Discipleship Today: Identity and Belonging in the Middle East & North Africa

The Institute of Middle East Studies at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut, Lebanon, will again be hosting its annual Middle East Consultation. MEC 2015 will focus on specific challenges related to “identity” and “belonging” that face followers of Jesus within the MENA context. These challenges are particularly important given the diverse socio-religious and cultural backgrounds of Christ-followers in the region and of the leaders who disciple them.

We live in a world where belonging to multiple social and cultural traditions is the reality for many. Identity is a complex and multi-dimensional aspect of human life, formed in part as a response to a variety of dynamic social, cultural, historical, political, religious and spiritual experiences and commitments within today’s interconnected world.

MEC 2015 will consist of listening to and reflecting on personal testimonies from those who live in the midst of specific challenges pertaining to identity and belonging. Conversations with diverse global missiological thinkers and practitioners, as well as round-table discussion groups will provide a unique context for reflection in and on the practice of discipleship in the MENA region.

This hermeneutical dynamic (or process of accountable theological reflection) provides a framework for mutual enrichment within the worldwide Body of Christ, one that we are convinced will impact the future of Christ-centered witness in and beyond the MENA region.

Have you considered a Master’s degree to help you become more effective for God’s Kingdom in the MENA region?

The MRel is a unique and innovative multidisciplinary program designed for individuals who want to be involved in addressing the real issues facing Middle Easterners in and beyond the Middle East and North Africa. Based in the MENA region, this postgraduate degree focuses on providing a strong theoretical understanding of the region and the issues that it faces, combined with an emphasis on developing applied skills needed to work in the region and among MENA communities worldwide. It is based upon a strong theological and Biblical framework in that each module will weave scripture and theology into its theory and practice.

The MRel aims at opening new doors for students with relief and development agencies that address poverty and humanitarian crisis, with church and mission organizations seeking to engage with Islam and historic Christianity, as well as with advocacy and peace-building organizations. These opportunities may be based in the MENA region or elsewhere.

For more information or to apply, please contact:
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