



www.merf.org

# MERF News

November 2020



Middle East Reformed Fellowship—“Declaring the Whole Counsel of God”

## Exciting New Arabic Project



مكتبة ميرف

Religious Organization

Send Message

Home Reviews Photos About More

Liked

Search icon

More options icon

For years MERF has been publishing sound evangelical/reformed books and other literature in the Arabic language. They are provided free of charge, or with a token contribution, to interested churches, seminaries, pastors, Bible study groups and others.

These materials have also served churches in the West as they reach out to Iraqi and Syrian refugees, Arab students and others. Arabic translations of the *Heidelberg Catechism* and *Confessing Christ* by Calvin Cummings as well as a *simplified Westminster Shorter Catechism* have been especially useful for discipling young

people and new converts. Similarly, a simplified booklet on Christian contentment by Jeremiah Burroughs: *Deep-rooted Happiness in Christ* and JC Ryle's *Walking with God* have helped many.

Christians with young children appreciate the recently published *Duties of Parents* booklet by JC Ryle. Five titles by Stuart Olyott clearly and simply guide laymen through Bible books -- Romans, Hebrews and Daniel, or theological concepts -- the Trinity and two natures of Christ. MERF has also put classic works into Arabic, such as a simplified Calvin's *Institutes* (Arabic title *Biblical Christianity*)

and Luther's *Bondage of the Will*. Recently RC Sproul's *What is Reformed Theology?* and *Signs of the Apostles* by Walter Chantry have been published. Other titles encouraging faith and life grounded in the whole counsel of God's Word are being translated.

### Obstacles

Postal services for books have never been very reliable in the Middle East and sending Christian literature to Muslim inquirers can be dangerous. Yet, the number of books reaching inquirers multiplied dramatically in recent years as the internet made discrete free downloads pos-

sible at MERF's direct outreach website. Many miss this opportunity because the site is called by the name for Christ used only by the Muslim majority: [www.issa-almasih.com](http://www.issa-almasih.com).

### Urgency

Thus, reaching Arabs of Christian background and their churches with sound, biblical literature remained problematic. Concern has increased as Arab churches are being more and more influenced by every wind of doctrine. Putting sound, biblical literature in the hands of church leaders has become urgent.

After prayerful consid-



Studies in Eschatology  
by G I Wlliaomson

eration and the Lord's provision of qualified staff, an ambitious project was undertaken -- a new Arabic website and Facebook page to make good Arabic Christian literature and Bible study resources easily accessible to the widespread and growing Arab Church, particularly for pastors, teachers and other spiritual leaders.

**MERF-ArabicLibrary.com**

and its Facebook page were launched in May. Different MERF publications and quotes are featured daily along with the opportunity to download literature or receive printed books or discuss biblical topics. An enthusiastic response came immediately. Hundreds of appreciative comments, questions, and requests for books have poured in from church leaders and individual Christians.

**MERF-England & Wales**

25 Church St., Willingdon, Eastbourne,  
BN20 9HR www.give.net/MERF

**MERF-Ireland**

(charity no. 103181) 5 Mount Royal, Donaghadee,  
Co. Down BT21 0QY www.give.net/20221778

**MERF-Scotland**

1 MacAdam Way, Dalmellington, East Ayrshire  
KA6 7FD Scotland UK www.give.net/20035868

**International Evangelical Church**

Sundays 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – John Calvin Centre  
57 Stylianou Lena St., Larnaca, Cyprus

**Wide Demand**

The Facebook page already has about 27,000 followers. Most are from the Middle East. Some are from around the globe. In the first five months, over a thousand of MERF's digital Arabic books have been downloaded from the Facebook page alone. There is also a large demand for printed books. Hundreds are being distributed. Arab Christians far and wide appreciate the opportunity to receive good biblical teaching.

Four different protestant Arab seminaries requested sets of printed books for their libraries or as texts for course studies from the new MERF Arabic Library site. Even Coptic and Catholic priests are requesting printed books for their church libraries. But the most surprising request for literature has come from a very friendly imam of a large Egyptian mosque.

**Quotes:**

A pastor in Cairo: "Thank you for making sound teaching material available online for our people to read and study."

A pastor in Upper Egypt: "I struggle with the people to try to bring sound biblical teaching into the Church. Thank you. This book will help me a lot."

A church leader in Alexandria: "Thank you very much for your efforts. The books that you upload are very valuable and important."

A Muslim inquirer: "I *The Duties of Parents* by JC Ryle

*"Forever, O Lord,  
your word is  
firmly fixed in  
the heavens.  
Your faithfulness  
endures to all  
generations; you  
have established  
the earth, and it  
stands fast."*

— Psalm 119:89-90

want to know more about Christianity, what book do you recommend?"

Please pray for the staff overseeing this online literature project, for those receiving books and for literature publication in progress.

Praise God for the mutually encouraging contacts with faithful pastors made through the new online MERF Arabic Library. This growing network is especially helpful for referring contacts from MERF's three different Arabic gospel sites for discipling, nurture and local fellowship.

