

A living sacrifice

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship - Rom. 12:1 (NIV).

Through God's mercy Jesus Christ was sacrificed for us, and brought us life. God doesn't call us to become a martyr who blows himself up and kills others, but He calls us to present ourselves as a sacrifice that has life in it, through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

In order to grow into being holy and pleasing for God, we need change. In the next verse Paul says we need to be transformed and renewed in our mind.

This is what Arab Vision humbly tries to help fulfil: causing change in people's minds and lives, in view of God's mercy. This will change the way people look at each other, this will change the way we treat people in society.

This causes a change: from looking down on the poor and the weak and 'the strange others', to knowing that we are all poor and weak and different, all in need of God's mercies and help.

Has it ever been as relevant as it is today in the Arab World for Christians to be a living sacrifice for God, and to be shining witnesses for the people around us?

Please read this newsletter and pray for us and with us that we may continue serving people in the Arab World with our TV programs that call for life-bringing changes.

May God bless you!

Umm al Farieq

Umm al Farieq
International Director Arab Vision

The time is now ...

"It is a great time to be producing Christian TV programs for the Arab World," says Umm al Farieq, the international director of Arab Vision. "There is much more openness in the region than before the revolutions; people have started to form their own opinions and share them more openly, through Facebook and other social media; young people start asking questions about what is being taught in the churches: 'Is the way the pastor looks at things the only way?'"



Churches and church leaders have come out into the open, no longer hiding behind church walls. They realise that they have to be visible in the public domain in order to play a significant role in society, ministering to those in need.

The ministry of Arab Vision is about creating awareness and stimulating independent thinking so that there will be changes in society and people's lives will be turned around through an encounter with the risen Christ.

"When people start thinking for themselves, they can come into action and address what is wrong in society or in the church. Using the social media makes it easier to find like-minded people and join forces. However, many people fear change. They know what they have, but no one knows what they will get. That's a bit scary!"

At the moment there is unrest in almost every country in the Arab World and there are numerous conflicts in the region. Persecution of Christians and other minorities is widespread; millions of people are looking for a safe haven.

(Continued on page 3)

"Never before did I have such a unique opportunity to learn about a healthy marriage," said an illiterate husband in Egypt after having watched our program on family life. His wife adds: "My husband spends all day working in order to bring home some money. But he only knows one way to handle our children's problems: through violence and shouting! We need Godly wisdom to raise our children. Please pray for us!" added the poor lady in tears.



Media for Change

FGM – Again...?!



Arab Vision is in the process of producing a new documentary about FGM. It is not our first one, but it is not easy to break a habit that is so strongly rooted in Egypt. Several years ago our previous documentary was shown to a general audience of men and women,

old and young and the response was quite vigorous. However, it made people think and argue and touched the emotions!

The documentary showed a young, educated, Muslim Egyptian woman, talking about how she was circumcised, and how she gained awareness to combat the practice and is now involved in campaigns against female genital mutilation.

Suddenly people started to interrupt the young woman's story during the film because she was speaking out against female genital mutilation. A man shouted, 'how can a veiled Muslim woman talk about sex?' Hearing this, a woman in the audience began to argue that women should have the right to discuss sex too. Another angry man kept saying that the young woman in the film was lying when she said that circumcision is not decreed in the Qur'an. He said that it is indeed in the Qur'an and all women should be circumcised.

In the midst of this chaos, the two men stood up in the middle of the film and attempted to find the director in order to beat him up. At the end of the evening, the audience left the hall in deep discussion of the issues. It wasn't quite the reaction we had anticipated but it was a success to the extent that it raised awareness and set people talking. (P.S. The director escaped through the back door!)

26 Parables in Kabyle: Ready for broadcasting!

A series of 13 programs, covering 26 parables in the Kabyle language is now ready for broadcasting. The series has subtitles in Algerian Arabic so that the rest of the country and the broader region of North Africa can also be reached with the powerful message of Jesus' teaching. The parables are linked to modern life and were filmed with two Kabyle brothers.

Every production has its own obstacles to overcome, and the Parables was no exception. Our producer told us about the last day the crew was working on the project: *"We had so many technical problems; it was a real nightmare. The camera gave us one problem after another. We worked through all the 1500 items in the menu, but*

could not figure out how to fix it. Finally we decided to use our spare camera; that one also refused to work! Another 1500 items in the menu to work through, but at least this time we were able to figure it out so we continued our work till late in the evening. What a day – as if we were trying to get milk from a bull - but we received a lot of encouragement from our Iranian brothers whose studio we used for filming a few episodes."

The Kabyle language is spoken by approximately six million people, mainly in Algeria. (For more information see: www.ethnologue.com; and visit www.30-days.net for more about Christianity within the Kabyle community.)



The time is now – continued

Arab Vision as a media ministry is well-placed to support and strengthen the church and help Christians to stand firm in their faith in times of hardship and persecution. "I am very impressed with the courage and determination of the many Christians who had to flee Iraq and Syria," continues Umm al Farieq. "They chose not to give up their faith, even though the consequence was that they had to leave everything behind and flee to another country. Some of our programs provide Biblical teaching about how to live a true Christian life in a setting of discrimination and persecution. They are made by people who know what they are talking about - people who also live in areas of conflict and oppression."

The process of change is slow and will take time. Even though, with all the technical tools of today, it will probably be much faster than it was in Europe when systems of government and ways of thinking changed. "Western countries should not expect that certain forms of democracy and freedom will be adopted and arranged in just a few years. After so many centuries of oppression and dictatorial systems in the Arab World, it may take decades, if not longer, before a good balance is found. We don't have much reason for optimism now, looking at the dreadful situation of many countries in the Middle East and North Africa, but we believe that we can make a difference because we have a great God. And we have seen change; we do see change, although the bigger picture may look bleak.

Arab Vision, in cooperation with the church, plays a role in the field of human rights, the situation of minorities, the rights of women and children. When we look back at the 17 years we have been working as a media ministry, we draw strength and courage from the changes we have seen taking place. Step by step, little by little, that is how change often happens. We have a long term vision and are determined to keep up the good work!"

Project Updates: Epistles of Paul: On Air!

Most of the problems the church in the Arab World today faces are quite similar to those of the early church. The apostle Paul wrote to the believers and encouraged them in their situation of marginalisation, persecution and oppression. His message is still just as relevant now as it was back then.



Our series of 39 episodes of bible study programs *Epistles of Paul* in which Paul's theology is explained in its context by two highly respected Arabic bible teachers has now been completely edited and will be on air from the beginning of September. These programs give ordinary bible readers the tools to study the scriptures for themselves, along with helping them to grow spiritually into mature believers. Thank you for your help in making this important production possible.

Visit our website www.arabvision.org to watch a short video-clip of this series.

What others say about us: Addressing an ever-growing thirst

The very existence of Arab Vision is a testament to God's love for the Arab nation. Like a well in the wilderness that provides wanderers with access to life-saving water, Arab Vision is Beer-lahai-roi: "the well of the Living One who sees me [Hagar]." Day after day Arab Vision faithfully pumps out the comforting, healing, life-saving, sustaining and empowering waters of God so that Arabs might share Hagar's experience and declare, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." (Gen 16:13-14 ESV) This is a phenomenal ministry addressing an ever-growing thirst; it is worthy of our generous financial and prayer support. The results will be, and already are, amazing!

Elizabeth Kendal www.elizabethkendal.com

Religious Liberty Analyst and Advocate

Author, *Turn Back the Battle: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today*

Your Help Needed

Christmas program

US\$12,500 or €9500

We want to encourage our brothers and sisters in the region with a beautiful Christmas program at this time of turmoil and pain in the region. Contributions from all over the Arab World, including music and singing, traditional Christmas cooking, testimonies, traditions and habits, will be filmed, as well as a strong invitation to accept the Good News.

Please help us to prepare and produce this Christmas program that will bring the message of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the world to all Arabs.

Kingdom Person

US\$25,000 or €19,000

How to live our lives, at home, in school, at work, in social life, according to the principles that Jesus taught? A lot of Arab Christians struggle with this, being brought up in a predominantly Islamic society. We hope to start the first season of 13 episodes with your contribution.

Literacy for Change

US\$8250 or €6300

Arab Vision will support the work of a local NGO in Egypt that works towards improving the living conditions of the poorest of the poor in that country, by providing literacy, awareness, and community-building classes. We will help them boost their activities by filming the classes, thus enabling thousands of illiterate people to learn how to read and write. Illiteracy figures are high in Egypt, especially among women. The focus of this project will therefore be on women and girls.

Where most needed

Any general donation

We regularly receive donations, marked as 'where most needed', and we often use those donations to cover the cost of our follow-up ministry, as those cost are not covered by designated funds.

What would your message be?

In June Arab Vision was represented at a large Christian conference in the Netherlands. At our booth people had the opportunity to join a quiz-like competition. One of the questions was, 'If Arab Vision gave you 30 seconds on air, what would your message be to the Arab World?' The answers were very diverse, but they seem to fall into three categories:

- **Tell Christians to keep courage:**
 - The Lord is your Shepherd and he will guide you. We're praying for you.
 - God loves you. Even when the world comes crashing down around you, God still loves you.
 - Keep courage and know that Jesus loves you and He is always with you, whatever happens.
- **Share the Gospel of Jesus:**
 - Study the life of Prophet Jesus again! What do you need in order to be able to meet God? May I share something about Jesus from my own life?
 - Buy more satellite dishes!
- **Find a way to live together in harmony:**
 - Together we are strong, whatever religion you adhere to.
 - We are all brothers and sisters; let's live in peace with one another.
 - Give everyone the right to believe in whatever he/she chooses. Do not use violence; it will lead to no good.

Perhaps we are biased, but we couldn't help seeing our three main categories of programs reflected in all the comments: *Encouragement and teaching; Outreach and evangelism and Vision for a just society.* The 30 seconds probably were not long enough to include an invitation to phone or email us! In our programs we always invite people to get in touch with us. Follow up is an essential part of our ministry!

Please visit our website
www.arabvision.org
to check out how to make your donation online.



CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
is registered as a charity in Cyprus
email: contact@arabvision.org
website: 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:
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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. 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
or write to us at
contact@arabvision.org

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www.arabvision.org

We are in the process of renewing our website and are almost ready to go online! Thank you for your patience with us as lately we have not been able to keep our site up to date. Watch this space and be surprised!

ARAB
VISION

Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab world