

# MINISTRY UPDATE

## The Botros Family

### Family News

As a family, we are doing well overall. Praise God for the strength He provides to help us carrying out our day-to-day responsibility.

The kids are doing fine too, except some of the regular complains about schooling. Now, we are moving to a new stage in life with Timothy is turning thirteen soon. We are sure many of you have been there and know what it means to go through the teen years! Please pray for us as parents as we learn how to handle these coming years, as well as for Timothy he learns how to grow as a godly young man.

Since the beginning of this year, Emad was very busy with his PhD studies as he had to learn French and submit a proposal for wiring a dissertation. Of course the whole family has been occupied by this, but the good news is that Emad has passed the French exam and the proposal was approved at the end of April. Now he will begin the final phase of this long journey, that is writing the dissertation. Emad is trying to develop a reading of the Book of Jonah in an Arab-Islamic context. The title for his topic is: The Merciful and Gracious God: An Arab Biblical Theology of Jonah's Narrative in Islamic Context. ***Please continue praying for Emad as he seeks to grow in his knowledge of the character of a merciful and gracious God, and that this piece of work would be useful to the church in the Middle East and beyond.***

### From Almess

As you have been praying with me to find opportunities where she can use her gifts, Daniel Chetti, a colleague and friend of ours, recently has

invited me to serve voluntarily as an Administrator on a part-time basis with his ministry "Enduring Love" which works alongside some of the ABTS alumni in the region. I am very excited to use my gifts to serve the Kingdom through this new opportunity. ***Please pray that my assistance to Daniel to be of a great help and support to those are working on the field.***

### Ministries at ABTS



كلية اللاهوت المحمدانية العربية  
Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

### Trip to Tunisia

As a seminary, one of our priorities is to continue encouraging and supporting our graduates after they go back to their home countries. As you know, some of our students come from North Africa. So, On March 19-23 of this year, I visited North Africa for the first time on behalf of ABTS to attend a conference that aims to train North African Church leaders. The attendees were very committed non-Christian background believers, many being Amazigh. As the church growing in this part of the world, there is a need for the new believing community to understand its role as being sent by God to the world. I led two sessions during this conference: The first was titled 'What Does It Mean to Be A Missional Church?', and the second was on "Using the OT in Discipleship Curriculum." The first session highlighted the fact that one's profession is a ministry, and thus we can see ourselves as a community of believers sent to our communities throughout the week using whatever gifts God gave us. By doing so, the church becomes very involved in the society by sharing God's love by words and deeds. One of the attendees, for example, was a lawyer, and we had a very fruitful conversation on how to use her profession to support the marginalized and to advocate for those

who are persecuted because of their faith.

It was amazing to see three of ABTS graduates leading most of the session at this conference. Their ministry involves training leaders to form home churches and to make disciples. It was also exciting to see that much of the material they presented during seminars is gleaned from their theological education at ABTS. *Please continue praying for the church in North Africa as it flourishes, and that God will continue using ABTS graduates to be influential leaders in this part of the world.*

## ABTS April Newsletter

In [ABTS April newsletter](#), you will read about Compassionate Care Ministry, where our students serve on a monthly basis among Syrian refugees. You will find also prayer requests from our students. We are sure that they would appreciate your prayers.

## Middle East Consultation (MEC) 2018

As you all know, June is the most busy month of the year as we hold our annual

Middle East consultation as well as celebrating with our graduates.

Through the course of MEC 2018 (18 – 22 June) we will work toward discerning a

Biblically grounded theology of Islam and religion which constructively informs the Church in its thinking, attitude, and approach to ministry in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Participants and contributors at MEC 2018 come from across the region and the world, providing a unique opportunity to reflect upon the critical



## Stay Connected

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*Thank you so much for your support of our ministry. Your prayers and financial support mean so very much and help make this work possible. If you would like to become a partner in mission with us, please contact Barb Keys at [bkeys@cbmin.org](mailto:bkeys@cbmin.org) or 905-821-3533.*

challenges of Islam, religious diversity and Christian witness in light of scripture and the study of religion. You can read more about MEC [here](#).

Emad will be leading a devotion as well as facilitating some of sessions. A group of Canadian pastors will be joining us this year. *Please pray for God's discernment as we work towards developing a Biblical understanding of Islam.*

## Reading Genesis From a Bangladesh Context

As we shared with you in the past, Emad is working with a team from Bangladesh and England to write a commentary on Genesis written by Bangla people in Bangladesh context. The team will be meeting in June at ABTS to finalize and make decisions regarding some important matters. Though this commentary is written in Bengali, it will be translated into English to be available to broader community of faith. Some of the issues we will be discussing is related to language, translation, and structure. Regarding the language, one of the major question we have is whether we can use honorifics when we speak of prophets. In Islam, Muslims use honorifics to show respect to their prophets. The challenge is that we would like to respect our readers' culture and context, but also being honest and true to our own beliefs. Creating this balance is not an easy task. *Please pray for wisdom as the team discussing this matters.*

## Church Ministry

We are very excited as a church to start three new projects (one in Egypt and two in Sudan) in the last six months. The purpose of these projects is to help three new leaders to start business as mission.

Through these projects, those leaders will be serving their communities, generating some income so that they are able to carry out the ministry (Tent Makers), and advance the witness of the Gospel through words and deeds. *Please pray for the successes of these projects and that they advance*

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*embracing a broken world  
through word & deed*

May 2018

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*the ministry of the Gospel in those countries.*

**Emad, Almess, Timothy & Nathaniel**

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