

**Mahmoud Ayoub** [mayoub@hartsem.edu] was born in South Lebanon. He received his education at the American University of Beirut (BA, Philosophy, 1964), the University of Pennsylvania (MA, Religious Thought, 1966), and Harvard University (Ph.D, History of Religions, 1975). Since 1988, he served as professor and director of Islamic studies in the Department of Religion, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA; adjunct professor at the Duncan Black Macdonald Center, Hartford Seminary, CT; and research fellow at the Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. In 1998, Dr. Ayoub helped devise and launch a graduate MA level program in Muslim-Christian relations and comparative religion for the Centre for Christian-Muslim Studies, University of Balamand, Lebanon, and since the Spring of 1999, he has served as its visiting professor. Mahmoud Ayoub has also previously taught at San Diego State University, CA, the University of Toronto, and McGill University, Canada. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Ayoub has received distinguished awards and scholarships for his achievements and research projects. He was a recipient of the Kent Doctoral Fellowship and the Canada Council Fellowship, among others. He participated in the Fulbright Exchange of Scholars Program for Malaysia (1994-5). In the Spring-Summer of 2000, he undertook a research project on Christian-Muslim relations in Egypt and Lebanon, also on a Fulbright scholarship. Dr. Ayoub is the author of a number of books, including *Redemptive Suffering in Islam* and *The Qur'an and Its Interpreters* (vol. 1 & 2). The summer of 2000 saw the release of his two-volume publication, *Dirasat fi al-'Alaqat al-Masibiyah al-Islamiyyah* in Arabic (*Studies in Christian-Muslim Relations*). *Islam: Faith and History* appeared in 2004. His articles have appeared in such books and journals as *The Muslim World*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Bulletin of the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies* (Tokyo, Japan) and *Islamochristiana* (Rome, Italy), among many others. Prof. Ayoub has also served and is still serving on a number of Advisory and Editorial Boards. His authority in both the scholarship and comparative study of Islam and Muslim-Christian relations, and inter-religious dialogue is demonstrated by the national and international recognition he has received. Since 1999, Dr. Ayoub has participated in the United States' Department of State's program, serving as one of its ambassadors to various parts of the Middle East and South East Asia, commenting on American society and institutions, inter-religious dialogue and Islam in America.