



**CBM**

*embracing a broken world  
through word & deed*

December 2015

# MINISTRY UPDATE

## The Botros Family

### *Greetings from Lebanon*

This is the first time for Almess and I to celebrate Christmas after 10 years in Canada. For the boys, however, it is the first time to celebrate Christmas away from home (Canada). The boys' favourite habit during this season is to decorate the Christmas tree, and they did. Now they are working very hard with Almess on baking Christmas cookies, and I am helping too by eating them! Where we live in Lebanon the spirit of Christmas is everywhere: lots of Christmas lights and of course shopping! We have been in two Christmas services too. Our family wishes you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Lord fill our hearts with joy and peace during this time.

### *Praise the Lord!*

Some of you have been aware of Almess and the boys' challenge of obtaining residency visa. It has been a struggle, but praise the Lord for granting this visa while they are in Lebanon. This is a miracle in itself, since people should usually leave the country and apply from outside for this kinds of visa. Thanks for your prayers.

### *From The Boys*

The boys started being accustomed to the new school and curriculum. The biggest challenge now is handling some bullying in school. Please pray that God will give us wisdom while we help our kids with this matter, and that this kind of challenge would be an opportunity for the kids to learn how to show God's love and also to be able to defend themselves. It is a learning opportunity, though it is hard.

### *Seeking Holistic Students Formation and Growth*



**Over the November 13-14 weekend, our students headed further into the Lebanese mountains for a retreat.** The students, their children, faculty and staff enjoyed the beautiful scenery, fun games, roasting marshmallows, and periods of worship.

The topic of the weekend was forgiveness, an important subject both in at the time of Christ and in today's modern Middle East. Guest speaker **Asaad Chافتary**, a Christian who spent his youth leading a militia during the bloody Lebanese Civil War, gave his powerful testimony to the gathered students. As a militia leader he killed, persecuted, and tortured many as the conflict grew. Yet after the war and his own personal downfall, he came to know Jesus and the extent of the sins he had committed against others. He now dedicates his life to educating others on the principles of reconciliation and forgiveness, even in overwhelmingly difficult situations. Our students were greatly encouraged by his testimony.


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## Ministry Update

Right now, I am preparing for the course, *the Cultural and Historical Background of the Old Testament*, that I will be teaching in January. Almess and I have 4 seminary students to mentor this year. Please keep these students in your prayers asking the Lord to transform their lives to be like His. Almess also has been helping a Syrian refugee family who is immigrating to Canada with their paper work. We are very happy to see many Canadian churches getting involved in this crucial ministry.



An Evening with Students at our Place

As we move towards the New Year, we ask that you join us in praying for our students, their ministries, and their home countries in 2016. Pray for peace. Pray for relief from persecution. Pray for wisdom. Pray for commitment and pray for His intervention in our troubled region.

## From ABTS: Prayer Requests

**Bassem, Dean of Student Affairs:** “ We pray for the intervention of God’s Spirit in our students’ lives. We pray for our students to see issues as opportunities for God to change them for the better.”

**Elie Haddad, ABTS President:** “We ask for prayer for our students to have clear ministry visions, to understand how they can serve despite the uncertainty in the Middle East and North Africa and how they can make a difference for the Kingdom.”

**Karen Shaw, Assistant Professor of Cross-Cultural Ministry:** “ Students who are parents find it difficult to give adequate time both to their full-time study and to their children. This is hard on both parents and children. Pray for optimal use of the time available and successful adjustment.”

**Rabih Hasbany, Translation Coordinator:** “We ask for prayers for one of our Egyptian students who is currently suffering from a stomach infection. He had to return to Egypt for treatment and will be missing almost three weeks of classes. We ask that you pray for his recovery while he seeks treatment.”

**Stephanie Kuhn, Student Affairs Committee Member:** “ Praise God for the Children's Library, for a great start to a new academic year, for a profitable student retreat, and for ways in which students are growing and adapting to life in the ABTS community. As for prayer requests, we want to ask for prayer for our students during the holidays as they are far away from home and their communities. Pray that they will find joy, renewal, and refreshment during their holiday break.”

Merry Christmas,

The Botros' Family

Thank you so much for your support over the last year. 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 me, please contact Barb Keys at [bkeys@cbmin.org](mailto:bkeys@cbmin.org) or 905-821-3533

If you are one of those who gave a one-time annual gift last year, would consider making it an annual contribution?