



ARABIC LUTHERAN MINISTRIES 2018 END OF THE YEAR REPORT

Life is made up of a special moments and events that we will never forget. Perhaps one of the most powerful moments in our lives is our Baptism, in which God, in Christ, claims us as His Children. As a New Creature in Christ our life is full of life changing events that help us *“become in every respects the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work (Ephesians 4: 15-16). And while we grow, we “Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5: 20).*

In this issue we would like to share with you some of the 2018 moments in the life of our Ministry. As we write this report to our partners in the gospel the Lord remind us of the joy that Paul experienced;

“I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1: 3-6).

Our Ministries Move to St Louis...

In the Fall of 2017 Dr. Bahkou, the director of ALM, accepted a call to serve as Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary Saint Louis. When he moved to the Saint Louis area in 2018, the president of Concordia Seminary, Dr. Dale Meyer and the LCMS National and International Mission Office, encouraged Dr. Bahkou to continue his ministries among Arabs and Muslims. Dr. Bahkou began contacting mission societies in the Saint-Louis area to learn



of the local need which was great. Our first meeting of Arabic Lutheran Ministries, St Louis was held at the Bahkou home in Fenton, Missouri. We were excited to find a group of like-minded believers that are dedicated to help in the mission of ALM.

Since Dr. Bahkou and his family relocated in Saint Louis area, many churches and mission organizations have contacted us to partner with them. In August of 2018, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Saint Louis invited Dr. Bahkou to help with a special Vacation Bible School that the church had organized for immigrants in in Saint Louis area. Over 15 Syrian and Jordanian immigrants, with their families attended the 2 day VBS and Dr. Bahkou shared the Gospel with them in Arabic.



Abiding Savior Lutheran Church VBS, Dr. Bahkou leading Bible Study (August 2018).

Meeting with the missinaries of Christian Friends of New Americans.



Every Tuesday we have Lunch and fellowship with International Student Association at the Presbyterian Church in Clayton MO. This fellowship are opportunities to connect with international students who are studying Washington University in Saint Louis. Many Muslim Students are attending this fellowship.

ALM Global Ministries

It is the vision and mission of ALM to recruit and train Arabic speaking pastors and Church Planters and to develop and offer theological and pastoral formation curriculum, in Arabic, by using publishing and technological means such as social media (Facebook) and satellite televisions.

All around the world, people from all walks of life are watching listening and reading the many outreach of Arabic Lutheran Ministries.

These are some of the letters we have received as a result of our global mission...

Father Manhal Zkeime from Homs, Syria

Sunday October 29, 2018, Father Manhal Zkeime, Pastor of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Homs, Syria, called Dr. Bahkou and said they have been following our ministry and teaching and want to partner with us and the LCMS Synod. They invited our ministry to organize leadership training seminars for the leaders and pastors of the suffering church in Syria.

Paulo Girgis from Aleppo, Syria

شكراً لك ابونا و ربنا يباركك اكثر من هذه الكتابات
شكراً ابونا على هذا الكلام الرائع.

Thank you Father for these devotional writing
Excellent and awesome devotional writing.

Rami from Jerusalem

My name is Rami Ishaq, I am 29 years-old. I was born in Jerusalem, Israel; raised in the Syrian Orthodox Church. I graduated in 2012 from the School of Tourism in Jerusalem. Currently, I work as a Tour guide & Manager of Portuguese Department at Opera Diocesana Maronita Pellegrinaggi. Since my childhood I always felt God was calling me to ministry so I got involved in the Syrian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem and was ordained a deacon in the Church... I was introduced to Arabic Lutheran Ministries through Social Media and relatives from Sweden. I went online and followed Father Abjar teachings and sermons, his media ministry has really influenced my life and has taken my spiritual journey to a different level.

I contacted Father Abjar on Viber and we started a personal conversation. Being raised a Syrian Orthodox Monk and Priest, Father Abjar understood what I am going through. Father Abjar began to introduce me to the Lutheran teachings and shared with me his personal journey to Lutheranism. This was an eye opener, I expressed my interest to come to Concordia Seminary* and enroll in their program to fulfill God's called in my life.

*We are currently working with Concordia Seminary admission office to enroll Rami in one of the pastoral programs.

Manella from Stockholm Sweden

My Name is Manella Abraham, I live in *Stockholm, Sweden*. I was born in Sweden but originally I am from Syria. November 23rd 2018 Father Abjar preached at our church in Stockholm, Sweden, and gave an uplifting message. We all have hurts from our past and if we feel like it will always follow us as a dark cloud, we will never be able to let the lord come in to our heart. Father Abjar gave us an understanding of how we can relate to our negative past but not let it define who we want to be or become if we want to be disciples of Jesus. The Lord is our healer and he always want's the best for his children so if we are eager to change for the better, he will forgive us and give us a new chance over and over again. I would really like to thank Father Abjar for his presence amongst us and his kind and loving ways of presenting the Lords word to us. I'm so thankful that we as Christians are blessed with people like Father Abjar who always reminds us that by the grace of GOD, we are all brothers and sisters and equals in the eyes of the Lord!

Matta Sara, Arab Immigrant from Syria, lives in Stockholm, Sweeden

رائع رائع كلام بسيط شفاف ممتع مفيد للذين تاهت ارواحهم وعقولهم وراء المظهر والاستهلاك ونسوا جوهر الحياة والانسانية.

Awesome! Awesome! Simple! Transparent! Yet beneficial. It is indeed a powerful message for the lost ones who have consumed their mind and spirit in the physical appearance of Christmas and have forgotten the essence human life.

Bassim Gurial: The Director of the International Satellite, Aramaic Broadcasting News (ABN)

Dear Fr. Abjar: I want to take the time out to personally thank you for joining us... I hope you had a great experience. I know that you have left a big and positive impact on all of our viewers, by voicing your opinion and facts, informing them of major points of the topic, and by being just a great speaker! You are so wise and shared such great major points during your participation...

Dr. Bahkou's teaching are broadcasting on this channel and he is always invited to do live talk through Skype in English and Arabic.



**Our NEW address for physical
correspondence is**

**Arabic Lutheran Ministries
1565 Summer Chase Lane
Fenton, MO 63026**

Mission to Gambia...

In the summer of 2018 Dr. John Loum our Chairman of the Board, who is the Director of Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, and missionary to Gambia, has asked Dr. Bahkou to join him in his mission trip to Gambia. The reason because Dr. Bahkou is an expert in Mission to Muslims. Gambia is 93% Muslims. In 2019 the country will host the International Conference of Islamic States which represents 49 Nations and 1.6 billion Muslims.



The purpose of this mission trip was to encourage our Lutheran Churches in Gambia to seize this unique opportunity to reach out to Muslims with the Good News of the Gospel. Members and leaders of our Lutheran Churches need to be equipped and encouraged for this task.

The second purpose of this trip was equipping pastors and missionaries on how to use the Luther Catechism and the Book of Concord to teach and equip believers. Dr. Bahkou spent 2 weeks in Gambia (November 4th -17th 2018).



For more information about the mission trip to Gambia visit our website

<http://www.fatherabjar.org>

Trip to Sweden...

Through our Media ministry we are reaching all over the world with our Lutheran teachings; Pastors, missionaries and lay people from all over the world contact us for partnership, invitation to train leaders and teach.

Dr. Bahkou was contacted by different mission ministries in Europe who expressed their desire to partner with our Arabic Lutheran Ministries, and invited him to teach and plan for leadership training seminars all over Europe.



On November 23, Dr. Bahkou gave a spiritual talk at the Arabic gathering in Stockholm, Sweden. More than 150 Arabs from different denominations attended. There was also an opportunity to distribute and sign *Life with God*, which is an Arabic Discipleship program, based on Luther's Small Catechism, published by our Ministry and written by Dr. Bahkou.

The Need...

Last year through the generous donation of The Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund we were able to professionally film and edit over 30 teaching segments of Rev. Dr. Abjar Bahkou. These sermons are posted on our Website, YouTube channel, and Facebook. They are also being broadcast on International Satellites that reach millions all over the world, especially the Arab World. This is an ongoing ministry. Every week we are recording, editing and publishing segments to be broadcast.

The second need is to train Arabic Speaking pastors and church planters, locally here in America and globally all over the world. The need is to translate the curriculums used by our seminaries to train pastors, in Arabic.

Please continue to pray for us as we follow the call that has been placed before us.

For more information about the *Life with God* visit the link on our website

http://www.fatherabjar.org/News/2017_July_Newsletter.pdf