



September 2019

Family News

We want to start our news by praising God for his faithfulness. This summer was unique and we strongly felt God's miraculous work in the lives of our kids. Let us explain. As you know, we have been asking for your prayers for our kids since we have moved to Lebanon. We have been praying that their time in Lebanon will bring them closer to God. And it has been indeed.

This summer Timothy and Nathaniel went to YFC camp and both strongly felt God's presence in their lives during the camp. Timothy said that, "I felt that God was there."

Timothy had two volunteer opportunities for the first time this summer. The first was at Kids Alive camp for a week, a place that "provides care to as many as 150 children in Lebanon every year in its two children's homes, school, and care center programs." As Timothy speaks both English and Arabic, he was helping as a translator from English to Arabic for kids. He was also serving food during lunch time, and helping with his favorite sport game, SOCCER. Timothy also was helping as a translator in another camp with our church, where we had over 70 kids from Syria and Iraq. As we see our kids growing, we are grateful to the Lord and to you who have been praying for our children. Nothing brings more joy to us as parents than seeing our boys growing in their faith. Lebanon has been good to us in this matter!



Timothy' first volunteer ministry

Well, it is still summer here, and kids will go back to school late September. Timothy is going to grade 9 which is a big year here in Lebanon. So, we are getting ready to this, while Nathaniel is going to grade 7.

REGARDING MARCYLIA, Almess' niece, one of the Canadian churches decided to sponsor her. Two days ago we got the news that all her papers are now in the Canadian Embassy in Lebanon! This great news brought joy to Marcylia, Almess and the whole family. We praise God for the church that made such commitment, and for your prayers as well. ***Please continue praying for Marcylia as she is anxiously waiting to hear from the Embassy.***

Almess' Online Tutoring Ministry

*During the summer, Almess has been busy with Intro to the Old Testament online course, tutoring 20 online students from various backgrounds: Iraqi, Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, and Kurdish. Students come to the course already struggle with their view of God in the OT, Israel as God's chosen people, violence in the OT compared to violence in the Qur'an...etc. One major highlight of interacting with students, Almess says, is that "as students learn how to read the OT in light of the coming and the birth of Christ, a significant shift occurs in students' view of the OT throughout the course." Students learn about the story of the loving and caring God who enters into covenant relationship with his people for the sake of the whole world. ***Pray for our students as each one of them serving in his own context.****

Emad's PhD Program

*Emad spent most of the summer writing another chapter for his PhD dissertation. He produced about 25000 words. This was a big achievement as it brings him one step closer toward finishing his program. He will be busy working on another chapter from now until December. ***Emad appreciates your prayer for clarity and guidance as he writes.****



Middle East Consultation (MEC) 2019: *Thinking Biblically about Muslims, Muhammad, and the Qur'an: Practical Implications for the Church Today*

During its sixteenth year, MEC 2019 was a fruitful week indeed. We have over 200 people from all over the world. **We had over 20 people represent three CBM groups: Sent, Praxis, and a Pastor's Team. It is very encouraging to have one of our partner churches come to visit us.** Each day we heard from reflective practitioners, scholars of Islam, and mission thinkers and discussed the topics of revelation, prophethood, salvation, and the spiritual realities underlying interfaith encounters.

On the second day of the consultation, we addressed the question: *How are we to make sense of the Qur'an?* To answer this question, we were introduced to the history of the formation of the Qur'an according to Islamic tradition. I (Emad) spoke about the story of Jonah in the Qur'an, surveying the common unconscious assumptions Christians have about the Qur'an. Using Jonah as an example, I explored how we could approach "biblical" prophetic narratives in the Qur'an. Consequently, we encountered some of the misconceptions about the Qur'an, and this entreated us to consider that both Muslims and Christians can have a constructive conversation when we do not abandon our convictions, but we show grace to the other scripture as we do with our own.

Graduation

We held our graduation ceremony on June 23 for eight full time theology students, thirteen online students and three Master of Religion students whom God has entrusted with a message to tell of His wondrous love. As they begin to walk the unpaved, thorny road, His Spirit will prove to be a steady help. Our graduates desire to devote their



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lives to the One they chose to follow, ***so we pray that they faithfully take on the role God appointed for each of them as they serve their communities.***

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 or 905-821-3533.

Reading the Bible in the Context of Islam Project

In August, we have completed the first draft of Genesis 1–11 commentary in Bangladesh context, and were able to send it to the publisher for a feedback. We are celebrating this milestone as a team, and we praise God for his guidance through the whole process. Last June, we held a consultation in Lebanon to form two new teams: Jonah and John. Emad will be leading a team to write a commentary on Jonah. We also have three other teams working on the Gospel of John, the Psalms, and the Epistles of Jonah.



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MINISTRY UPDATE

The Botros Family

Church Ministry

The mission work of our church in the MENA Region is going well, but with its challenges.

M, one of our partners, and his family are followers of Jesus from a Muslim background. He is married and has four children. After graduating from ABTS, M decided to go back to his village in upper Egypt to reconcile with his family and community. For the last three years, he was successfully able to do so. During this time, the family built solid relationships with some of the families there, and M himself had a positive relationships even with some of the mosque leaders. M, moreover, developed his business of repairing TVs and Satellites. This, however, was not easy as M and his family faced many challenges. For example, the people in his community put lots of pressure on his children, particularly the daughters, to go back and embrace Islam once again. By the grace of God, he and his family were able to resist such pressure. But things have changed dramatically and very quickly in the last month.

The family had to leave the village within 48 hours due to some threats related to his daughters. Though the family could have stayed, they were afraid that this will put the family under unnecessary severe pressure. As M has big extended family in the village, he was afraid also that this threat will create huge bloody conflict between his extended family and those who have threatened him. So, the family wisely, and after a time of prayer, decided to leave to the capital. We would like to ask your prayers for peace as the family attempts to settle down in a new city. **Pray for the children's school as they have to find a new school and build new relationships. The older daughter, Mariam, will be looking for a new college soon. Pray for M to find a job until he develops a plan for his business in a new city. This is not an easy task, but we trust the Lord in this matter.**

Upcoming Ministry Plans

1. Emad will be traveling to Egypt for a week for church related ministries and also to spend some time with the family.
2. Emad will be teaching two courses during the fall: Research Methods and OT Survey.
3. Almess will start tutoring a new course on October 3rd.
4. Emad will be working on another chapter during the fall.

Emad, Almess, Timothy & Nathaniel

Praise and Prayer Requests

Pray for us as a family as we start the school year as well as the academic year at ABTS. Pray for strength, wisdom, peace as we carry our responsibilities.

Our returning 20 students will be back this week as the new academic year will start this week. Pray for their travels, for their emotions as they say goodbye to their families back home, and for a renewal of their hearts and minds as they start their classes.

We will be applying for visas for our 17 new students this week. This is the battle of every year with the government and there is usually no grantee of how many visas we will be granted by the government. We really appreciate your prayers for this matter

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