



The Episcopal Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa

ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER, WINTER 2017

AST & NBIC Commencement Exercises, July 29



On 29th July, Alexandria School of Theology (AST) and Noba Mountain Bible Institute Cairo (NBIC) held their ninth and second commencement exercises respectively at All Saints Cathedral, Cairo to celebrate the graduation of twenty-two students; three with a Diploma, fourteen with a Bachelor in Theology, and for the second time two with a Master of Arts in Early African Christianity, and three with a Diploma from NBIC.

We were honoured to have Canon Dr. Ashley Null, an internationally renowned theologian and board member, give our keynote address and also receive greetings from the Coptic orthodox Church and the Diocese of Singapore. We were saddened that The Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand, Chair of AST Board, announced his resignation as Area Bishop of the Horn of Africa.

Amir Samy, now an AST teaching assistant and studying for a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies, was the elected representative of the graduating class, and paid tribute to the faculty and their families, and remembering Riham, a beloved faculty member, and Malak, a fellow student in their year. On a personal note, he said "From the first year I was determined to become a teacher. I learned how to search for the truth, and not be easily swayed, as well as how to sharpen my way of thinking in order to present good arguments".



AST BTh Program 2017/2018



AST enrolled sixty five new students, from a variety of denominational backgrounds for studying at our campuses in Cairo, Alexandria and Menya. They attended an orientation day on eighth September to become familiar with the polices and program, as well as having an opportunity to ask questions, and have fellowship with their colleagues before attending the 3-day residential study conference near Alexandria with the rest of the student body. On the following successive three weekends, the first classes commenced at each of our campuses. We were very pleased to welcome again the Executive Director of Overseas Council Australia, and also two of his colleagues, and look forward to receiving a group from OCA this April.

Update on AST Masters in Divinity Program

This calendar year, the fourth and fifth courses Master of Divinity were delivered by Dr. Wanda Malcolm of Wycliffe College (Toronto) and The Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant Le Marquand on "Worship" and "Christian Counselling" respectively which leaves two more courses for the completion of this Program and the graduation of the five students.

Completion of the “Space to Learn” Project in Alexandria



During a visit by a group from Ridley Hall Cambridge in 2007, AST began praying that the buildings situated to the north and east of the Pro-Cathedral would be returned to the church. These buildings are owned by the church, but because of restricted and protected leases, the church does not have access. The following year, AST approached its fourth intake year of students, and was desperately in need for more classroom and office space. This immediate and pressing need was met by the church getting possession of a small two level flat in this building which AST shared with other church ministries. This alleviated the immediate problem, but we never lost sight of our original vision. Five years later, St. Mark’s was able to raise the funds to buy-out the tenant in a large flat on the second floor in this building that would provide AST with space for many other new facilities. This flat needed extensive renovation, and so the ‘Space to Learn Project’ was born.

We are very thankful to our supporters who enabled us to renovate, equip, furnish, and so complete the ‘Space to Learn’ Project, that made it possible for us to commence using it at the start of this academic year. This custom-designed 700m² facility includes four classrooms, three of which can be opened up to form a large gathering hall, offices for our principal, administration staff and full time faculty, a room for a library to expand its collection and provide places for students to do research, a canteen for providing simple foods and drinks, and accommodation rooms for guest speakers, faculty and staff travelling from Cairo for teaching and meetings in Alexandria. We have now completed twelve academic years, and this will give us the space and the environment to grow and build the AST learning community.

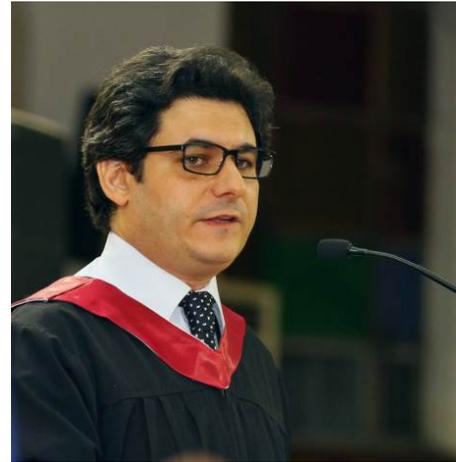


Consecration of AST Principal as new Area Bishop of North Africa



The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Anis consecrated AST Principal, The Very Rev. Dr. Samy Fawzy, as the new Area and first Egyptian Bishop of North Africa within the Anglican/Episcopal Diocese of Egypt with the Horn of Africa in a moving ceremony at All Saints Cathedral, Cairo, on 27th February attended by Anglican representatives from around the world, as well as other denominations in Egypt. Archbishop Mouneer focused his meditation on Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Bishop Samy will continue to be based in Alexandria, and in addition to being the Principal of AST and Dean of St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral in Alexandria, is also responsible for the Episcopal churches in Tunis, Algeria and Libya.

Appointment of Academic Coordinator



At the start of the calendar year, we were very pleased to appoint Shady Anis, previously the regional director of ALPHA in the Middle East and part time AST faculty member, to commence a new full time role as our academic coordinator. Shady has a degree in Biomedical Engineering, and has a Masters of Religion, with an emphasis on Systematic Theology, from Trinity School of Ministry in Pennsylvania.

Praise & Prayer

- Give thanks for the appointment of Shady Anis, as full time AST Academic Coordinator. Pray for Bishop Samy Shehata and Shady in their respective leadership positions.
- Give thanks for the new first year intake of students on the BTh Program. Pray that they will study diligently and grow in their knowledge, love and service of God.
- Give thanks for the new graduates. Pray for their fruitfulness as they serve the lost and broken humanity.
- Give thanks for the completion of the 'Space to Learn' facility. Pray for the acquisition, renovation and conversion of another flat in the building for a guesthouse.
- Give thanks for the postgraduate students. Pray for the selection and training of new teaching assistants.
- Give thanks for the Master of Divinity in Pastoral Studies Program. Pray for the delivery of the two courses in the final year.