

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Abdul Massih Saadi  
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Email: [Abdul\\_Saadi@Baylor.edu](mailto:Abdul_Saadi@Baylor.edu),

### EDUCATION

PhD, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, New Testament and Syriac Studies, 1999.  
Dissertation title: “Moshe Bar Kepha’s Commentary on Luke: A Ninth Century Apology.”

ThM, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, New Testament, 1995

MA, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Church History, 1993

MA, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Theology, 1992

BA, University of Damascus, Business and Management, 1990

BA, University of Aleppo, Civil Engineering, 1984

D.Th., St. Ephrem Theological Seminary, Lebanon, Theology and Literature, 1976

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019—Present, Associate Professor in Arabic, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures,  
Baylor University

2013—2019, Assistant Professor in Arabic, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures,  
Baylor University

2011—2013 Lecturer, in Arabic Department of Modern Foreign Languages,  
Baylor University

2010—2011, Professor in Syriac Language and Culture, Artuklu University, Mardin/Turkey

2002—2010 Teaching Professor in Arabic and Syriac, Department of Classics,  
University of Notre Dame

1998—Present, Visiting Professor in Arabic and Church History,  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

1984—1990

Dean, Administrator, and Instructor in Arabic, Syriac, and Christian Studies,  
St. Ephrem Theological Seminary, Damascus, Syria

## **LANGUAGES**

Classical and Modern Standard Arabic, several Arabic dialects, Classical Syriac, three Modern Aramaic dialects, Biblical Hebrew, New Testament Greek, French, and German.

As my publications show I have:

Translations from English into Arabic,

Translation from Syriac into English

Translation from Syriac (and Greek) into MSA, and to Mardini Arabic dialect

Translation from Syriac (and Greek) into Modern Suryoyo dialect

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2004—2010, Cataloguer for the Syriac and Arabic Manuscript Project,  
Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, Collegeville, Minnesota

2003—Present, Research Associate, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

2002-Present, Exegetical Consultant, Wycliffe Bible Translators (Aramaic Bible Translation)

1998-Present, Bible Translator, Wycliffe Bible Translators (Aramaic Bible Translation)

1998—2004, Cataloguer of the Voobus Syriac and Arabic Manuscript Collection,  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

## **MASTER THESIS DIRECTED**

“Common Words for Common Ground: A Case Study in Muslim-Evangelical Dialogue,” Corrie Shrock, Honors Thesis, Baylor University, 2020.

“When the Crescent Met the Cross,” Carter Barnett, Honors Thesis, Baylor University, 2018.

“The Possible Aramaic Origin of the New Testament,” Keith G. Sena, Honors Thesis, Baylor University, 2016.

“Marvel for a Remnant: The History and Hope of the Church in the Middle East,” Bethany Simons, Honors Thesis, Baylor University, 2014.

“The Syriac Story of Monk Bahayra: Early Christian-Muslim Encounter,” Abjar Bahko, Master Thesis, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2007.

“The Book of Remembrance: Syriac and Hebrew Sources,” Tony Credit, Master Thesis, Chicago Theological Seminary, 2010.

“The Formation of the Christological dogmas in the 6<sup>th</sup> century,” Alexander Miller, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, 2010.

### **DOCTORATE EXAMINER**

Nicholas of Methone’ Refutation of the neo-Platonist Proclus’ Elements of Theology,” Joshua Robinson, Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame, 2010.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Mardin Artuklu University, Turkey, Department of Syriac Studies, (but declined), 2012.

Harvard University, Center for the Study of World Religions, (but declined) 1998-1999.

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Full scholarship for MA and PhD studies, 1993-1998.

Center for World Christian Interaction, full tuition for MA, 1990-1993.

### **DISTINCTIONS, HONORS, AWARDS**

Invitation to the Prayer Breakfast with President Obama, February, 2014.

Distinguished Award, 4<sup>th</sup> Syriac Language Conference, Mardin, Turkey, 2008.

Distinguished Alumnus Award, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 2007.

Assyrian Person of the Year Awards, American Assyrian Council of Illinois, Chicago, 2001.

### **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books:**

*The Commentary of Moshe bar Kepha on the Gospel of Luke* (Piscataway: Gorgias Press, 2020) 500 pages.

The work includes: (1) providing a Syriac edition, (2) an English translation, (3) around 50 pages of Introduction, (4) an extensive comments and annotations with over 2000 footnotes.

<https://www.gorgiaspress.com/moshe-bar-kephas-commentary-on-the-gospel-of-luke>

*Moshe Bar Kepha’s Cause of the Celebration of the Nativity: A Genre for Exegesis, Ecumenism and Apology*, Texts from Christian Late Antiquity (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2017) 100 pages.

It includes a Syriac edition, English Translation & an examining of its theological and Christological contents from ecumenical and apologetic prospects of the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

[https://baylor.summon.serialssolutions.com/?#!/search/document?ho=t&l=en&q=Saadi,%20Abdul&id=FETCHMERGED-baylor\\_catalog\\_b453938862](https://baylor.summon.serialssolutions.com/?#!/search/document?ho=t&l=en&q=Saadi,%20Abdul&id=FETCHMERGED-baylor_catalog_b453938862)

ܚܘܠܝܬܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ: ܚܘܠܝܬܐ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ [The Holy Bible: the New Testament, Translation into Colloquial Aramaic of Tur Abdin] (Turkey: United Bible Societies, 2013).

This is the first translation ever to Modern Spoken Aramaic; it is based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century Syriac Bible. Based on the etymology of the words, I invented a new Syriac orthography that is compatible with the modern sounds and conjugations. It consists of 1200 pages. It is also published on: [www.scriptureearth.org](http://www.scriptureearth.org)

[http://www.scriptureearth.org/00i-Scripture\\_Index.php?sortby=lang&name=tru&ROD\\_Code=00000&Variant\\_Code=](http://www.scriptureearth.org/00i-Scripture_Index.php?sortby=lang&name=tru&ROD_Code=00000&Variant_Code=)  
Baylor's Library: <http://bearcat.baylor.edu/record=b4248482~S10>

ܐܠܟܘܢ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ: ܐܠܟܘܢ ܕܡܫܝܚܐ [The Holy Bible: the New Testament, Translation into Modern Standard Arabic and Colloquial Arabic of Mardin] (Turkey: United Bible Societies, 2012).

This is the first Arabic translation ever to the Modern Spoken Arabic of the Northern region of the Levantine. Along with it, I provided a translation into Standard Arabic based on the Syriac version for the first time ever. It consists of 800 pages. It is also published online by: [www.scriptureearth.org](http://www.scriptureearth.org)

[http://www.scriptureearth.org/00i-Scripture\\_Index.php?sortby=lang&name=ayp&ROD\\_Code=00000&Variant\\_Code=](http://www.scriptureearth.org/00i-Scripture_Index.php?sortby=lang&name=ayp&ROD_Code=00000&Variant_Code=)  
Baylor's Library: <http://bearcat.baylor.edu/record=b4248509~S10>

نشوء الإسلام [The Emergence of Islam . Edited by Reynolds, Gabriel, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012]: Translation into Arabic (Beirut: al-Mashriq, 2017) 270 pages.

القرآن في محيطه التاريخي [The Quran in Its Historical Context. Edited by Reynolds, Gabriel S., New York and London: Routledge, 2007.]: Translation into Arabic (Beirut: al-Jamal, 2012).

In addition to my article in English in this book, I co-translated the entire book into Arabic. It consists of 430 pages.

الأرومة السريانية للهجة الماردينية [The Syriac Origin of the Mardini (Arabic) Dialect. Damascus: 2011. Co-authored with Saad Saadi.

It provides a linguistic study for the presumably Arabic dialect of Mardin in comparison with Syriac language; it concludes its Syriac origin. It consists of 370 pages.

### Articles:

“Moshe Bar-Kepha’s Christological Harmony and Apology in the Adapted *Cause of Nativity*,” *Journal of the Canadian Society for Syriac Studies* 20 (2020): 21-32.

“Yuhanon Dolabani’s Heritage: Local and Global Effect,” in M. Doru, Z. Duygu, M Akyuz, eds., *Hikmet’in Izinde Bir Omur: Metropolit Hanna Dolabani*, (Mardin: Birinci Baski, 2020), 13-23.

“Ninth Century Syriac Exegete and Apologist: Moshe Bar Kepha’s Commentary on Luke,” *Hugoye Journal for Syriac Studies. Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 20.1 (2017): 231-256.

It is peer-reviewed scholarly Journal, with an acceptance rate 35%.

I highlighted the apologetic theme of Moshe Bar Kepha in his *Commentary on Luke*. By using examples from his *Commentary*, I showed that Moshe Bar Kepha puts the Gospel in the service of the defense of the Christian faith in the face of the aggressive Islamization policy in the ninth century.

“Interdependence of Classical Syriac and *Suryoyo* of Tur Abdin (STA): The Future of the Syriac Language,” in Dorothea Weltecke, ed., *Neue Aramäische Studien: Geschichte und Gegenwart* (Frankfurt: Scola Nisibina Bd1, 2018), 169-191.

It is a chapter in a monograph.

This article discusses the interdependence of both languages throughout their evolution. It proposes the principles of orthography for the writing of the spoken language based on the classical.

“Orthography for Modern Syriac that Enlivens Classical Syriac,” in Dorothea Weltecke, ed., *Neue Aramäische Studien: Geschichte und Gegenwart* (Frankfurt: Scola Nisibina Bd1, 2018), 193-201. [in Syriac Language].

It is a chapter in a monograph.

This article in Syriac discusses the new orthography for modern spoken Syriac, and highlights its significance for both Modern and Classical Syriac.

“An Innovative Orthography as a Bridge between Classical Syriac and Modern *Suryoyo*, Part Five, A Weak Verb at final letter” *Ashlay Nissaba for Syriac Language Studies* 2.3 (2017): 20-41. [in Syriac Language].

It is a peer-reviewed Journal, with acceptance rate is 40%.

Since the *Suryoyo* Language has been only a spoken language with no writing system, I invented a new *Suryoyo* orthography based on the etymology of the words in order to become comparable with the known Classical Syriac Language. In this article, as well as in the previous articles below, I discuss various linguistic features and demonstrate the validity and practicality of my orthography, by which I published my translation of the New Testament into *Suryoyo* Language. This article is a continuation of my article, Part Four, with focus on the grammatical aspects of Modern *Suryoyo*, and its orthography.

“An Innovative Orthography as a Bridge between Classical Syriac and Modern *Suryoyo*, Part Four, A Hollow Verb” *Ashlay Nissaba for Syriac Language Studies* 2.2 (2017): 253-285. [in Syriac Language].

This article is a continuation of my article, Part Three, with focus on linguistic, grammatical, and orthographical aspects of Modern *Suryoyo*.

“An Innovative Orthography as a Bridge between Classical Syriac and Modern *Suryoyo*, Part Three, A Weak Verb” *Ashlay Nissaba for Syriac Language Studies* 2.1 (2017): 5-30. [in Syriac Language].

This article is a continuation of my article, Part Two, with focus on linguistic, grammatical, and orthographical aspects of Modern *Suryoyo*.

“An Innovative Orthography as a Bridge between Classical Syriac and Modern *Suryoyo*, Part Two, A Sound Verb,” *Ashlay Nissaba for Syriac Language Studies* 1.3 (2017): 9-26. [in Syriac Language].

This article is a continuation of my article, Part One, with focus on linguistic, grammatical, and orthographical aspects of Modern *Suryoyo*.

“An Innovative Orthography as a Bridge between Classical Syriac and Modern *Suryoyo*, Part One,” [in Syriac] *Ashlay Nissaba for Syriac Language Studies* 1.1 (2016) 57-75. [in Syriac Language].

This article is the first in a series of articles to come, which focuses on linguistic, grammatical, and orthographical aspects of Modern *Suryoyo*.

“Interdependence of Classical Syriac and *Suryoyo* of Tur Abdin,” *Journal of Syriac Language, Literature and Heritage Quarterly* 29-30 (2015): 1-31.

The Journal is a peer reviewed, with acceptance rate of 40%.

“Making Orthography for the Suryoyo of Tur Abdin,” [in Syriac] *Journal of Syriac Language, Literature and Heritage Quarterly* 29-30 (2015): 62-87.

"أقدم النصوص الحوارية مع المسلمين" [The Earliest Texts of Christian-Muslim Dialogue] *Journal of Syriac Language, Literature and Heritage* 3:9 (2009): 67-96.

It is a peer-reviewed Journal, with acceptance rate of 35%.

It provides a study of the earliest Syriac documents speaks about a dialogue between a Christian group led by Patriarch John with a Muslim leader and his council. The article provides a Syriac edition and Arabic translation along with historical analysis of the document's contents.

“The Future of the Syriac Language between the Classical and the Spoken Language,” [in Syriac] in *The Volume of the Fourth Syriac Language Conference* (Duhok: Oriental Cultural Center, 2009) 49-63.

It discusses the present status of Classical Syriac, written but not spoken for the last 1000 years; at the same time, the living and spoken Syriac (Suryoyo) has not been written. I promoted writing in spoken Syriac, and consider it as a base for Modern Standard Syriac. To facilitate the process of transition, I offered an orthography that fits the Modern Standard Syriac.

“Nascent Islam in the Seventh Century Syriac Sources,” *The Quran in Its Historical Context* (ed. Gabriel S Reynolds; New York and London: Routledge, 2007): 217-222.

It discusses a new perspective on the emergence of Islam exclusively from Syriac sources in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century, before there were any Arabic records on this subject.

“Moshe Bar Kepha and the Christian Communities,” *The Harp: A Review of Syriac and Oriental Ecumenical Studies* 25 (2002): 161-174.

It is a peer-reviewed scholarly Journal, with acceptance rate of 30%

The article discusses the ecumenical aspect of the 9<sup>th</sup> century writings of Moshe Bar Kepha, based on his Commentary on the Gospel of Luke.

“The Originality of Syriac Historiography,” Pages 85-92 in *Melammu Symposia I: The Heirs of Assyria. Proceedings of the Opening Symposium of the Assyrian and Babylonian Intellectual Heritage Project Held in Tvärmine, Finland, October 8-11, 1998*. Edited by Aro, Sanna and Whiting, Robert M.. Helsinki: The Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, 2000.

The article analyzes an historical event from the 6<sup>th</sup> century in the writings of four prominent Syriac historians over a period of 600 years. The study proves that the Syriac historian were creative in the recording the event rather than merely quoting each other.

## In Press

*The Homily (túrgāmā) of Moshe Bar Kepha on the Nativity: 9<sup>th</sup> Century Hermeneutical Theology*. Texts from Christian Late Antiquity (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2018) #150.

The work is done. It includes: (1) providing a Syriac edition, (2) an English translation, (3) around 35 pages of Introduction, (4) an extensive comments and annotations with over 400 footnotes. It is sent to publisher in February 2018.

“An Innovative Orthography as a Bridge between Classical Syriac and Modern Suryoyo, The Hollow Verb, Part Six,” *Ashlay Nissaba for Syriac Language Studies* 2.3 (2018): App. 25 pages.

This article is a continuation of my article, Part Five, with focus on the grammatical aspects of Modern Suryoyo.

ܟܘܪܟܡܘ ܟܘܪܟܡܘ [The Book of Psalms: Translation into Modern Aramaic of Tur Abdin]

(Turkey: United Bible Societies, 2020) in press.

It is the first translation ever into modern Aramaic of the Book of Psalms. It is based on the Syriac Bible, which precedes the Masoretic reading of the Hebrew Bible. It consists of 200 pages.

## POPULAR PUBLICATIONS (Selected)

“Early Arab Muslims in Syria in Syriac Sources,” *Kurkmo* 6 (2008): 21-36.

“Assyrian Culture and Civilization and Its Influence on the World’s Civilization,” *Assyrian Star* 57 (2005): 8-15, 45-38 [English and Arabic].

It studies aspects of cultural continuity of the Assyrians, the Chaldeans and the Arameans in the Middle East. Likewise, it discusses the elements of civilization that is still inevitable in World’s civilizations.

“The Story of Monk Sargis-Bahira: Early Christian-Muslim Encounters,” *Karmo* 1 (1999): 11-49, 22-51 (English and Arabic).

A study of the controversial figure in history called Monk Bahira, and comparing the two versions of the Story in the Christian sources with the Islamic sources.

“The Essential Unity in the Christian Diversity: Arfadi’s ‘The Unanimity of Faith’,” *Karmo* 1 (1999): 52-60, 90-99 [English and Arabic]

It studies the writing of an 11<sup>th</sup> century Syrian theologian on the unity of Christians despite their apparent diversity.

“Apologetic Literature between Christians and Muslims & Bar Hebraeus (d. 1286),” *Karmo* 1 (1999): 2-7, 35-42 [Arabic].

A study of a polemic tract written by Bar Hebraeus in defense of Christian faith.

“The Letter of John of Sedreh: A New Perspective on Nascent Islam,” *Karmo* 1 (1998): 18-31, 46-64.

A study of the earliest document revealing aspects of Islamic religion

## WORK IN PROGRESS

### Ongoing *Bible Translation*:

Since the publication of the New Testament in both modern Aramaic (Suryoyo), and formal and colloquial Arabic (2012-2013), I have completed the translation of the first 27 books of the sequence of the Old Testament in colloquial Aramaic, and the first 27 books in formal and colloquial Arabic. I expect to complete the rest of 16 books by 2021.

### *Freewill and Predestination: 9<sup>th</sup> Century Moshe Bar Kepha’s Responding to Islamic Thought*

The work includes: (1) providing a Syriac edition, (2) an English translation, (3) a lengthy Introduction, (4) an extensive comments and annotations and exegetical footnotes. I bought this unique manuscript from British Library Syriac MS 827, add. 14731, dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The work is in progress.

*The Commentary of Moshe Bar Kepha on Matthew*

Syriac/Aramaic Edition, English Translation & Annotation and Interpretation (initial research and drafting the edition).

**INVITED LECTURES** (selected)

“Moshe Bar Kepha’s Ecumenism and Apology in the Adapted *Cause of Nativity*,” Probing the Graceful Mysteries: The Writings of Syriac Church Fathers, Nov. 9, 2019, Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations, Toronto University.

“Yuhanon Dolabani’s Heritage: Local and Global Effect,” Yuhanon Dolabani Jubilee Workshop, Mardin Artuklu University, November 1-2, 2019.

“Teaching Modern Syriac through Biblical Stories,” & leading a Workshop in Modern Syriac Orthography. Sweden, Linköping’s Municipality, May 18-19, 2018.

“Ninth Century Syriac Exegete and Apologist: Moshe Bar Kepha’s Commentary on Luke,” A Public Lecture organized by Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, March 4, 2015.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwedBhHSt80>

“An Innovative Orthography as a Bridge between Classical and Modern Syriac,” Iran, International Mother Day Symposium, February 21-23, 2015.

“Lessons from Bible Translation: Implication in Learning and Teaching Languages at Baylor,” Faculty Colloquium, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

“Today’s Dilemma of Christians in Syria,” Forum Panel by CGE at Baylor, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

“The Significance of Jesus’ Words in His Aramaic Language and Culture,” Jerome Institute, Waco, March, 2014.

“Writing in Modern Aramaic of Turabdin that Revives the Classical Aramaic,” Sweden, Linköping’s Municipality, November, 2013.

“The Interdependence of the Classical Syriac and the Modern Syriac of Tur Abdin (Suryat): The Future of the Syriac Language,” 1<sup>st</sup> International Syriac Studies Symposium, Mardin, April, 2012.

“The Future of the Syriac Language between the Classical and the Spoken Language,” 4<sup>th</sup> Syriac Language Conference, Mardin 2009.

“Early Syriac Manuscripts: Contents and Significance,” Breasted Event, University of Chicago, July 2009.

“Reviving of the Aramaic Language of Tur Abdin,” Teaching Mother Tongue in Sweden,



Linköping's Municipalit, October 2007

“Assyrian Culture and Civilization: A Survival of an Identity,” Assyrian Culture & Civilization: The Survival of an Identity, Northwestern University, Chicago, May 2004.

“From Survival to Revival: In the Aftermath of the Assyrian Genocide,” Assyrian Genocide Conference, University of Sydney, Australia, July 2000.

“The Significance of the Syriac Manuscript Collection at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago: The Status of Its Catalogue,” Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures, Catholic University of America, March 2000.

“The Originality of the Syriac Sources: A Study in Syriac Historiography,” Second Annual Symposium on “The Intellectual Heritage of Assyria and Babylonia in East and West,” University of Helsinki, Finland, October 1998.

“Moshe bar Kepha Responds to Muslims: A Ninth-Century Christian Apology,” Center of the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, April 1997.

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)**

“Bar Hebraeus’ Universal/Ecumenical Attitude and Perception.” International Workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> century Gregory Abu al-Farac, 14-15 November, 2018, Inonu University, Malatya/ Turkey.

“From the Right Writing in the Suryoyo to Regaining the Classical Syriac: A Model of Orthography for Writings in every Spoken Aramaic Dialects.” 1<sup>st</sup> Arba’ello International Conference and Workshop on Syriac and Sureth Language Studies, September 9<sup>th</sup>—11<sup>th</sup> 2017, Salahaddin University, Erbil/ Iraq.

<http://www.fastcongressuum.com/single-post/2017/07/20/First-Arbaello-International-Conference-on-Syriac-and-Sureth-Language-Studies-Documenting-and-Reviving-a-Mesopotamian-Indigenous-Language--10-11-12092017-Erbil-Iraq>

“Ecumenical Attitudes in the Syriac Churches since the 4<sup>th</sup> Century,” Conference on The Syriac Christian Churches: Rediscovering the Roots, at Baylor, ISR, April 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO62bbNQDD4&index=5&list=PL0JmtbsEea3gsVoY6245CksbKwR-ERl0w>

“The Significance of the Syriac Bible ‘Peshitta’ for Biblical Studies,” presented at International Conference commemorating 150 Years of the First Arabic Bible Translation, December 1-3, 2015 at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo.

In honor of the 150 years commemoration, I presented to the conference my translation of the NT in formal and colloquial Arabic, and colloquial Aramaic, based on Syriac Bible. I elaborated on the points that no other translation, past and present, was able to clearly express; and therefore its significance both Arabic translation and biblical studies.

Following the presentation, I was interviewed by the Egyptian TV, clarifying how colloquial language can be a “holy” language.

“The Bible in the Syriac Tradition,” presented at a Seminar for Pastors Continuing Education, December

2, 2015 at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo.

“Ninth Century Syriac Exegete and Apologist: Moshe Bar Kepha’s Commentary on Luke,” presented at VII North American Syriac Symposium, June 21-24, 2015 at Catholic University of America.

“Arabic Curriculum and Instructional Materials: Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language,” Workshop at University of Texas at Austin, August 2013.

“Arabic Teaching Professional Development,” Workshop at University of Texas at Austin, March, 2012.

“The Continuity of the Legacy of Peshitta: A New Translation into Syriac of Turabdin,” Pro Oriente Symposium “Culture, Language and Religion: Syriac Studies as a Bridge,” Mardin Artuklu University, May 2011.

“The Future of the Syriac Language between the Classical and the Spoken Language,” The Fourth Syriac Language Conference, Mardin/Turkey, March 2009.

“Bible Translation in the Suryoyo of Tur Abdin,” A Symposium on “Modern Syriac Literature,” University of Chicago, April 2007.

“Nascent Islam in the Seventh Century Syriac Sources,” International Conference “Towards a New Reading of the Quran,” University of Notre Dame, April 2005.

“A Treasure-trove of Syriac Literature: Unearthing, Demystifying and Cataloguing a Wealth of Syriac Manuscripts at LSTC,” Third Annual Symposium on “The Intellectual Heritage of Assyria and Babylonia in East and West,” Chicago, October 2000.

“Unearthing the Syriac Contribution: Syriac Manuscript Treasures in the Collection of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago—Their Content and Significance,” University of Sydney, Symposium Syriacum VIII, June 2000.

“Early Islam from Contemporary Syriac Sources,” The 15th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, April 2000.

“Textuality and Intertextuality: Moshe bar Kepha’s Use of Early Syriac Sources,” Syriac Studies: Symposium III, University of Notre Dame, June 1999.

“Moshe bar Kepha and the Search for Common Theological Understanding,” North American Patristics Society, May 1998.

“The Beginning of West-Syriac Christianity: A Study in Comparative Historiography,” Syriac Studies: Symposium II, Catholic University of America, June 1995

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

During my eight years at Baylor (2 as a Lecturer), I had a chance to teach the following courses:

1. ARB 1401-1, Elem Spoken/Modern Std Arabic

2. ARB 1402-1, Elem Spoken/Modern Std Arabic
3. ARB 2310-01, Inerm Spoken/Modern Std Arabic
4. ARB 2320-01, Inerm Spoken/Modern Std Arabic
5. ARB 2320-01, Inerm Spoken/Modern Std Arabic
6. ARB 3305-01, Arabic for Special Purposes (Arabic Business)
7. ARB 4345-01 Arabic Media
8. ARB 4331-01, Classical Arabic Texts
9. REL 4304-1, Syriac

## SERVICES

### Service at Baylor University

Guest lecturer in different classes:

“How Christians faced the persecutions in Syria and Iraq in Medieval Ages and Now,” Dept. of Religion, BU, Prof. Dan Williams class: Persecution and Martyrdom of Christians in Ancient and Present Times. 2018

“Translation Technic,” Dept. of MLC, BU, Dr. Michael Thomas’ class: SPA 4340 Professional and Literary Translation. 2017.

Serving on two Baylor’s committees:

- (1) The Spiritual Life Advisory Committee.
- (2) Student Organization Judicial Board Hearing.

For the last six years, I have presented two public lectures & three Panel Discussions at Baylor: “Ecumenical Attitudes in the Syriac Churches since the 4<sup>th</sup> Century,” Conference on The Syriac Christian Churches: Rediscovering the Roots, at Baylor, ISR, April 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO62bbNQDD4&index=5&list=PL0JmtbsEea3gsVoY6245CksbKwR-ERl0w>

“Ninth Century Syriac Exegete and Apologist: Moshe Bar Kepha’s Commentary on Luke,” A Public Lecture organized by Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, March 4, 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwedBhHSt80>

Panel Discussions were conducted on the years 2013, 2014, and on April 2018.

Baylor’s Media interviewed me in Promotional video for Arabic course at Baylor’s Continuing Education, August 1, 2018.

[https://baylor.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int\\_class\\_id=1207&int\\_category\\_id=1&int\\_sub\\_category\\_id=5&int\\_catalog\\_id=0](https://baylor.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=1207&int_category_id=1&int_sub_category_id=5&int_catalog_id=0)

I participated in Honors Convocation on April 2018.

As I do every year, I served as a Graduation Marshal on August 2019.

As I do every year, I attended the Family Faculty Coffee, on Sept. 2019.

As I do every year, I train my students to sing Arabic Christmas Songs on the 5<sup>th</sup>, December 2019.

As every year, my students and I participated in the Day of Language, on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### **Community Service:**

Interview by Assyrian National Broadcast Satellite, a program of “Assyrian Voice,” on “Minorities, Majorities in the Social History of the Middle East.” July 16, 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/AssyrianNationalBroadcasting/videos/333356338063152/>

Interview by Assyrian National Broadcast Satellite, a program of “Assyrian Voice,” on “The Indigenous Christians of the Middle East.” September 10, 2020. [https://youtu.be/-M7gz3s\\_rU](https://youtu.be/-M7gz3s_rU)

Interview by Assyrian National Broadcast Satellite, a program of “Assyrian Voice,” on “The Diversity of the Assyrian people and their Clergy.” November 29, 2020. <https://youtu.be/a1hiMcuc3rM>

On May 18-10, 2018, I was invited by Linköping’s Municipality to lead a Seminar and Workshop for the Suryoyo teachers of Sweden. I presented “Teaching Modern Syriac through Biblical Stories.” As a result, I was interviewed three times by Suryoyo/Swedish TVs. See:

<http://www.assyriatv.org/2018/05/prof-abdul-massih-saadi-yusuf-bektas-revival-language/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SuroyoTV/videos/1758407737581797/>

Interview by Waco News Channel 25: “Baylor professor from Syria weighs in on U.S. military strike.” April, 2017.

<http://www.kxxv.com/story/35100330/baylor-professor-from-syria-weighs-in-on-us-military-strike>

Interview by Waco Tribune, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017: [http://www.wacotrib.com/news/city\\_of\\_waco/the-dream-has-changed-travel-ban-sows-uncertainty-for-waco/article\\_dda6cfa9-1315-5ce9-b66e-401301b45ddf.html](http://www.wacotrib.com/news/city_of_waco/the-dream-has-changed-travel-ban-sows-uncertainty-for-waco/article_dda6cfa9-1315-5ce9-b66e-401301b45ddf.html)

### **Religious Service:**

As a Bible translator, I constantly engage the speakers of the language with biblical passages for reflection, retelling the same accounts and making comments in the target language. This summer of 2017, I spent three weeks conducting Bible studies with native speakers of Mardini and Suryoyo in Southeast Turkey. Unfortunately, I couldn’t make it to Northeast Syria because of the war.

Attending all the services and most of the activities at 7<sup>th</sup> & James Baptist Church. Occasionally, I participate and conduct Bible Study in Sundays before the Service.