

ETSC Update - January '07

News from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo



Left: Dr. Mark Labberton receives gift from Dr. Gendi and students. **Center:** Elder Nasan teaches. **Right:** Dr. Gendi and Rev. Darren Kennedy

Mid-Term Classes Challenge Students

January was an exciting month for our Bachelors and Diploma students, as ETSC offered four intensive courses simultaneously. Dr. Mark Labberton, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Berkeley, CA, taught a wonderful course on *Hermeneutics of Scripture* that was very much enjoyed by all. Dr. Labberton was a great encourager to the students during his brief stay with us. Rev. Darren Kennedy, ETSC's teacher of Theology currently on study leave in Edinburgh, Scotland, took a break from his Ph.D. studies to teach *Systematic Theology*. Elder Yousef Nasan from Heliopolis Presbyterian Church here in Cairo taught *Introduction to Old Testament and New Testament*. The classes were all well attended with a number of auditors present, and the students and teachers had spirited dialogue in the classroom.

OCI Conference in Beirut

Acting President Dr. Magdi S. Gendi attended OCI's annual Institute for Excellence January 8-12 in Beirut, Lebanon, along with Rev. Brice Rogers and Ms. Mariam Hanna. OCI's Institute seeks to train the administrative personnel of their partner schools in the region with the skills needed to succeed. Representatives of 15 Middle-Eastern seminaries and theological schools participated in this year's conference on Funding and Finance held at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS).



ETSC Students at ATIME Conference

Many of our ETSC community were in Beirut this month! Students Menassa Neseem, Rafik Thabet, Ragy Makram, and Khalil Ibrahim represented ETSC at a student conference of ATIME January 11-14 in Beirut. The annual conference brings together Christian students from many faith traditions for dialogue, worship, and fellowship.

Egypt and the Bible Course

During the month of January, 15 students and 2 faculty from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago joined ETSC's M.A.T.S. students and faculty for an intensive travel-study course on Egypt and the Bible. Together, they studied Biblical, Hagiographic and Archeological evidence and tradition connecting the Bible with the ancient Land of Egypt. They visited many sites such as Luxor, Alexandria, and Sinai exploring the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt, the Holy Family visit, and the development of diaspora Judaism and the early Christian churches in Egypt. Both groups benefited from share discussions and interaction and friendships were formed.



ETSC and McCormick students on Mt. Sinai

in Chicago joined ETSC's M.A.T.S. students and faculty for an intensive travel-study course on Egypt and the Bible. Together, they studied Biblical, Hagiographic and Archeological evidence and tradition connecting the Bible with the ancient Land of Egypt. They visited many sites such as Luxor, Alexandria, and Sinai exploring the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt, the Holy Family visit, and the development of diaspora Judaism and the early Christian churches in Egypt. Both groups benefited from share discussions and interaction and friendships were formed.



Pastor Eid Salah teaches lay candidates

Second Lay Pastor Group Begins Training

This month, ETSC began training a second group of Lay Pastor candidates. 10 students began an intensive session of pastoral training which will last about 7 months, after which they will begin to serve in town and village churches lacking pastoral leadership. The candidates will also be trained by the Synod of the Nile Council of Development to identify needs in their communities in the areas of health and literacy, and serve as a channel for needed resources. The 14 candidates trained at ETSC last year are all presently serving in towns and villages around Egypt.

Please pray for our seminary family! Contact etsc@etsc.org for information.