

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT -Tanas Al Qassis

Chairman of the international board of Arab Vision

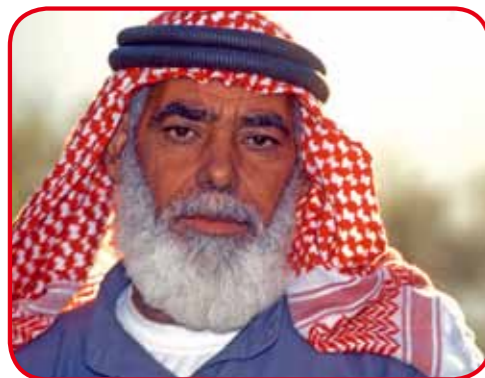
"Growing up in the little village of Shepherd Field in a town called Beit Sahour has been a blessing and a curse at the same time. It was a blessing because it is an amazing little town just south of Bethlehem. As a kid I had a wonderful time playing in the fields; we did not have a TV or a computer so we were very creative in what we did for fun. Both of my parents worked hard to give me and my two brothers the best possible life, but they were always worried about us as we grew older and the political situation changed. As a child I did not understand the occupation; I saw the Israeli soldiers around in their jeeps, sometimes they stopped us for no reason, closed our schools and controlled our education system.

As a teenager the whole situation got to me. I have seen violence, a cousin being taken to prison for no reason, my uncle's shop being emptied by the soldiers because he refused to pay tax, my school mates getting shot, schools being closed down, and demonstrations were held almost three times a month. Life became complicated; my parents insisted that I came home before sunset and were always worried about us being away even when we were at church in the evening. I never realised the effect of the conflict on myself until I left to go to the USA for my studies in 1986.

Freedom is an amazing thing. The fact that I could travel, go places without being stopped and asked for my ID, the fact that I was treated like anyone else, was amazing. Many young children and teenagers who live in Palestine face these problems and that is the reason that alcohol, drugs and just hanging around in cafés become part of life. For me, if it was not for my faith in Jesus, my life would not have turned out the way it is now. Jesus gave me hope that things will be better, taught me how to love instead of hate and most of all how to pray for my enemies. So please pray for the Palestinian and the Israeli people; they both need the hope that Jesus gives."

### THANK YOU:

Thank you for your generous contribution toward the Easter program. In partnership with SAT-7 we produced a series of 10 one-hour programs titled "The Week of Pain". Each episode covered key aspects of Passion Week through songs written and performed by Arab musicians and singers along with Easter reflections provided by well-known Christian Bible teachers. The final episode included messages of encouragement and hope from key Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical leaders. Please visit our website [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org) to watch a video clip of this program.



**"A year ago I surrendered my life to Christ. I watch your programmes and it is a great joy to hear about Jesus in my own language."**

60-year old man from North Iraq

ARAB  
VISION

Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World



### CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund is registered as a charity in Cyprus  
email: [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)  
website: [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org)

Arab Vision is a registered charity in England (no. 1154993). In the UK, you can send your gift direct to our bank:  
Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc  
Account: Arab Vision  
Sort code: 30-97-24  
Account no: 49415760

Alternatively, cheques can be sent to:  
Arab Vision  
Room S0078  
120 Kingston Road  
Wimbledon  
London SW19 1LY

In the USA, checks can be sent directly to our American office. Arab Vision Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.

Arab Vision  
P.O. Box 110354  
Dallas TX 75011

You may also donate by paying through our website [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org). This is a secure payment facility.

In Canada, Australia and New Zealand, cheques can be sent to Interserve with a cover letter indicating that the money is meant for Arab Vision.

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Would you like to receive regular prayer requests about the Arab world and the work of Arab Vision, please subscribe to our email prayer letter through our website [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org) or write to us at [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)



### Turbulent times...

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad won a third term of office of 7 years after securing 88% of the votes in the presidential election. Likewise, ex-army chief Abdul Fattah al-Sisi was elected President of Egypt by a landslide win as President of Egypt. A victory for democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of religion? There is most probably still a long way to go...

Meantime, many Muslims have grown tired of the fact that in the name of their religion tens of thousands of people were killed in recent years in several countries of the Arab World. Turbulent times like these make people think. The revolutions, however different in nature, have started a development towards more political awareness and independent thinking which cannot easily be turned back. More than ever Muslims are open to explore and better understand the Christian faith.

Social media like Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter have proved to be powerful means in this process. These modern media, including satellite TV, are used by Arab Vision to communicate the Gospel in this region which is full of unrest and looking for a better future.

Arab Vision uses modern media to help develop more equality and justice according to Biblical principles and to communicate the Gospel of hope, grace and love. Will you join us in prayer and financial support to make this possible?

Salam alaykum! (Peace be unto you!)

Umm al Farieq

Umm al Farieq  
International Director Arab Vision

### REVOLT OF THE YOUNG – A QUEST FOR TRUTH

Arab teenagers are truly a 'forgotten generation' in the Arab World in spite of the fact that they constitute well over half of the region's population. Parents expect teenagers to behave like adults, although they are ill-prepared to do so. Money, education, morals and sexuality are often counted among the 'forbidden' topics in society as well as in the home. Consequently, most teenagers never really feel comfortable in openly expressing their fears and feelings or their dreams for the future.

In his Dutch book *Egypte, mijn volk (Egypt, my people)* Jos Strengholt writes about the recent developments in Egypt and characterises them as a revolt of the young people against the older generation: "The average age in Egypt is 24 years and one third of the people are younger than 15. It is no wonder that the demonstrations were mainly led by young people. There are so many of them and their prospects are miserable; even with a good education there is not much opportunity for work and good employment still provides only a meagre wage."

Where do teenagers in Egypt find biblical role models? Where can they discuss things honestly and openly, going beyond the traditional barrier of shame? Do people who lived in biblical times offer any wisdom? Is there anyone in the Bible who also struggled with the tension between "covering up" and speaking the truth?

[Read more on page 3](#)

**"My teenage daughter is in a relationship with a guy, and I'm not happy about this because she is too young and not mature enough. This relationship developed quickly and she started asking for permission to marry him. She has made up her mind not to listen to my advice. Please pray with me for her to come back to her senses and to stop this relationship." Mother in Egypt**



Picture does not portray the mother and daughter mentioned in the quote.

# Media for Change

## TWO NEW Program PROPOSALS: BRIDGING THE GAP & RECONCILIATION

It is not only the generation gap that separates people, there are many more situations of misunderstanding and hostility in societies. We would like to develop two new programs in order to help understand the 'other' in society.

The first program is a series to help children aged 10-12 to understand and appreciate those who have a different religion, a different ethnic background, or who may have a disability. Half of each episode covers the story of the 'other' group in documentary style. The second half is a spontaneous, reality-TV style segment showing the two groups of children interacting with each other. The purpose is to help them realise that on the inside people are the same, with similar dreams, fears, family joys and struggles, etc.

The second program is about reconciliation and we hope to produce it in cooperation with Musalaha, an organisation in Jerusalem which has been working with Palestinian Christians and Messianic Jews since 1990 to promote reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians according to biblical principles. No funding is yet available for these program proposals. Would you pray with us that we will find the right partners for these programs?

## FROM OUR FOLLOW-UP TEAM

Our follow up team, based in the Middle East, often gets questions about the relationship between parents and children. Here are some of their questions asking for prayer and advice on parenting. The names have been changed or withheld to protect privacy.

**"My name is Nahla from Iraq, please would you pray for my two teenage brothers Yoshia and Ishak that the Lord may give them a tender heart. They often shout and curse, and they don't listen to any advice; there is always fighting in our home."** (Nahla in Iraq)

**"Please pray for my son Makarious who always suffers persecution at school because he is a Christian. He is now becoming quite aggressive at home. Do you have any advice for me?"** (Mother from Upper Egypt)

**"I have great problems that destroyed my home and family. I was in relationship with a woman other than my wife and committed adultery. Consequently my wife was angry and quarrelled with me in the presence of my two daughters. Actually, my wife and I hate each other very much. All neighbors complain about my behavior. I'm worried about my two daughters and I don't know what to do."**

**"I am one of the worship-leaders in the church, but I am struggling with sexual immorality and pornography. I even visited strip clubs recently. I stopped leading the worship, I also stopped going to the meetings. I feel as if I am two persons who are fighting each other inside of me. I have experienced God's hand in my life; He even did a lot of miracles and saved me from many situations, but I left Him. I am so ashamed and feel that God will never forgive me as I experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. But I left all of that and the ministry. I am afraid that God will never forgive me. What can I do?"**



## REVOLT OF THE YOUNG – A QUEST FOR TRUTH, continued

Joseph and Moses immediately come to mind. Both of them lived in Egypt and had to deal with the concept of "saving face" and "covering up".

As a young man Joseph finds himself a slave in the house of one of Pharaoh's officials, Potiphar. Joseph was well-built and handsome. (Gen.39) Potiphar's wife takes notice of the young man and says, "Come to bed with me!" Joseph refuses and runs away, so Potiphar's wife has to save face and reverts to false accusations. Consequently Joseph ends up in prison.

The Joseph Canal and Sea are found near the Fayoum Oasis, south of Cairo, and remind us of Joseph's role in Egypt. Visiting Fayoum with teenagers presents a great opportunity to discuss biblical values and learn from the choices Joseph made.

Moses' life provides teenagers with various lessons about the search for truth and freedom. Memphis is a place where many of the pharaohs lived and during a visit to Memphis teenagers can learn about that particular time in their history.

Arab Vision is in the process of producing a competitive reality series in which two groups of three teenagers set off on an adventure, trying to solve a riddle of Egypt's past. While visiting 13 different locations they learn about their Christian heritage, study biblical principles and are in a competition to win a valuable prize. The Quest will be a series of 13 programs of 28 minutes each.

See [Your Help Needed](#) for more information about The Quest



## FREEDOM CAFÉ

We are in the process of producing a series of 13 episodes of about half an hour each about Biblical teaching and the life of faith. The interviews have been filmed in a coffee house setting, using day to day language. Spontaneous interviews on the street will be used to represent "the voice of the people" on various subjects, like human nature, justification, salvation and the church.

One of the questions asked on the street was: 'What will you ask God?' The answers were diverse, here are some of them. 'Why did you create us? Why did you make evil? Do you love me? I won't dare to ask Him anything; I just accept what He does. Did I do this right? What is after death?'

The pictures give you some impression of the preparation and filming of part of the program series.

## Your Help Needed

### On a quest in Egypt US\$6775 or €5000

In this series of 13 episodes six teenagers travel through Egypt with a presenter and a film crew to find the solution to an ancient riddle. Whoever solves the riddle, wins the competition. During the trip the teenagers will be amazed by the stories from the Bible which took place in their own country and they learn valuable lessons about identity-development. We still need at least US\$6775 or €5000 for the production of this series.

### Using our treasures again US\$6775 or €5000

Since 1997 Arab Vision has been producing TV programs and we have built up an impressive video archive of hundreds of programs and thousands of stock-shots which need to be digitized. This way they can be used again for new productions, especially short video-clips for the social media. It is quite a job to digitize everything, but we lose a great treasure if we fail to do so. For US\$6775 or €5000 we can appoint a part-time worker for one year to complete this job. With a minimum investment we can then re-use what we produced during the past years. We would greatly appreciate your help in this matter!

### Follow-up US\$678 or € 500 monthly

Our follow-up team consists of 7 part-time co-workers who are available to viewers responding to programs or 'just' looking for a listening ear, in need of prayer or some material help. The team is there for 7 days a week, for about 12 hours a day. We pay our follow-up team from our general fund which is very limited because our work is done mainly on a project basis. In this newsletter you read some examples of viewers who ask for help from our follow-up team. Would you consider (regularly) supporting our follow-up team?

