

# PASTOR'S PATCH



*[Mary] gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

(Luke chapter 2 verse 7)

At our Carols for Remembrance service, we were reading these words:

***Jesus began his life as He meant to carry on:  
humble, no earthly riches, a Kingdom not of this world.  
Simple needs - A father's love, a mothers' breast,  
and for music, and angel choir. These will suffice.***

There was a good gathering at that service, and among them was Florence (just a year old) who gurgled and fussed during the service - which was a beautiful soundtrack to events! Aware of Florence among us as we read those words, I was struck again by the humanity and frailty of Jesus as a baby. He who was all powerful became vulnerable; He who came from the Father now needing a mother and father; He who provided for the people of this world now dependant on colostrum and milk; He who was once clothed in splendour now wrapped in simple cloths,

Then at one point, I looked up to see Florence stretching out to Maeleah, her aunt. In that precious moment I was reminded how even as a child, Jesus was reaching out to everyone in this world, straining to touch and hold them, that they could know He was there.

## CHALLENGE

Take just ten minutes to contemplate in silence the awe and wonder of God-made-man in Jesus. Look out for little children this week and realise that Jesus was that new born, that one-year old, that toddler. Imagine that He reaches out for you now. How does that feel?

***Darrell***

**NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARY IN LEBANON :  
WISSAM NASRALLAH (THIMAR)**

**Arab Baptist Theological Seminary – ABTS  
Lebanon**



It is with great joy that we announce **Wissam Nasrallah's** appointment as the next President of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS), effective October 1, 2025. This significant milestone marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life and ministry of ABTS and its broader mission under the umbrella of LSESD, also known as THIMAR.

Wissam will succeed Elie Haddad, whose 19 years of faithful leadership have been characterized by remarkable growth, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to the mission of equipping servant leaders for the Church.

Wissam's selection follows a comprehensive and prayerful process, during which his deep devotion to God, his visionary leadership, and his passion for advancing the mission of ABTS were clearly evident. Having been an integral member of ABTS's leadership team, Wissam brings a wealth of experience, having also served as the Chief Operations Officer at LSESD-THIMAR. His unwavering dedication to empowering the Church in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, combined with his collaborative and innovative approach, positions him to build on the strong foundation laid by his predecessor. Under Wissam's leadership, we anticipate a continued focus on excellence, innovation, and service to the Church, as ABTS remains a vital hub for theological education and ministry development across the MENA region.

As we welcome Wissam into this new role, we also take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Elie Haddad for his outstanding leadership and the legacy he leaves behind. Elie's tenure has been marked by significant institutional milestones, a deepening of ABTS's impact, and unwavering faithfulness to God's calling. His influence will resonate for years to come, and we are grateful for his willingness to support the transition process.

***We ask for your prayers for Wissam, his family, and the entire ABTS and the LSESD-THIMAR community during this pivotal time. Please join us in seeking God's wisdom, strength, and guidance as we embark on this new season of leadership, united in our mission to serve the Church in the MENA region for God's glory.***