



by Ruth Anna Dana

What would you say if you wrote home from Lebanon? In their March 2022 Canadian Baptist Ministries update, Emad and Almess Botros, who have been serving with CBM since 2015 at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS), state the facts of living in a beleaguered country to their supporters in Canada. Daily, the Lebanese people find the economic situation distracting and emotionally draining. “Lebanon’s latest financial crisis is getting worse since the war between Russia and Ukraine started.... People are not able to afford the price of fuel, which impacts every aspect of their life, as well as having a shortage of wheat.”

Born in Egypt, Emad worked there as a high school teacher, then as a pastor. Almess was born in Iraq, where she earned her B.A. in accounting. They immigrated to Canada in 2005.

Though faced with many things that might discourage them, Emad and Almess find their strength in God’s grace and they are experiencing God in new ways. With stick-to-itiveness, they trust in the Rock who never changes, and rely on his promise, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10a, RSV). The Botros family was thankful to the Lord for a needed break when travel restrictions were

eased, enabling them to go to Egypt to celebrate Eastern Christmas, which is January 7 in the Eastern Orthodox tradition, and visit with Emad’s family.

Emad serves as a lecturer in Old Testament and Islamic studies at ABTS. At the beginning of 2022, the new semester began for the Integrated Theology Program with a virtual residency. Through this online venue, there has been an exchange of hope for students from places like Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, and the ABTS staff as they listen to one another’s incredible stories of God’s work in these places. During the third week of this virtual introduction, Emad taught that the focus was not only on conceptual and practical research skills, but also on the qualities of humility and

honesty for personal spiritual growth. Hence, learning becomes a lifestyle for outreach to the greater Middle Eastern and North Africa region.

Almess enthusiastically continues weekly online mentoring sessions. She enjoys having conversations with students related to their personal lives and ministries, and their studies. Emad shares about

accomplishing his personal goal to submit to publishers the English version of the Genesis Commentary in the Bangladesh context. He is also working to meet the June deadline of finishing the last phase of a commentary on Jonah. *Please pray* for those who will read these commentaries.

A second prayer request comes from Emad, and is in relation to the church which the family attends. He and several others have been involved in training 189 lifegroup leaders as well as pastors who studied Christian doctrine, hermeneutics, and the Old Testament; the aim is to be able to integrate this knowledge into their lives and ministries. *Please continue praying* for these pastors and leaders as they serve in a very difficult time with very limited resources.

In the short term, what is next for the Botros family? This summer, they look forward to rest and re-alignment back home in Canada after being away for five years. They ask for prayer for their two sons following the last years of stress and change. *Please pray* for their youngest, Nathaniel, to have peace in heart and mind, and for God’s guidance for Timothy as he is trying to discover what God has in store for him in terms of undergraduate studies in a Canadian university for the fall.



On holiday in Egypt in January 2022 with Timothy (R) and Nathaniel (L).

Sources: CBM Facebook (November 5, 2021), CBM Prayerline, the ABTS February 2022 newsletter, and the Botroses’ March 2022 CBM newsletter.