



ETSC Celebrates Graduation 2006

Stepping Up to the Challenge

A message from our president

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19



Dr. Atef Gendy

It is clear to many of us in Egypt and the Middle East that God is doing a new thing in our day and time. At this time of graduation, The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo is deeply aware of its responsibility towards the Church in Egypt and the Middle East and strives to rise to the challenges of the changes sweeping our country and region. Moving out of the box, we are exploring new and creative ways to serve the church in addition to the regular courses offered in classrooms.

ETSC has established a data base to track the situation and status of churches and ministries all over the country, which has helped us to identify their spiritual needs. This year the program of training Lay Pastors at ETSC has begun with the goal to fill the pastoral gap in many underserved villages and to open new fields where sending ordained pastors is inappropriate for some reason. The program started in February with 14 candidates and will last for one academic year in order to equip these candidates with the

knowledge and the skills needed for this ministry.

Although the Center of Middle East Christianity (CMEC) physical plant construction is still in progress, the work of the center was inaugurated at our 2005 graduation. The theological and programmatic offerings of the CMEC are already underway; monthly seminars are being held to acquaint Egyptian Christian leaders with the great heritage and legacy of the early Arab and Egyptian theologians, and our students are being encouraged to engage in their own research in Middle East Christianity.

As we celebrate the progress of ETSC during the 2005-2006 academic year, and rejoice with a new graduating class entering the field of ministry, we are not content to rest on the accomplishments of the past. God is doing a new thing... we perceive it, and we covet your prayers and support as together we journey into His future.

Dr. Atef M. Gendy
President of ETSC

Dr. Atef Gendy will be on sabbatical from August 2006 to May 2007. Dr. Magdi S. Gendi, (Professor of Old Testament) will be serving as Acting President in his absence.

The Saints Go Marching Out - Celebrating Graduation 2006!

ETSC's 2006 Graduation Ceremony on June 2 was the highlight of our Graduation events and the culmination of a year of hard work by students, faculty and staff. In all, 31 students graduated from our combined educational programs. While most of the graduating students are from the Evangelical Church of Egypt, some of our graduates represent other denominations such as Church of God, Church of Christ, Baptist, Pentecostal, Episcopal and Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Although they go out now to a wide variety of church service, members of the 2006 graduating class of ETSC already have served in many capacities such as in Sunday schools, as youth leaders, in prison ministry, as lay pastors and in other ways as well. Besides serving in Egypt, the 2006 graduates will serve churches in Sudan, Germany, Uganda and the U.S.A.

We were also blessed by the presence of a number of special guests at our graduation. A large group from Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia joined us. They were especially interested to attend graduation because ten of their members have been in a "mentoring relationship" for the last few years with ten ETSC students, some of whom graduated in this ceremony. John and Barbara Donelik, dear friends of ETSC, have faithfully attended our graduation ceremonies for the last several years. Mr. Maged Ragae, an Egyptian sent by the Mustard Seed Foundation, was also able to join us to represent that organization which has supported our seminary students in recent years. Many other friends were present from Egypt and abroad. We are thankful for so many around the world who provide scholarship support, prayers and encouragement to our students!

Top, from left: Dr. Magdi Gendi, Dr. Fahed Abu Akel, Dr. Atef Gendi, Dr. Steve Huntley. Middle: Mr. Maged Ragae (left) with a Peachtree guest. Bottom: Dr. Steve Huntley with his "mentoree," Bahaa Rashad.



Clockwise from above: ETSC graduates share experiences during the baccalaureate. Student Shawkat Zacharia (right) prepares to graduate. John and Barbara Donelik (left) accept an award from ETSC. Graduates Medhat Michele (left) and Medhat Samy (right) march in.



An Award-Winning Graduation

Our seminary graduation is a time of celebrating what our community has accomplished in study and ministry. Several special awards were presented during our 2006 Graduation Ceremony. Every year, ETSC honors the alumni who have given 50 years of service to the church. This year we presented awards to three members of ETSC's class of 1956: Dr. Albert Estero, Rev. Helmy Hennein, and Rev. Zahy Wilson.



Also at our 2006 graduation for the first time, research prizes were awarded to our graduating students as an initiative of our Center for Middle East Christianity. The first prize went to Ehab Eleya for his essay about the role of Arab Christians in translating Greek sciences during the Abbasid period. The translation work of Christians led to a scientific revolution in the Arab world. The second prize went to Vivian Farouk, valedictorian of the class of 2006. She focused on the role of Arab Christian writers in the development of the Arabic language. Arab Christians contributed many new expressions, words and theological concepts which enriched the language. Congratulations to Ehab and Vivian for their great scholarly work.

Top right photo, left to right: Rev. Helmy Hennein, Rev. Zahy Wilson, Dr. Albert Estero. Below left: Dr. Grafton presents the 1st place award to Ehab Eleya. Below right: Dr. David Grafton presents the 2nd place CMEC award to Vivian Farouk.



ETSC Graduates Ordained for Special Ministry

On Monday June 19th, two of our 2006 graduates were ordained as mission partners at Faggala Evangelical Church in Cairo. Wasseem Salem, a graduating student from Iraq, served faithfully during his four years of study at ETSC in ministry to foreign prisoners held in Egypt, and was used powerfully by God to provide relief and release to prisoners and proclaim the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. He desires to complete higher level studies abroad and return to develop prison ministries in the Middle East. Awni Adel came to ETSC for seminary study after already serving as a lay evangelist among Arabs living in

Germany while working and studying there. After ordination, his dream is to return to Germany sent by the Egyptian Church to be a pastor to Arab residents of Germany, most of whom have no church home, no pastoral care, and no knowledge of God in Jesus Christ. Waseem and Awni covet your prayers and support as they go out into challenging new fields of service.

Freely You Have Received... So Freely Give!

In the spirit of Matthew 10:5-16, ETSC students are sent out every summer to serve in churches and ministries all over Egypt. This time of summer service is a chance for our students to apply what they have been learning during the academic year and to support struggling churches and ministries around the country, many of which have no consistent pastoral presence. The students are supervised by area pastors who work with them and mentor them along the way. ETSC faculty members also travel around Egypt during the summer, visiting the students and encouraging them in the often difficult and challenging contexts in which they are serving.



ETSC students Kamil Sadawy (center) and Fawzy Faragala (right) with a friend in Soft el Madum village.

David Magdy will serve this summer in the growing Red Sea resort city of Hurghada. There is no church yet established in that city, and David will share, visit and try to build relationships with an eye toward planting a church in the future. Some students go to remote areas such as Fawzy Faragala who will serve in a village near Luxor. Menassa Neseem, an ETSC student who served in Khartoum in Sudan last year, is returning there to serve again. This year he will spend a month visiting and encouraging the churches in the south of Sudan which have suffered from many years of civil war and neglect. Please keep all of our students in your prayers as they rise to the challenges of ministry in the Middle East!



Special Lecture this Month in Middle East Christianity

On June 21st the Center for Middle East Christianity (CMEC) held a special lecture led by Rev. Steven Sizer, Vicar of Christ Church in Virginia Water, England. The focus of the lecture was Christian Zionism as a systematic theology, how it connects with the politics of the Israel-Palestine conflict and how it impacts Egyptian Christians. Rev. Sizer focused on the doctrines of covenant and election key points of divergence between Christian Zionist and Reformed

Theologies. The lecture was open to the public and encouraged discussion and questions among attendees. Over 200 people attended including Orthodox and Muslim community leaders. Rev. Sizer's lecture was the fourth CMEC public lecture since the inauguration of the CMEC in 2005.



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