



# Ministry Update from Elie and Mireille Haddad

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Dear friends,

As usual, a lot has happened since our last update. God keeps growing and stretching our ministry in so many directions. Life at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) continues to be both challenging and rewarding.

## **New Curriculum**

The new ABTS curriculum has finally emerged after a pilgrimage of several years. This academic year 2009-2010 we enrolled our new students in the new curriculum. They are working towards completing their first year in June. The journey started a few years ago by recognizing that we need to move beyond the traditional academic paradigm of theological education to a more formative approach to leadership training. Our purpose is the formation of strategic leaders for the Church in the Arab world. Consequently, our curriculum should reflect that.

There are two foundational educational principles that drive our new curriculum: First, genuine formation of leaders requires multi-dimensional learning in a fully-integrated curriculum. Not only do we want to maintain a serious academic standard, but also we seek to be intentional about personal formation and spiritual growth as well as the development of ministry skills and leadership qualities.

The second principle driving the new curriculum is that the hidden or implicit curriculum has a more powerful formative influence on students than the explicit curriculum. The structure of the new curriculum is intentionally addressing this principle.

The feedback of the students enrolled in this new curriculum is very encouraging. We are very excited about it and our faculty is busy now designing and preparing for the second and third years of this curriculum.

## **Middle East Conference**

We are getting ready for the 2010 Middle East Conference coming up in June. The topic this year is: "Muslim and Christian Youth as the Present Future." We will be learning a lot about this very important segment of our societies. Youth are often marginalized, and they run the most risk of becoming radical and extremists. The temptation is to have a backlash against them. But what we want to wrestle with in this conference is how we can challenge our churches to respond in more appropriate and effective ways.

The main themes for the conference this year are: Muslim youth identity in a globalized world; creating understanding for faithful Christ-like witness; the emergence of Islamist movements and their impact on young Muslims and wider society; and models of engagement between Muslim and Christian young people.

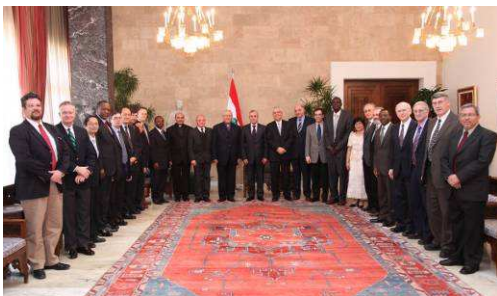
We expect a big crowd this year, both from the Middle East and from the West. If you are serious about proclaiming the Gospel to Muslims, and if you have a passion for the youth, then you may want to seriously consider attending this year.

## **DC-10 Consultation**

We hosted an important conference at ABTS earlier this year. This conference was "Doctoral

Consultation 2010” or DC-10 for short, organized by ICETE (International Council for Evangelical Theological Training). It involved a select group of top evangelical educators from all five continents who met to develop together a “charter of excellence” for doctoral-level theological education, a global consensus on standards that take into consideration the norms set by the secular international educational community as well as the top-level leadership needs of the Church. This process was dubbed the “Beirut Process,” and there will be subsequent consultations that will refine and develop the conclusions of this first global event.

It was an honour for us to have this key group of evangelical leaders in Beirut. We wanted to use this opportunity to raise the profile of evangelicals in Lebanon and to remind our community of the role that evangelicals have played and still play in education in Lebanon and the region. So, to that end, we arranged for this group to meet with the Lebanese president, General Michel Suleiman. Spokespersons of the delegation shared with the president how important excellence and high standards in theological education are for evangelicals.



**The Delegation at the Presidential Palace**

### **Mireille’s Ministries**

Mireille, as usual, keeps her time full with ministry. She is still very involved with the social life of ABTS. We have many foreign students staying on campus. These students have left their families, churches and communities behind in order

to come to Lebanon to get equipped. Our faculty and staff become their surrogate families. Mireille remains involved with them and keeps our home open to them.

Mireille’s main ministry this year is volunteering with a local compassionate ministry. They are focusing now on Iraqi refugees who have fled from Iraq and are waiting to be accepted as refugees somewhere in the world. In the meantime, they are not allowed to work. This means that most of them live in miserable conditions. Through this ministry, Mireille works with teams of volunteers in visiting and providing food and hygiene items for these families. They read the Bible with them, pray with them, and try to help them out physically and spiritually as much as they can.



**Mireille Visiting an Iraqi Family**

In addition, Mireille is slowly working on completing her MDiv degree at ABTS. Mireille loves learning and is enjoying the fruits of these studies.

Dear friends, Mireille and I continue to be grateful for your prayers and support. We cannot continue what we’re doing without you.

*If you are interested in becoming our Partner in Mission, please contact Eileen at [eileenm@cbmin.org](mailto:eileenm@cbmin.org), or go to [www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org).*

***I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us.***

**We would love to hear from you. You can contact us at:**

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