

AST & NBIC Commencement Exercises



On 26th September, we celebrated the graduation of twelve students with a Bachelor in Theology, our twelfth commencement exercise, at All Saints Cathedral, Cairo. We were honoured to have our Archbishop, The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Anis, giving the keynote address. He encouraged the graduates to continue expanding their knowledge and keep following Jesus Christ and spread the Good News. We were blessed by the presence of the Armenian Catholic Archbishop, Augustinus Koussa, who greeted the graduates, and impressed on them, to always be proud of being disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lydia Eldeeb, as the graduating class elected representative, thanked Archbishop Mouneer and AST Dean, Bishop Samy Shehata, as well as the faculty and staff, and her husband. She talked about the true purpose of our life is 'to be' and not 'to possess'. She said, 'Today we are celebrating how God changed and transformed us, through our theological studies, by His Word and Holy Spirit, to become His servants. Lydia is now studying on the AST Master of Theology.





On 15th August, the Nuba Mountain Bible Institute Cairo (NBIC) celebrated the graduation of ten students, with a Diploma in Theology, their fifth commencement exercise, in All Saints Cathedral Hall. Six graduates will remain in Cairo leading Sudanese congregations and six graduates will return to serve their home churches in different regions in Sudan and Southern Sudan that include Nuba Mountains, Port Sudan and Khartoum. Wesley, an Area Dean for around fifteen churches located in three refugee camps, that are full of people from Nuba Mountains, in South Sudan said, "We close a chapter full of achievements, and as we look towards the future, we open a new one, practically serve Jesus Christ."

AST Staff & Faculty Gathering

At the end of August, AST faculty and staff were able to gather for a couple of days at the Villa Pathy Christian Conference Centre near Alexandria, a much loved venue of the AST family. The team met to pray, worship and plan for the upcoming academic year. Covid-19 had impacted the delivery of AST courses last semester, and from mid-March campuses had been closed, however, over the last couple of years staff and faculty had been using 'Moodle' and were well equipped to enable, nearly all the activities, to be accessed online, so that most classes were delivered live using Zoom, as well as uploaded onto 'Moodle' for students to review afterwards as well as access syllabi, assignments, as well as the capability to post enquiries. The faculty and staff decided that the majority of courses for the next semester would be delivered 'on campus' in Cairo, Alexandria and Minya, but made provision for some courses to continue to be delivered online using Zoom.



AST BTh Program and Youth Track Program 2020/2021



AST enrolled forty-four new students, from a variety of denominational backgrounds, onto the BTh Program in Cairo, Alexandria and Minya. On 23rd September, they attended an orientation day to be familiarised with the policies and program, have fellowship with their soon to be classmates, and ask any questions prior to their program commencement.

Prior to Mark Senada, AST faculty member, studying for a MA of Religion studies at Trinity School of Ministry (Pennsylvania, USA), as the Diocesan Youth Coordinator, he trained and equipped youth leaders to serve God and build a strong generation of youth. Rev. Mark has now developed the 'Youth Leaders Training Program' designed to develop the much needed middle and senior youth leadership in the local churches. The program includes theological, counselling and leadership skill courses.



AST Staff & Faculty Appointments



We are delighted that Mark Abdel Messiah is now an AST faculty member, and will be teaching 'Apologetics', 'Introduction to the Bible' and 'Mission of God'. Mark was born in Cairo and recently returned from studying and being awarded a MA in Theology and a MTh at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Michigan, USA. Prior to this, he studied for a BTh with AST and served in Syria. He has a degree in Pharmacy, and is married to Rosie and has a son, John. He said, "Studying at AST greatly influence my spiritual and practical life affecting my approach to both the Bible and ministry."



Sarah Emil is serving as Student Services Manager at AST Alexandria. She graduated with a Bachelor in Theology in 2015, and previously studied Science at the University of Alexandria.

Dr. Enas Zaki is serving as Student Services Manager at AST Minya, Upper Egypt. She graduated with the first group of BTh students last year. She has a PhD in Tourism Tourist Guidance, and has enrolled on the MA in Theology, a program delivered by AST in partnership with PRTS.



Maha Abdelmalek has joined AST as the 'Partnerships and Travel Study Coordinator'. After graduating from Helwan University (Cairo) with a degree in Tourism Studies she went onto study a 'Semi-MBA' at Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK. Maha is planning AST study tours for later next year, so if you are interested get in touch!

Praise & Prayer

- Give thanks for the new intake of students on the BTh Program. Please pray for faculty, staff and students as they commence this new year during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Praise God for the students who graduated this year. Please pray that they will be fruitful, as they serve in their communities and churches.
- Give thanks for the well-established and good reputation of the St. Athanasius Campus in Minya. Please pray for the completion and furnishing of the new building New Minya by next year.
- Give thanks for the St. Frumentius Campus in Gambella, Ethiopia. Please pray, in these difficult circumstances, for teaching and classes to re-commence.