

## The AST Distance Learning Project



At the beginning 2020, we recorded all classes for streaming to students due to COVID-19. The recording of classes enabled AST to seamlessly resume lectures online, as all classes were online, using Zoom. It has also been instrumental for our campus in Upper Egypt. Since the pandemic, we decided to have half of the classes in Upper Egypt streamed online and the other half taught in class. When we finish recording the four years' classes, we will be able to use these materials for both our campuses and for distance learning. Through the generous donation of brothers and sisters from Overseas Council Australia and Resource Leadership International, we were able to buy two digital cameras and two interactive video projectors for Cairo and Alexandria campuses. Now, we have finished recording one whole semester. We are now recording our second semester. This project will take four years to be completed. We expect to record the average of five classes per semester.



# A new building for AST's campus in Minya, Upper Egypt



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AST started the Minya branch in 2015 in a small conference center. Now, with our first graduating class and many more on their way, we were encouraged to establish AST's own campus in new Minya; A four-story building providing classrooms, staff offices, a cafeteria and accommodation for visiting students and faculty. The construction process has been completed and we are now working on furnishing and equipping the building with the necessities. We will be able to commence the new academic year in the new campus by next September.

## New AST Seminar



AST's mission is to train and teach men and women in Christian mission and ministry. On the 10th of February, AST was able to organize a seminar in the Cathedral about Biblical Discipleship. Dr. Mark Dever was the keynote speaker. Dr. Dever serves as the senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington and he is the president of 9Marks. Church leaders, students, post graduate students attended the seminar and were encouraged by Dr. Dever's teaching. He said that "The local church is at the Centre of obedience to Jesus Christ" and "The local church is the most natural arena for discipline".



## An Update on our PhD students



Shady has been teaching in the field of Systematic Theology for 13 years at AST. In 2017, he was appointed as AST's academic coordinator. Last autumn, he and his family moved to Cambridge, United Kingdom, as he commenced his PhD.

His research topic is, "Thomas Cranmer's doctrine of Covenant". Shady has a BSc in Electronic engineering and an MA in Systematic Theology from Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry (Pennsylvania). Shady teaches "Introduction to Systematic Theology," "The Doctrine of the Trinity," "Reformation Theology," "Ethics," and "New Trends in Theology."

In his own words: "AST is placed in a strategic position within the region. Besides being the only Anglican Theological School in the Arab World, it is currently playing a crucial role in the training of future leaders for the newly-established Province of Alexandria. We hope to be a place where people encounter the gospel and receive the adequate training necessary to share it within the church and community."

Sherif gave his life to Christ in 2000, and started studying at AST in 2005 for a Bachelor in Theology (BTh) whilst working as the Administrator for AST. After graduating in 2009, he enrolled in the MA in Biblical Studies Program offered locally by Moore Theological College (Sydney, Australia) graduating in summer 2015. Under the tutelage of faculty members, he was trained to teach subjects, such as 'Pentateuch' and 'Eschatology', on the BTh Program. Starting from 2012, he taught more classes such as the Book of Romans, Christology, Pneumatology and Confessions.

In 2016, Sherif moved to the US to study at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (Michigan, USA), and earned a Master's degree in Systematic Theology. He is currently a PhD student researching "Romans 6 and the relation between justification and sanctification in the book of Romans". He traveled with his wife and three daughters last month, to study 'on campus' at PRTS. He says, "AST combines the academic theological knowledge with the spiritual formation and this balance enriches the training of the students".



## Update on AST Masters in Theology Program (ThM)

On March 2021, we will continue our Masters' Degree program (ThM) with PRTS after a short pause due to the pandemic. The first course of the module will be taught online by Dr. Adriaan C. Neele from PRTS. The second class will also be taught online by Dr. Don Collett from Trinity School for Ministry. Dr. Collett will send recorded lectures, but will meet with students in person during his visit to the campus in June.

### *Praise & Prayer*

- We give thanks for the funds raised to purchase the filming equipment. Join us in prayer for the completion of the recording project.
- We give thanks for the students in the ThM Program. Please join us in prayer that these students are developed and equipped to be future faculty at AST.
- We give thanks for the well-established and good reputation of AST's campus in Minya. Join us in prayer for the funding needed for the completion and furnishing of the new building in New Minya.
- We praise the Lord for what we have been able to achieve in the accreditation process. Please pray for AST faculty and staff as they work to meet criteria for accreditation.
- We give thanks for the partnerships with Christian organizations, theological colleges, dioceses, churches and individuals throughout the world. Pray for the on going financial support needed to sustain the work of AST.