



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

The Alexandria School of Theology

Issue 13: October 2010

AST's Second Commencement

On June 12, 2010 over 600 people attended our second commencement ceremony at All Saints' Cathedral in Cairo. This year 25 students graduated, 23 with a Bachelors degree and 2 with a diploma. We were honored to have the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, as our guest speaker. This day is a very special day in the hearts of the students and many testimonies spoke to the fact that their lives were truly changed during their four years at



AST. One student, during the luncheon, thanked AST for not just teaching her theology and the Bible, but for teaching her a way of life as well as how to think.

Residential

AST completed the fall residential conference in September in which all students from both the Cairo and Alexandria branches gather to study and fellowship together. This special event is a wonderful opportunity for the students to get to know each other better and it allows and fosters many hours of debating and discussing the different ideas from classes. The diversity of ages, genders and hometowns add a lot of excitement to these discussions. During this residential students from each year attend about 17 lectures (68 in total!). The intensity of the retreat sparks a lot of motivation for students as they begin each term. This year the residential was held outside of Alexandria and for the first time AST introduced a Physical Education emphasis led by Bishop Maurice Sinclair.



Summer Institute in Christian-Muslim Studies

In early August 2010, the Alexandria School of Theology hosted its first Summer Institute in Christian-Muslim Studies in Cairo. During August 2-13, participants from the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia, Singapore, Denmark, and Egypt explored theological and practical aspects of Christian-Muslim relations. The first session (August 2-6) concentrated on Christian theology in dialogue with Islam, while the second session (August 8-13) focused on ministry considerations. Participants had the unique privilege of drawing on the vast experience of Bishop Michael Nazir Ali, one of the church's leading experts in Christian-Muslim relations and author of several books on the subject, Bishop Mouneer H. Anis, presiding bishop of the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, Rev. Emad Mikhail, Principal of AST, and Rev. Matthew Anderson, AST faculty member in Islamics. The Summer Institute also provided participants with the exclusive opportunity to interact with prominent scholars from Al-Azhar University, the leading global center of Islamic scholarship, plus the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Ali Gomaa. The academic instruction was supplemented by various tours of significant Islamic and Christian historical sites, including Islamic Cairo, the city of Alexandria, and Mt Sinai. Plans are already underway for the 2011 Summer Institute. If you are interested in more information, please let us know.



Goodbyes and Hellos

This summer AST has said "goodbye" to two very dear staff members. Helen Fraser has been called away to the south part of the country to study Arabic intensively and fully immerse herself in the society there. She will be spending time working with an orphanage and help minister there. Jeannette Grimmer, our faithful English teacher, is retiring in New Zealand. Pray for them as they continue to follow the Lord and serve Him.

Incoming Class

This year AST accepted and enrolled 45 students from all over Egypt. We are excited to have several students from Upper Egypt attending with the ultimate goal of helping continue the vision of AST in their part of the country when they complete their theological education. Upper Egypt (south of Cairo) has a large Christian presence but very little opportunity for ministry training and theological education.



Upcoming Events

MA Course Offering

We are proud to announce the upcoming MA course on Isaiah offered at AST by Moore College, Sydney. It will run from November 29 to December 4, 2010. Dr. Barry Webb will teach the unit and will be joined by his wife for the course. For more about him and work see the following link:

<http://moore.edu.au/teaching-learning/staff/barry-webb/>.

SINAI PLUS

For September 2011 the AST is planning an opportunity for friends from overseas to join with students in a visit to the biblical sites in Sinai. Together we shall be seeing the area where God intervened so decisively in human history and praying in the very places where it is believed it all happened. We are calling this excursion Sinai plus. It has more than just historical interest; our overseas friends will be introduced to the living church in Egypt, through fellowship with students, involvement in a teaching weekend, and seeing other ministries of the Diocese of Egypt. Why not make a note of these dates in your 2011 diary. More details will be sent out soon.

Praise & Prayer

- Praise for the incoming class for the Fall of 2010
- Pray for our teachers and for Rev. Emad A. Mikhail, our Principal. He needs to reduce his teaching load in order to give me more time to administration, mentoring of faculty and writing.
- Pray for our MA students as they study while they work at AST or in ministry elsewhere.
- Pray for our financial needs
- Pray for the accreditation process as we begin the long process.

Financial Needs

Each student costs AST only \$1,500 *per year*. For that price we believe students are getting an excellent education by our well-trained international faculty. However, students are charged only 10% of this cost because of Egypt's economic situation. Some cannot even pay the full 10%.

We are asking our friends to prayerfully consider supporting the cost of one or more students. It is the way we believe we can continue to work for the reformation and expansion of the church in Egypt and the Arab world.

In addition to this, please consider funding one of our local or international professors.

Are you interested? Have Questions? Please contact us

Sherif Atef
AST Administrator

Amira Mikhail
Development Officer

Telephone:

Alexandria: +2.03.487.9927

Cairo: +2.02.2735.7249

Fax: +2.02.2735.8941

Website: <http://www.ast-eg.org/>

Email: amiramikhail@gmail.com
ast@dioceseofegypt.org

Thanks to Bishop Maurice Sinclair, Rev. Matt Anderson, Mark Takki and the many others who helped contribute to the writing of this newsletter.