



## Special Focus: Arab Teenagers

Arab teenagers are growing up in a confusing and tumultuous world. Their families and societies are frequently conservative, so they hardly find any room for open discussions on issues that are important to them. Lacking freedom of expression and without motivation to be creative, many Christian teens wonder about their future, and search for direction in a world dominated by Islam.

Each 28-minute episode of our new TV series, **Super Teens**, provides informative, innovative, entertaining and challenging advice that encourages Arab youth to live out their faith in the Arab world. The programs feature reports by and about Arab teens, testimonies of contemporary Christian singers and artists, advice for difficult situations, information about health and hygiene, and a 'Letters to God' section. And, as expected with this interactive generation, the young viewers are encouraged to share their own ideas and feelings on a range of important topics and issues they are dealing with.



### Missing in Action!

Working in the Arab World keeps us on our toes, especially when it comes to security concerns. We try to be wise in not taking unnecessary risks, but sometimes the unexpected happens.

One example of this happened last month at our distribution office. A hard drive was stolen from the main distribution computer. We do not know who stole it and why, but it had all our distribution data on it, so we are concerned about the security compromise much more than the cost of replacing it.

Pray for the protection of the information on it, as well as the ongoing protection of our offices, equipment and personnel.



According to a UNDP Report, one of twenty children is born with a disability or becomes disabled during childhood. There is every reason to assume that in the Arab World, with many families in poverty and affected by war and conflicts, the ratio of the handicapped is higher than that international average.

### The Rights of the Handicapped

In some Arab cultures, the negative attitudes from society are a big problem for the physically handicapped. There is a lack of understanding and knowledge of the needs they have; they are deemed a burden, with no contribution to society.

Arab Vision is producing a modern documentary-style TV program, comprising of 13 episodes, in which people with physical disabilities and their families narrate their own stories and experiences. The production stretches across six Arab countries – Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates – in order to represent the whole region and appeal to the millions of Arab viewers throughout it.

The goal is to help tens of thousands of physically handicapped Arabs to understand and experience God's unconditional love and acceptance. Also, on a practical level, they - and the people working with them - will be encouraged through these programs to demand the implementation of their rights in the political domain and promote them in their societies. This reflects one of Arab Vision's core values of seeing just societies in the Arab World, in accordance to the Gospel, where the powerless and those with special needs are not marginalized nor abused.

**"I thank God because He broke off the chains that were suffocating me. Pray He does the same for my family."**

A Jordanian viewer sharing her testimony

# No Fairytales

Dear friends,

Here in the Arab World, it is easy to become depressed. We witness so much poverty, wars, oppressive regimes, and a religion that keeps people submitted to medieval laws. In our own work, we also have many problems to solve: difficulties in projects, money problems, issues with personnel. It is easy to be disheartened.

But if we look at the results of our work, we have many reasons for praising God! In this newsletter, you will read the story of an Islamic leader from North Africa, who with his wife and three children, decided to become followers of Jesus Christ after watching our programs.

When I began my mission work in the Arab World in the 1980s, I could not dream of what we are witnessing these days: Arab Muslims are coming to Christ in larger numbers than ever before. These are no fairytales: we see it in front of our own eyes. God is at work!

Yes, God is at work, but, predictably, so is the enemy, and he causes us many problems; please pray for us and for our safety, and do consider whether you want to partner with us financially. We are vulnerable and we need your support.

Vulnerability in itself is not bad; it makes us dependent on our Lord. He Himself showed on the cross how God can use the utmost form of vulnerability to draw many people to the Lord God!

May He bless you during these days of Lent, and may we see His glory in His crucifixion and resurrection!



Abu Banaat  
Arab Vision International Director

# From the Viewers



“I have been having unusual dreams but don’t know what they mean. Can you help explain them to me?” **Viewer from Iraq**

“Thank you for praying for me when I contacted your program a month ago. God answered and helped me.” **Viewer from Lebanon**

“I have now come to believe in Christ and was able to get a copy of the Gospels. Can you send me more books to teach me about my new faith?” **Viewer from Bahrain**

“My wife and I have been separated for eight year. I have been watching your programs and hearing about the difference God can make in lives. Pray that God will heal our marriage and that we will be restored together soon.” **Viewer from Egypt**



# Producing now...

## THE MAKING OF MUSIC CLIPS

Ever wonder what goes into the making of a music ‘video clip’ for Arabic Christian TV? How much preparation? Hours? Who is involved? This special program answers those questions by giving background information about how the clip is put together, showing ‘bloopers’, and finally the finished product.



## BERBER PSALMS PROJECT

A cameraman is now travelling in North Africa to record footage for our new Berber Psalms production. The program features 3 to 5 minute ‘video clips’ for each psalm identified by Berber believers as suitable for their Islamic culture. It is being produced in two Berber dialects.



## MOROCCAN TESTIMONY PROGRAMS

This is our biggest TV project for North Africa this year, with production set to start at the end of March and continuing on into April. It features the dramatized stories of Moroccans who have turned to Christ. This project has involved much planning, traveling and filming, with plenty of challenges on the way.



# Eyewitness reports from North Africa

REPORTS HAVE COME IN FROM OUR RESPONSE TEAM IN NORTH AFRICA INDICATING THAT MANY VIEWERS ARE RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL. THE TEAM MEMBERS HAVE MET FACE-TO-FACE WITH THESE VIEWERS AND LISTENED TO THEIR STORIES.

## Imam and Family

The response team recently talked with an older man and his wife who were both very excited and even argued over who could hold the phone! They said they watch all the Christian satellite programs and believe everything they have heard. At first they didn't want to meet with anyone because the man said he was in a 'sensitive' position. Our team member on the phone thought the old man might be a police officer or have another government job.



Eventually the man confessed to being an imam, an Islamic religious leader. In fact, he had just returned home from leading the prayer at the mosque. Finally, after continued conversation, the couple asked for a visit.

He explained that all of his life he had taught in the mosque, but the truth of the Gospel touched his heart and brought repentance, especially when he saw how different the Bible's teachings were when it comes to the treatment and love a husband should have for his wife. He and his wife accepted Christ, and three of their children are also now Christians. With tears in his eyes he testified to his faith in Christ and explaining that he had no fear of dying. He talked of how good God is that He would allow such an old man to see the light of Christ.

When he was given a Bible, the old man became very emotional because he had never held one in his hands. He had only been able to hear parts of God's Word on TV.

## A Painter

What plans could God have in store for a 57-year-old house painter? Three years ago, he came across the Christian channel on satellite TV. Curious, he began watching regularly. The first year of watching, he was very negative and skeptical. The second year he began opening his heart. During this time, he worked for a national Christian family and was amazed by the love and kindness they showed him.



The third year, he was convinced of the truth of Christianity and gave his life to the Lord! When his wife first learned of his conversion, she was very upset. However, she became curious when he responded, "I can either marry three other women as Islam allows or I can faithfully love and serve you only, as the Bible teaches." She accepted Christ!

Then he went to the local religious leader and challenged him. After three years of intense study, he knew the answers that the imam could not answer. He has since shared about God's working in his life with many people, and he currently meets regularly to worship, pray, and learn with those who have decided to follow Christ. He has been baptized and now has baptized seven people himself. They all meet in his home for worship. Some of these new believers are also very boldly evangelizing others and desiring to start new churches in their homes.

## College Students

A college student began watching our Christian TV programs on satellite. She longed to know more, but was afraid to call. Would the police come? What would others think? She asked her roommate to call instead. Two Christians went to visit the young ladies. It turned out that the roommate herself had many problems and had never been satisfied with her religion. She worked in tourism and was emotionally broken because of the ways she had been badly treated and misused.



She felt she could never be forgiven. She couldn't see any value in her life. She didn't feel like her religion could help her. She wanted new life and hope. When she began reading the Bible, she was struck by Jesus' reaction to the woman caught in adultery. Her heart jumped! Could Jesus love her in this same way? She asked the visitors, "Is there hope for me?"

They began explaining about the broken relationship between God and man and how God had restored it. She learned that through Christ, she is a daughter of God! She was touched by the story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. She realized that even if she had been the only one, Jesus would have died for her. Finally, one of them asked her, "Do you want this? He already died for you. It's done. And He's risen. Do you accept it?" Without hesitation, she replied, "Yes, how can I be saved?"

She accepted Christ's salvation. She has confessed her sins. She says that she has joy. She is like a burning candle now. She is free. Her burdens have been taken away! She does not know any other believers in her area. Her roommate is still interested in Christianity, as well as two other friends.

Visit [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org) and click on the 'Lives Changed' link to read more viewer testimonies and pray for them.

# Making a BIG Difference!

Our popular TV series, **Making a Difference**, celebrates its 5th anniversary this year as the scope of its reach and impact continue to increase. The program uses a simple and direct approach by the presenter, an Arab lady with much experience in Christian ministry and, more importantly, a heart to reach the viewers. Her practical teachings and encouraging devotional thoughts touches the hearts of Muslims and Christians alike.

Initially this was a studio production, but gradually the presenter received invitations from all over the world to speak at conferences or even have conferences especially devoted to her and the program. Last year, we visited countries in the Arab World, Europe and the USA. Around 80 episodes were produced and aired many times on a popular satellite station.

Is it really making such a difference in people's lives, you may be asking? The figures in the 'Who's Counting?' section on the right will give you a glimpse of how many viewers are regularly responding each month. But it's not just about the numbers; viewers from all over the Arab World are testifying of the change God is bringing into their lives.

Through the past issues of this newsletter, we have been challenging you to contribute with your support for this project, and specifically for the 80 new episodes we are planning to produce in 2009. A big thanks to those of you who have already responded to this need. **Would you consider helping with the rest? The cost of producing each episode is US \$1,500. We are particularly encouraged when a church decides to adopt this project as part of its outreach to the Arab World. How about your church or house group?**

Please contact us if you are interested in this project and visit our website to read more.



## WHO'S COUNTING?

Each month, our follow-up team receives and responds to calls, e-mails, SMS text messages, and voice mail recordings from the viewers of the **Making a Difference** program. How many? Well, the figures below will give you an idea of the number of viewers responding on average each month to the program.

**35** transferred to receive counselling

**225** e-mails with questions

**312** voice mail recordings

**432** SMS text messages

**1407** telephone calls

**2376** average number of responses each month

## CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

### Arab Vision Trust Fund

PO Box 21258  
1505 Nicosia, Cyprus  
E-mail: [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)  
Website: [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org)

Financial support for Arab Vision's work can be deposited in our head office bank accounts in Cyprus.

### Arab Vision Trust Fund

GB£ IBAN CY16-0020-0154-0000-0041-0005-3401  
US\$ IBAN CY09-0020-0154-0000-0041-0005-4206  
Euro IBAN CY83-0020-0154-0000-0041-0005-6948

Swift BIC: BCYPCY2N  
Name of Bank: Bank of Cyprus Limited  
Address of Bank: 54b Demokratias Street,  
Latsia CYPRUS

Checks can be made out to 'Arab Vision' and sent to our head office in Cyprus.

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

Arab Vision, Inc.  
Rev. William Lovell  
12727 Hillcrest Road  
Dallas, Texas 75230

In Canada, the United Kingdom, 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
---	---

Interserve 5/6 Walker Avenue Wolverton Mill Milton Keynes, MK12 5TW UNITED KINGDOM	Interserve PO Box 10244 Auckland 1030 NEW ZEALAND
--	--

## URGENT NEED



We have an urgent need for a small camcorder to record segments for our Moroccan Testimonies TV Project.

The camera will continue to be used after this production to film footage for other programs, and also serve as a longer term field camera in that country. The small Sony HVR-A1E camera is ideal for these purposes. The total cost, including 2 spare batteries, a wide angle adaptor and carry bag, comes to US \$3,600.

Can you help provide for this urgent need to continue spreading the Gospel in Morocco? We look forward to hearing from you.

**ARAB  
VISION**

*Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World*