

Freedom

If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed – John 8:36

The protesters in the revolutions in many Arab countries these days ask for freedom. Freedom to think, say and believe what they want. Freedom from corrupt regimes. Freedom from the ever-present fear to be arrested and put away in prison without any charge. It is a legitimate demand.

After 6 months of “Arab Spring”, new life in freedom has not broken through in the region. And it is still unsure what will happen next in countries like Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Syria...

Especially Christians in these countries fear the future. How bizarre it may sound, Christians in the Arab world seem to be better off under dictatorial regimes where stability is maintained, than in the current chaotic situation and the threat of being persecuted more severely. Read the interview with an Egyptian Christian friend on page 4.

As long as it is day we continue the work that the Lord has called us to do: producing Christian TV programs, to proclaim the freedom that only the Son can give.

Will you stand with us in prayer for Christians in the Arab world? Also pray for the many Muslims who have found freedom through Jesus Christ, and for those who don't know that freedom yet?

And please consider how you can contribute financially to enable us to continue our TV ministry.

Thank you for your commitment and be blessed,

Umm al Farieq

Umm al-Farieq
International Director Arab Vision

Arab Churches threatened

Help us encourage our brethren

All over the Arab world Christians are extremely worried about the revolts that are engulfing the region. Arab Vision's call is to encourage these Christians to hold on to our Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to his love and salvation, even in the midst of the chaos that seems to prevail. Our God is a solid rock. Will you stand with us in support of these Arab brothers and sisters?



Some Tunisian Christians had to escape from their country because their lives were threatened. Among them was a brother with whom we have made many TV programs.

Many of our Coptic friends in Egypt are considering emigration; they fear a takeover by the Muslim Brotherhood at the elections of September. Churches are being attacked and many Christians have died during and after the revolt against the ancient regime.

Missionaries have had to leave Yemen, as the turmoil in that country has created dangerous political instability. Many of the small congregations of Yemeni believers are worried about their future.

In Syria, the churches are in dire straits. Their privileges under the dictatorial president Bashar al-Assad will certainly disappear if he is defeated. But many Christians also desire a more humane government. Pray for them, that they will be wise in this uncertain phase in the history of their land.

What problems will the Churches of the Arab World face in the months ahead? Let's pray to God that He will be their defence. Please consider what you can do in order to enable Arab Vision to produce TV programming in order to encourage these embattled churches throughout the Arab World.

Producing Now... *Programs for adolescent girls*

In the traditional Arab cultural setting, women are taught that sex is evil and that sexuality is a topic never to be discussed - not even with parents. Many girls grow to puberty ashamed of their sexuality (contributing to the sustained practice of FGM and other harmful traditions), and reach adulthood without any factual information about sexual relationships in marriage. This leaves women totally unprepared to claim their rights in society, the family, and functional marriage relationships.

We are producing three TV programs to raise awareness and stimulate discussion about touchy subjects related to sex education and sexuality in a family setting as well as in the educational arena. It will convey accurate information from recognized authorities which will help to inform adolescent girls about their sexuality, and this will better equip young women emotionally and socially for adulthood. These programs will be filmed in early June.



Peace be upon you (Salamu Alaikom). I would like to thank you for all that you are doing to help others see life from the right perspective. (Email from Female viewer)

Strengthening the church in Iraq

Some of our readers will know how difficult life has recently been for Christians in Iraq. Once comprising more than 5% of the general population, the remnant church continues to suffer for its faith. It has been estimated that more than half of the Christian population has fled from the country due to violence and a lack of protection of their churches and church leaders by the Iraqi government. Churches have been forced to close. Church buildings have been burned and otherwise vandalized. Pastors and church leaders have been abducted, and several of them have been killed. Those Christians who remain in Iraq express concern that, within their life times, the Christian community may well be driven out of the country and the church may simply cease to exist.

The situation is extremely dangerous, and our brothers and sisters in Christ suffer in relative silence - largely overlooked by world media. But, in the face of violence and oppression, Arab Vision has remained in contact with Iraqi church leaders, seeking ways that we could provide encouragement and support. We have found that Iraqi Christians, even today, have as great a desire as they ever had to share Christ with

their neighbors and fellow countrymen.

Those to whom we have spoken understand that their neighbors share in the daily suffering brought upon the small Christian community. They have equal fears and equal concerns about the future. One result of the violence and bloodshed is a growing interest in Christ and Christianity among the Muslim majority. Therefore as this newsletter goes to press, Arab Vision has a production team in Iraq filming a 26-episode series of programs that will help make Christ known to Iraqi Muslims - correcting aberrant teachings about Christ and explaining His sacrifice on the cross as the key to eternal life. This team is also scheduled to film additional testimony programs for the resilient and still-growing Sourani church in the Kurdish region of the country.

Please pray for God's protection over our film crew and an abundant harvest in Iraq from the programs they are producing.

Please also consider being a partner, so that out of your hands the Lord's provision of funds that are still needed to complete the production of these wonderful programs would flow.

First Time Psalms

Despite increasing media sensitivity in Morocco we have been able to film almost all of the material for our Psalms of David project in four Moroccan languages (Moroccan Arabic and three different Berber dialects). A lot of distance has been covered to capture footage in the areas where these different languages are most prevalently spoken. In just one of the several filming trips, we covered over 3000 Km through difficult terrain and weather to capture authentic images that will resonate with these four different people groups in Morocco.

Throughout the filming of this project it has been encouraging to experience the cooperation of local believers in each area. We are also very thankful for SIL's language expertise. In some of the dialects, these Psalms which are being captured on film are being translated for the first time.

Thank you for this program, God bless you. Male from Iraq

From the viewers

"Please pray for me because there is a spirit of fear which controls me and I want God to get it away and put peace in my heart instead."

Male from Saudi Arabia



"Pray for me I was Muslim and I saw the Christ in a dream and he told me to drink from the river. Please I need the Bible to read it because my family kicked me out because I became Christian... I don't have a job or a house now. So please pray for me and send the Bible."

Female from Emirates



"I'm Muslim and I want to study the Bible and I bought a Book but I don't know how to read it and understand it. Should I start with the New Testimony or the Old one or both together?"

Male from Egypt

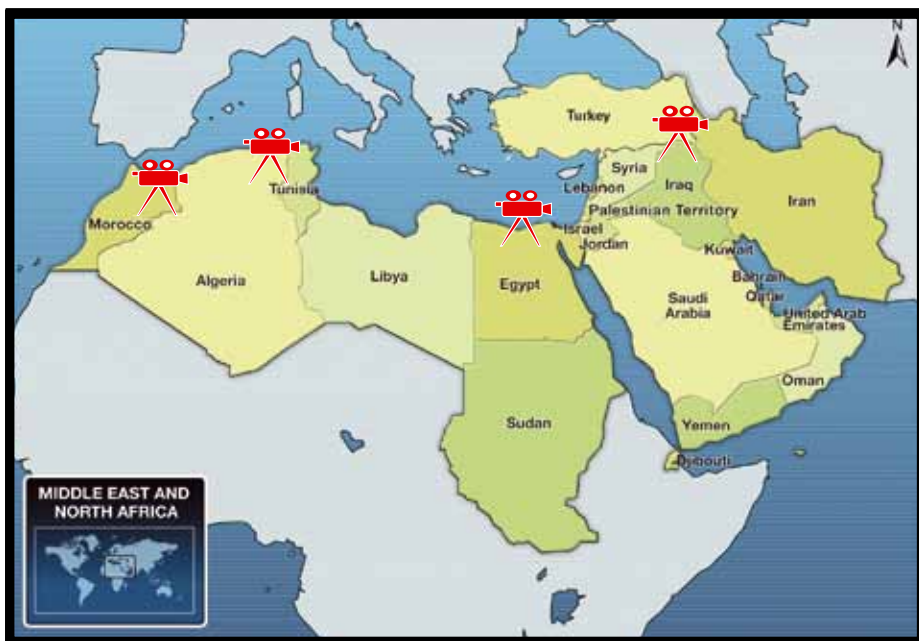
"Pray for us... a lot of people died."

Female from Egypt

"I need to have a Holy Bible and I also need prayer for my wife to get to know the Lord."

Male from Kuwait

Arab Vision - Actively Working to Strengthen the 20 Million Christians in the Arab World



** Since 2003 many Iraqi Christians have fled their country due to increased violence and persecution. Many estimate there are less than 500,000 Christians remaining in the nation. Before 2003, the church in Iraq was estimated to contain over 1,000,000 believers.*

Country	# of Christians
Egypt	10,000,000
Iraq	700,000*
Morocco	80,000
Sudan	5,000,000
Saudi Arabia	100,000
Jordan	200,000
Syria	950,000
Libya	95,000
Kuwait	175,000
Lebanon	1,700,000
Bahrain	11,000
Qatar	27,000
Yemen	25,000
Iran	225,000
Turkey	180,000
Tunisia	30,000
Algeria	57,000
Israel/Palestine	410,000
UAE	150,000
Oman	50,000

Source: World Christian Database, 2005

Current Productions

Egypt

Christian Parenting Series,
Democracy Series & Women's Series

Iraq

Kurdish Light Series, Kurdish
Testimony Series

Algeria

Bible Study Program Series &
Parables of Jesus Series

Morocco

Psalms of David Series

I'm Muslim and I want to know about the Christian Prayer. Male from Saudi Arabia

Strengthening Christian Parents

Arab Vision continues to work on its landmark series on Christian parenting. Few outsiders understand the pressure Arab Christian children face as they grow to adulthood in a predominantly Muslim society.

Christians are forced to study Islam and to learn material in their curriculum of studies which is taken directly out of the Qur'an. The Law states that Christian children can study their faith in schools, but they are ridiculed and targeted for attacks whenever they do so. There is ongoing peer pressure for Christian children to conform to Islamic dress codes and patterns of behavior.

Arab Vision's ongoing series is breaking new ground in this field by offering concrete help and advice to Christian parents who, until this time, have had no authoritative resource on which to rely. Our initial series addressed the needs of newly-wed Christians and those with very young children, while these continuing episodes will dig into the issues that teens and adolescents face.

The initial series is now being broadcast widely on Arabic Christian satellite channels and is attracting great attention and feedback from parents. Please join us in prayer that the Lord will continue to bless those who view this series, and that the future generation of Arab Christians will be stronger and more resilient in the face of non-Christian pressure.



Your ideas of helping youth are great.

Male Viewer by email

You can make your donation securely online at www.arabvision.org

Democracy Needed

Last month we shared with our readers an update on the revolution that swept through Egypt, earlier this year. Long-standing president Hosni Mubarak was forced to step down and a Supreme Military Council was formed to oversee the transition to democratic rule. The transition process seems to languish as we head into the hot summer months. Many Egyptians are speculating that the "fire" of the revolution has gone out - that the Supreme Military Council, as time passes, is becoming more and more unwilling to relinquish power over to civilian rule.

Many will remember the recent deadly attacks against Christians in Imbaba, and the sectarian clashes in a Cairo neighborhood called Maspero in which dozens of Egyptians (Christian and Muslim alike) were killed and injured. Both of these attacks attracted international attention and an outcry for better protection of all Egyptian people. In both instances, police officers and the military stood idly by for more than an hour, watching the violence, as angry Salafi fundamentalists attacked and killed local Christians. The lack of adequate protection and the government's subtle unwillingness to end sectarian clashes add fuel to public concerns about what the future will hold.



Arab Vision has continued to work with local civil society organizations and with international organizations who seek to protect the rights of all Arab citizens. These organizations are demanding better protection for Christians and are actively working to move the various Arab governments to action. Our producers are also working to gain support for a series of Public Service Announcements that call on the governments and the international

community to protect all citizens and to expedite the process of equipping civilian leaders to assume the reins of government throughout the Arab World in the near future.

The Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan will begin in August - a season where Muslim families spend unusual amounts of time watching television. We are actively trying to secure funding in time to produce these announcements prior to this time of celebration. The announcements will appear on television and be used in a range of community meetings up and down the Nile Valley and throughout the Arab World for the remainder of the year - not just during Ramadan.

Please pray for God's provision for this small project. The need is both immediate and great - and the small project will have a tremendous impact on the lives, well-being, and rights of Christians throughout the Arab World.

CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
PO Box 21258
1505 Nicosia, Cyprus
E-mail: contact@arabvision.org
Website: 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, Inc.
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, 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
PO Box 10244
Auckland 1030
NEW ZEALAND

Interserve
10 Huntingdale Blvd
Scarborough, ON
M1W 2S5
CANADA

Interserve
5/6 Walker Avenue
Wolverton Mill
Milton Keynes, MK12 5TW
UNITED KINGDOM

Sameh's testimony after the Egyptian revolution

Looking back, what were the positives of the Revolution?

Sameh: "I don't know really. Maybe that the whole world looks better at Egyptians now? We are also more free to speak our hearts in public, but..."

But...?

"Even that is already changing now; the supreme council of the army is so tough with people who are criticizing them, and take them to marshal court and put them in prison for several years."

What does the near future look like?

"The near future in my opinion looks very hard for all Egyptians, but especially for Christians and Churches. I personally believe - and lots of the most respected preachers in Egypt do so - that an Islamic regime will take over; most probably the Muslim brotherhood. Fundamentalist groups, called the Salafists, have already started to apply the Sha'ria law. Lots of Christians have already emigrated and lots more are trying their best."

How should the Church react?

"Many believers think this will be THE TIME to witness in the middle of the darkness. I heard good Christian preachers talk about repentance and unity, meaning that Copts and Protestants and Catholics have to come together as one Church with one Lord. We need to respect each other and LOVE each other in order to be true witnesses. This is crucial for us. If believers come together and become real light and salt, we will change this darkness around."

Are you afraid?

"If the believers become more visible and start witnessing more powerfully, I believe that we will face real persecution and we need to be ready and accept it in joy. We should not only be prepared to believe in Him, but also to suffer with Him. I have to say that I feel so afraid for my family, but I have to learn to trust the Lord to protect them all. I pray I can have this attitude. Please, please pray for me and my family and also for all believers and for all Egyptians."

Sameh is an Egyptian Christian, married, with a son and a daughter; Sameh is not his real name.

**ARAB
VISION**

Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World