

## The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning... (Eccl.7.4)

You may think, "Well, well ... could you be a bit more joyful?"

At the time of writing the internet is full of news about the 21 Coptic Christians who were brutally slaughtered by ISIS in Libya. In our hearts we know this is not the end. What this group wants is to sow fear and chaos, to provoke and to disrupt society. During this time of Lent many Christians are fasting in different ways. We focus our hearts on God, to gain more understanding of His Word, to follow His will and wisdom.

Jesus' suffering and the suffering of others leads us to the very core of our existence, to what is really essential. How often are we busy and concerned with things that hardly matter?

In this newsletter you will read about the daily suffering of many Arabic women who are burdened by serious domestic violence and abuse ... in a society in which the shame factor ensures that all this suffering stays indoors.

As God's children we are privileged that we can bring those who mourn before God's throne, knowing that one day all tears will be wiped away from the eyes and in full confidence that justice will be done to all 'the saints who are under the altar'. (Rev.6)

Yes, we can be more joyful. For the hope living in us originates in the certainty of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He makes everything new.

We continue to proclaim that hope and resurrection in the Arab World. Will you join us?

*Umm al Farieq*

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International Director Arab Vision

## We believe in change!

At Arab Vision we believe that people's lives can be changed for the better through an encounter with Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus railed against oppression and injustice we want to work for a just society. This is why we produce programs on domestic violence, on FGM, on marriage and family life. We would like to see a change for the better in people's lives, men and women alike.

On 8 March International Women's Day is celebrated; a day when many women receive flowers and congratulations. Cheerful parties are held, but it is also a day to join demonstrations to demand improved legislation in the field of women's rights.

In 2013, a survey carried out for the Thomson Reuters foundation examined women's roles and rights in politics, in society and in the family, across the Arab World. It also focused on violence against women.

Statistics never tell us the full story but they can make us think. On this map you will find a mix of positive and negative facts taken from the report which show just how difficult it is to generalise about the region. If you are interested in the full report, please visit <http://www.trust.org/spotlight/poll-womens-rights-in-the-arab-world>.



Source: [www.trust.org](http://www.trust.org)

Situation of women in the Arab World: the worst 5 and the best 5



- Morocco** 44% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 are literate.
- Djibouti** There are no laws prohibiting sexual harassment.
- Somalia** 1,200 women die in childbirths for every 100,000 births. This is one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates.
- Sudan** Article 152 of the penal code is used to justify arresting and flogging women for the way they dress.
- Yemen** A quarter of all girls are married before they are 15.
- Iraq** Article 409 of Iraq's penal code allows greatly reduced jail sentences for honour killings, compared with other murders.
- Egypt** Up to 99.3% of women and girls are subjected to sexual harassment. 27.2 million women are victims of FGM, the largest number in a single country in the world.

## Brave women share Hope for Tomorrow

Our series of programs on domestic violence against girls and women has just been edited and is ready to be broadcast. *Hope for Tomorrow* is an impressive series in which women describe their experiences of domestic violence and sexual abuse. In a culture of honour and shame it is incredibly difficult to share these issues. There are no instant answers or solutions to these immense problems; however, the program invites women to start talking about their situations and to seek help. Counsellors and follow-up teams are ready to provide a listening ear and a word of advice, when appropriate.

## FGM

Circumcision of girls (FGM) is still very common in Egypt even though the practice has been illegal since 2008. In a landmark case, on 25 January 2015 an Egyptian doctor was convicted of the manslaughter of a girl who died after an illegal FGM procedure. He was sentenced to two years in prison for manslaughter and three months for performing the FGM procedure. Arab Vision has produced a new documentary to encourage people to discuss this practice and recognise that it is a barbarous act. We would like church and mosque leaders to speak out against this cruel practice so that entire communities will stop circumcising their daughters.



## The Quest – a real adventure!

Two teams of teenagers with their leaders and our production crew are on an adventure in Egypt. To their surprise they find significant signs of Egypt's biblical and Christian heritage while travelling to Fayoum, the Pyramids, and Aswan. The two teams are battling against each other through games and quizzes to find the clues that lead to the final solution of the puzzle! Who will win?

The teenagers told us that during the games that they have not only learnt about the places they have visited, but also about themselves. The talents and skills they have and how to work with each other in preparing plans and strategy for the game.

The atmosphere in the group is good. One boy who was struggling with feelings of inferiority is very impressed with the way the others have treated him and accepted him as a part of the group. It helps him to be more outgoing.

We hope that through this program Christian teenagers will start to get excited about the Christian heritage of their country and that they become really proud of being part of that long-lasting Christian tradition and identity!





## “My biggest mistake was to marry him”

“During our engagement I didn’t notice any signs of the behaviour George is now showing, sometimes I think he is not the same man I chose to marry”, writes Sylvia in one of her e-mails to our follow up-team in which she asks for advice.

During their engagement there were no signs of any dark clouds coming ahead, so three years ago Sylvia, an Egyptian Christian woman of 25 years from Upper-Egypt, married George, 36 years old. They now have a two-year-old daughter.

It’s unclear when exactly their marriage problems started. “Sometimes he treats me very gently and he tells me I’m the most beautiful thing in his life, but on other occasions he hits me and completely ignores me,” shares Sylvia. One problem is her husband’s unemployment and Sylvia’s dependence on him. Currently Sylvia and her daughter are living at her parents’ and she attempts to get money by selling her air conditioner and obtaining a loan. “I think it is the biggest mistake of my life to marry him but I will continue with him because I don’t want my daughter to grow up without a father.” Sylvia testifies of her faith in God but she struggles with this situation. Please pray for her, for George and much wisdom for our follow-up team.

*(The names have been changed to protect the identity of the people involved.)*

## Iraqi mother sees the difference



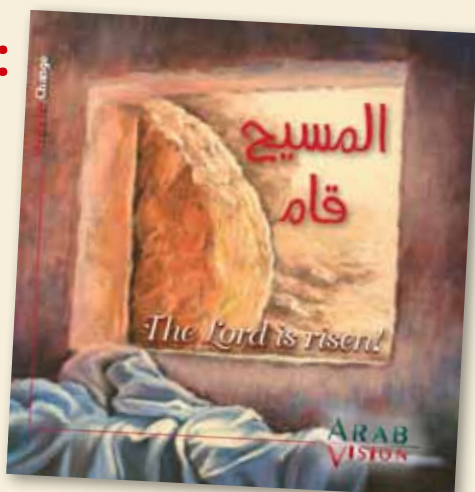
It is always encouraging when our slogan *Media for Change* becomes a reality. Sometimes this change is a radical conversion, sometimes an answered prayer and sometimes it is practical help from our TV programs.

Recently we received a note from an Iraqi woman who, with a group of other women, had watched our programs about children’s development and education. She tells us, “Recently a baby was born in our family and now that I have all this information about children, I enjoy the baby much more. I laugh and talk to the baby, tell him I’m going to pick him up and get him dressed. Our way of raising children has been positively influenced by the DVDs and we are very grateful to you for sharing the programs with us.”

## Easter DVD:

We are in the middle of Lent, a time of fasting for many Christians throughout the world. It is also a time of mourning for numerous Christians who used to live in the Middle East but had to flee their countries - over the years this happened to millions of Syrians, Iraqis, Palestinians, Egyptians, etc. For so many displaced people we are composing a special Easter DVD with English subtitles.

This DVD will be available perhaps to pass on as a gift to your Arabic-speaking neighbour or friend? It will present the Easter message through representatives of various denominations, in a setting of music and great songs. We hope that many individuals, churches and organisations will use it to bless and comfort Arab refugees who are forced to celebrate Easter away from their homes and families. If you donate US\$ 10 for the work of Arab Vision, we will send it to you without any further costs. Please let us know about your donation by sending a mail to [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org) with your address and a request for the DVD.



## Can you help

### Kingdom Person - €3000 or US\$ 3400

We produced a series of 13 episodes for TV and 13 video-clips for use on the internet about living as Arab Christians in a predominantly Islamic society. How do you live your daily life in accordance to Jesus’ teaching? For this production we still need some funds for editing.

### Christian Apologetics - €7500 or US\$ 8500

*“I am a simple Egyptian from the Delta region. Farms surrounded me from every side with streams of the luxurious Nile River endowing life with fertility. I had a strong Islamic upbringing and was studying to teach the Quran. They taught me to fear Allah who created the heaven and the earth. There was not a single reason to doubt a religion which emphasized fearing God, doing good work and living a moral life.”*

Yet this young man was touched by the Gospel and now he is extremely committed to explain the Gospel to Muslims who have critical questions about the Christian faith. The series of 26 short episodes is excellent for use on Facebook to discuss questions about Biblical truths. Will you help to make this production possible?

### Literacy for change - €3000 or US\$ 3400

We are filming the literacy classes given by a local NGO to the poorest of the poor in the countryside. By doing this, many more people will get the chance to learn how to read and write. This project focuses mainly on illiterate women, but it impacts whole families and communities.

### Atheism, a new trend? - Prayer

In the whole region of the Arab World more and more young people call themselves atheists, Muslims and Christians alike. In the programs Arab Vision is planning to produce we would like to focus on this growing phenomenon. Why do the answers of the church no longer suffice? How can we help parents, families and churches deal with the growing criticism of the young people? How do we give room for doubts and questions which will lead to a more profound faith instead of people leaving the church? Will you pray with us for wisdom to develop this project and to get the funds?

# Women, precious in the eyes of God!



Women in the Arab World are often not treated according to their value. "The Bible says that women are very precious. God treats women fairly, it is people who treat women badly", says the scriptwriter of our program "Women in the Bible". Last December he finished writing the script.

"The main issue of the program is not women's rights but that they can change their situation by faith", says the 64-year-old script writer. Each episode begins with a short drama about a woman from biblical times and is followed by comments and experiences of a woman of today. "One of the examples we use is the Canaanite woman, mentioned in Matt. 15:21-28. Jesus praises her faith and fulfils her desire: He heals her daughter. The disciples found it shocking that Jesus praised this gentile woman's faith. Jesus' treatment of women was and is different from how the world treats them."

"We should all have that attitude of Jesus towards women. I wouldn't have been who I am today if it had not been for my mother, who shaped me during the first years of my life, and my wife to whom I've been married for 35 years now", concludes the script writer.

## THANK YOU شُكْرًا

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who participated in the ministry of Arab Vision during 2014. Thank you for all your prayers, donations and other expressions of your involvement. In response to our prayer and newsletters we regularly receive encouragement and confirmation that people, individually and in groups, are praying for our viewers, our ministry and our workers.

Many thanks as well for all the donations! With the current privacy rules of the banks it is difficult to send a thank you note to everyone, because we don't always know the address of the donor. We would like to send a DVD with a sample of the programs we produced in 2014 to everyone who sent a donation. If you haven't received the DVD by mid-April, please do not hesitate to contact us by sending a mail to [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org).



## From our viewers:

"I am 32 years old. I grew up in a Muslim family, but when I was a teenager I started to have lots of questions about my faith. I used to talk to my aunt about all the confusion I was going through. I had been in touch with Christians and respected them for their lifestyle and good values.

One evening last year, I started watching Christian TV channels and for the first time I heard about Christianity and what it means. After having watched some programs I decided to call the telephone number that was shown. A man talked to me, explained things to me and prayed with me. That day I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. Since that time I have been learning more and more about Jesus!"



*Ibrahim, Morocco*

**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)

**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  
Arab Vision Inc. (USA)  
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.

Bank of America  
Branch: 11868 Preston Rd, Dallas TX 75230  
Account name: Arab Vision Inc  
Account no: 004782094990  
Routing no: 111000025  
Federal EID no:  
48-1270313

**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.

Interserve PO Box 231 Bayswater Victoria 3153 AUSTRALIA	Interserve 10 Huntingdale Blvd Scarborough, ON M1W 2S5 CANADA
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Interserve  
PO Box 10244  
Auckland 1030  
NEW ZEALAND

## Fluent in Kabyle and Arabic?

We are looking for people who are fluent in Kabyle and in Arabic to help us with subtitling Kabyle programs into Arabic. Please contact us at [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)

if you are that person or know of someone who would be willing and able to do this urgent translation job.

*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)