

A living hope

"In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
(1 Peter 1:3 NIV)

Hope is probably not the first word that comes to mind when you think about the situation in many countries of the Arab World. Fear, violence and hopelessness seem to be more applicable.

It is only because we have a living Lord, that we can have a living hope. That is why Arab Vision can produce programs like *Hope for Tomorrow*, the pastoral programs for Arab women who face (domestic) violence.

That is why we can have a follow-up team that is ready to interact with viewers and to talk about their fears and problems, their questions about Christianity and the Bible.

I'd like to ask for your prayers for some new projects that we are preparing: a biblical musical for children, a series of programs about the questions young people and their parents have regarding faith and atheism, a second series of *The Quest* for teenagers about the Sermon on the Mount, and an apologetic series in which biblical truths are explained. We celebrate Good Friday and Easter with hope in our hearts. Full of hope we look forward to God's blessing on our media ministry and we pray that we may contribute to the growth of God's kingdom.

A living hope for tomorrow, for widows and orphans, for the oppressed and persecuted, for those who are looking for the truth and the life, for you and me, hope for the nations!

Arab Vision wishes you the blessing and peace of the resurrected, living Lord!

Umm al Farieq

Umm al Farieq
International director Arab Vision

She's a child – not a bride!

It was a 10-year-old Yemeni girl who put the practice of child marriage firmly on the map, when she walked into a courtroom in Sana'a and asked for a divorce. Her father had arranged marriage for her in 2008, when she was 9 years old. Nujood courageously defied Yemeni customs and her own family and fought to get her freedom and her life back.



"I'm a simple village girl who has always obeyed the orders of my father and brothers. Since forever, I have learned to say yes to everything. Today I have decided to say no," she writes in her book *I am Nujood, age 10 and divorced*. (2010, Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui) Her story was so gripping that it was soon made into a movie.

Girls should be allowed freedom in life-making decisions but many girls are being denied this basic right, by being forced to marry when they are still a minor. One in seven girls in the Arab world is married before her 18th birthday. The highest rates of child marriage are seen in the poorer and war-torn countries such as Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

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From our viewers:

Many men are responding to our program about domestic violence and sexual harassment *Hope for Tomorrow*.

"I am calling you because I have been watching your program Hope for Tomorrow. I am from a Muslim background and I have just started to read the Bible. I am learning much through your program and my thinking has really been affected by it."

(Ahmed, Egypt)

*Al Masih qaam,
bil haqiqati qaam!
The Lord is risen;
He is risen indeed!*



MEDIA FOR CHANGE

The Quest for young people is a great success!

The interactive program for young people, *The Quest*, which we produced in 2015, is now being broadcast by SAT-7 and is also available on a special website plus on a number of social media, like Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. On FB the number of likes is already over 60,000.

It is obviously a success! There are hardly any youth programs available on the major Christian channels and we have been asked to produce **a second series** of this program, which is especially designed for youth age 12-18.

The elements of competition, entertainment and Bible study have proven to be a good combination. *Quest II* will consist of thirteen 28- minutes-episodes. Each episode will contain a topic related to the values Jesus taught in the Beatitudes like humility, suffering, seeking justice, being persecuted and striving for peace.

Watch an impression of *Quest I* on our YouTube channel.



Women in focus!



We are busy working on our program series of Women in the Bible. The first 24 episodes have been filmed recently. According to the 65-year-old script writer, 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." Women don't have to be passive, but they can be active agents of change. "The main issue of the program is not women's rights but that they can change their situation by faith", he adds.

Speaking the truth in love

To answer questions of Christians who are in doubt and Muslims who are searching and to provide room for conversation, we have produced a series of thirty 3-minute-clips in which Biblical truths are discussed in an inviting and challenging way by Dr. Luis Abdullah.

The series is now being edited and will soon be broadcast on Sat-7. The clips will also be posted on YouTube and a special Facebook page will be made so that there will be room for further conversation and interaction. You can watch a sample of *Speaking the Truth* on our YouTube channel.



His heart is full of love for all people.

A child – not a bride! (continued)

Poverty and war are the main reasons for child marriage. Poverty leads people to do desperate things for money; war increases the risk of girls being abducted, abused and raped. Parents wrongfully believe that early marriage is a way to prevent their daughters from being sexually harassed. It is the opposite; child brides often suffer abuse in their marriage.

Early marriage also diminishes the girls' educational opportunities; they drop out of school and this hinders their personal development, thus continuing the cycle of poverty. Moreover, child marriage often endangers the girl's health.

Child marriage is also used as a disguise for human trafficking and prostitution. The non-existence of or the failure to implement laws against child marriage in the Arab World are the main challenges in fighting this phenomenon, which despite everything that is being done against it, is growing again especially in warzones.

All these facts are sufficient to show the need for a documentary about child marriage which can be used by Arab Vision's NGO partners in the region. We want to do what we can to eliminate this terrible practice which is so devastating for many young Arab girls. Will you help us make that possible?

“Anytime I listen to Christian songs, I feel comfort and joy. When I read the Bible I find it to be full of love. I have a cross in my house, but I don't really understand its meaning. Could you please explain it to me?”

(Ibrahim, Jordan)

Kingdom Person II

“I watched all the episodes of Kingdom Person. I was deeply touched by the meanings of light and truth. I was excited to get to know that the real meaning of spirituality is not about attending meetings in the church or doing the things that I used to do, but to live in the grace of God and enjoy freedom. Knowing that the focus of my life is to participate in God's original design makes a big difference for me.”

The first season of *Kingdom Person* was very well received. The production crew was the first 'audience' to be impacted significantly by the content of the programs. The speaker has a talent for tackling relevant issues for daily Christian life in an inviting, thought-provoking, and refreshing way - aiming at equipping Arab Christians to live as genuine disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in a difficult (sometimes extremely hostile) environment. Watch an episode of *Kingdom Person* about marriage on our YouTube channel.



“I feel that the forgiveness episode made a big difference for me. I was deeply touched by it. The steps of forgiveness gave me a way forward, although I haven't come to the end of this journey I'm on the right track. I was also touched with the demo about the way we blame people. I learned a lot of new things from it.”

The second series of *Kingdom Person* will have 26 episodes of 15 minutes each, plus 26 short clips on social media. Some of the themes are: How to become a mature Christian and resemble Christ, how to deal with suffering, and how to integrate spiritual, psychological and theological aspects in living a Christian life.



Can you help?



Thank you for making the Christmas program *Fear and Peace* possible. The program was broadcast twelve times. You can watch the short clip *Christmas 2015* on our YouTube channel.

Kingdom Person US\$ 550 per program or US\$ 135 per clip

Living in this world according to the principles of God's kingdom is the main theme of the second series of *Kingdom Person*. The author of the book with the same title, Awsam, is the teacher in this series. It is a challenge for Christians to fully live out their faith in a difficult environment and for Muslims/non-believers to test these Kingdom principles and to evaluate them.

Reconciliation: not a choice, but an assignment! US\$ 2200

Our project about Biblical reconciliation will be filmed this summer in Israel and the Palestinian areas. Those who have been reconciled to God in Christ can't do anything else but – by that same grace – find reconciliation with brothers and sisters, even though political and theological viewpoints may differ. We are praying that this program will be an eye-opener for many followers of Christ in the Arab World and a testimony for everyone. Please pray for this!

Adopt a follow-up worker US\$ 220 per month

Arab Vision does not produce just for the sake of production, but in order to reach people and to invite them to respond. Our follow-up team is daily reaching out to viewers who call, write, ask questions on Facebook and share their stories and needs. Their salaries vary from US\$ 220 to US\$ 650 per month. Would you please consider supporting (part of) a salary of a follow-up worker?



Easter DVD

Last year we produced a special Arabic Easter DVD with English subtitles. The DVD has three episodes about Easter and its significance. We still have several copies available, so order this unique DVD via contact@arabvision.org

Become an ambassador for Arab Vision!

A new 8-min-video about the work of Arab Vision will soon be available. If you would like to have a copy to show it for instance in your church or home group and share about our work, please write to contact@arabvision.org. Would you please indicate whether you would like to have it on a USB flash drive or on a DVD?

Please like us on Facebook and make our work known!



CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
is registered as a charity in Cyprus
email: 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.
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You may also **donate by paying through our website** www.arabvision.org. This is a secure payment facility.

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- Hope for tomorrow: series about domestic violence against women
- Discipleship program

Sat-7 : www.sat7.org

- Bible study programs about Paul's epistles
- Hope for Tomorrow: series about domestic violence against women
- Kingdom Person: how to live according to biblical principles?
- Discipleship program
- The Quest: interactive program for youth

Kingdomsat – www.almalakootsat.com

- Series of biblestudy programs



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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



Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV and internet in the Arab world