and attitudes towards the religious other.



Pray with Us: Prayer Requests from Graduates and Faculty Members

Master of Divinity, male student from Sudan

Please pray for the right people who will be helping me and my wife as we start our ministry in Sudan. May He guide me to find them so we can be a team that shares one vision.

Master of Divinity, female student from Sudan

Pray for us as my family and I return once more to Sudan upon graduation. There is the challenge of settling down and finding a good school for our daughters. Despite the current economic situation of Sudan, we trust that God is able to sustain us. Pray that He would give us the strength to get everything going. Finally, I would like you to pray for my future education as it is on my heart to do my PhD.

Daoud, Bachelor of Theology, male student from Sudan

Please pray that after I graduate and return home, I will get accustomed once more to life in Sudan. Pray that my

ministry there would be effective.

Eman, Bachelor of Theology, female student from Egypt

I ask you to pray for the ministry that is to come. There will be a gap between what I got used to here and what I will encounter in Egypt. Moreover, I would like to pursue a higher level of education sometime in the future. I would like the focus of that education to be on pastoral care, so your prayers are much appreciated.

Sabet, Bachelor of Theology, male student from Sudan

I ask you to pray for my ministry in Sudan where the fruit of my theological formation will be manifest. Pray that I might be effective there, for the work does not end upon my graduation. It will continue in my community.

Diploma in Theology, female student from Jordan

Please pray that I may constantly heed God's voice regarding my future ministry.

Please pray for my future education, as I would like to study for MA and PhD, if God allows. I also want to focus on theology in Arabic as I have a desire to write interpretational resources.

Hazem, Certificate in Theology, male student from Syria

Please pray for more ministry workers in Damascus, and pray for me as I wish to continue my theological education in the future. Also, pray for me that I would be a humble, patient worker in God's field... even when life gets tough.



Mike Kuhn, Assistant Professor in Discipleship and Biblical Theology

Pray for us as we transition to a new home and ministry in the US. We are grateful for the past years at ABTS and look forward to ongoing collaboration.

Caleb Hutcherson, ABTS Faculty Development Lead, Lecturer in Historical Theology

Please pray for graduating students transitioning back to their home countries and stepping into new ministries. Also, pray for their children as they work through those transitions. Personally, I'm buried in collecting data for my research right now. My hope and prayer in the midst of that is that I would faithfully and discerningly work in order to better serve Arab theological education, which in turn helps the church to effectively serve the Arab world.

Bassem Melki, ABTS Dean of Students

Please lift up the students in your prayers. Pray for the summer ministry of our returning students and the upcoming ministry of our graduating students. There is always a natural fear when stepping out onto the field, so pray that they may trust in the Lord as they deal with the Church and society.

***Join us in prayer for our faculty member and former president,
our beloved Rev. Dr. Ghassan Khalaf, who is going through some health issues.
We pray for a full recovery and strength for the family.***