



Looking back in gratitude

Nadia, the bawaab's daughter

Who do you say I am?



Nadia, the *bawaab's* daughter - A real-life story about giving

Nadia is about 10 years old; she is the daughter of a *bawaab* (a doorkeeper). *Bawaabs* are often found at buildings in the Middle East, keeping an eye on and assisting all those going in and out of the building.

Nadia's family is Christian and extremely poor. One day at Sunday school she hears a teacher share about collecting money to set up an orphanage for the poorest of the poor. Nadia immediately decides to do her very best to contribute to this.

She saves small amounts from her pocket money, starts doing small jobs, like washing cars and running errands for the people in the building, and hides it under her mattress. One day, however, her mum discovers her secret and Nadia explains to her why she is trying to save some money. Her mum does not agree with her plan, as one of Nadia's uncles is soon getting married and she needs a new dress to wear. Nadia protests that she does not need a new dress fall on deaf ears.

Several days before the wedding a church member donates a bag full of clothes and Nadia's mum is one of those who are allowed to choose some. You can guess the rest of the story: she finds a dress that is perfect for Nadia to wear at the wedding and Nadia's savings can be used for the orphanage.

It's a real life story and will be dramatised into a 10 min film for broadcasting on satellite TV. We will also use it on our social media platforms, to encourage and challenge Arab Christians of all ages to develop a positive attitude of giving and sharing, even if you can hardly make ends meet.

Turn to page 7 and see how **you** can share in the joy of giving!



This picture does not portray Nadia.



“O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie”

In a normal year, Bethlehem would be preparing to receive thousands of visitors from all over the world. The Church of the Nativity and Manger Square would be packed with pilgrims; but 2020 is not a normal year. The international travel restrictions make it impossible for most visitors to enter Palestine.

Bethlehem is home to many Palestinian Christians, and I wondered how they celebrate Christmas. Samer and his wife Roubina have a large extended family and make a point of coming together. They showed me a photograph of last year's celebration with more than 50 family members. The run-up to Christmas, really begins on 4 December when St Barbara's day is celebrated with burbara. Roubina prepares this traditional food using boiled wheat grains, pomegranate seeds, raisins, anise and sugar. Closer to Christmas, international choirs would be singing in Manger Square. On Christmas Eve, midnight mass is celebrated in the Church of the Nativity. Finally, on Christmas Day itself Samer, Roubina and their children will be worshipping at their church.

This year, there will be no choirs and Samer and Roubina will be missing their elder son who is studying abroad and unable to return home. Many of their family and friends are suffering financial hardship. Tourism provided 80% of the jobs in Bethlehem but the travel restrictions have caused the tourist industry to collapse with the loss of thousands of jobs.

As our thoughts turn to Bethlehem, the inn, the manger and the Prince of Peace, let us remember the faithful Arab Christians, who, like Samer and Roubina, live out the gospel every day in the very place where Jesus was born.



Ian Sutherland
Arab Vision UK

Looking back in gratitude

Our Lord God has been good to us in the past year, in which we struggled in our local office in the Middle East. We were confronted with legislation that has been applied to us retrospectively. We are currently looking into new ways of continuing our ministry, in such a way that we can use our resources for furthering God's Kingdom in the Middle East and North Africa to the maximum.

We look back on 2020 with gratitude.

In this past year we reached out to many people with hope, encouragement, and peace and we will continue doing that, for example by our series *Hope in times of crisis*, currently in production.

We were able to reach out to Arab women and spend time with those who were in need for a listening ear, a prayer, professional support. We were able to reach out specifically to Yemeni and Saudi women, with the Gospel of love and wholeness in Christ Jesus.

We could reach out to Arab youth, often struggling with finding their identity, whether Muslim, Christian, or atheist.

We produced programmes in Sudanese Arabic, in the Coptic language, and finalised an interactive series for children who are devoid of basic education, like refugee children.

Women testified to their faith in God, despite their hardships in life, despite having to flee from their home-country and the challenges of settling in a new home in a foreign land.



We just produced a series to encourage Christ's followers to practice being the light of the world as Christ is calling us to follow his example.

We are enthusiastic to produce new programmes in 2021. On page 2 you can read about Nadia, the *bawaab's* daughter, and on page 6 about our plans for the new series *Who do you say I am?*

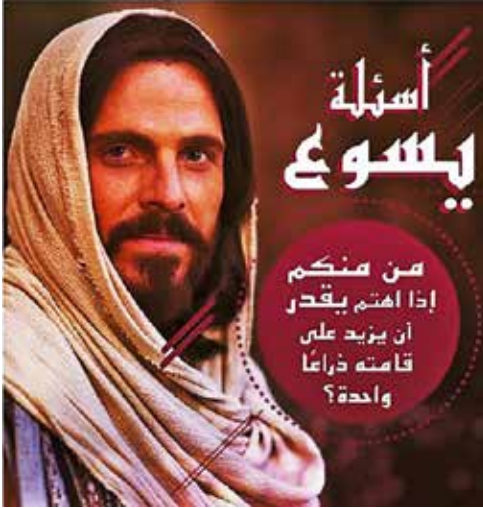


"We are very happy with the impact that Arab Vision has in the Middle East. It is wonderful to see the fruits of it every day. Arab Vision has been sharing for many years with different productions. Arab Vision has been a great help for people and for all the churches. Most of the churches use the productions of Arab Vision in different ministries. We thank God for this ministry. I love it because it is simply preparing the way for people to know more about Christ and to come closer to Christ." - Watch the video clip on our YouTube channel

Who do you say I am?

In the four Gospels, Jesus asked 180 questions; his disciples, the Pharisees and other people asked him 120 questions.

“Do you still not understand?” asked Jesus in Mark 8. “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?” Jesus was asked by some Pharisees in Matthew 19. “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” Jesus asked in Matthew 6. Just a few of the many questions we are aiming to discuss in this project.



Atheism is on the rise in the Middle East and one of the main reasons people turn away from religion is because their questions are answered in an inadequate way or simply ignored.

Jesus was not afraid of questions; neither should the Church be afraid of them. The questions lead to digging deeper into the core of the Gospel and the series we plan to produce will equip Arab Christians to deal with questions, and invite non-Christians to feel free to ask their questions of Him, who is the Truth and the Life.

We aim to produce 170 short clips which will be used on our social media platforms and be broadcast through satellite TV. (More financial details on page 7)

Ali is now on a journey of discipleship

Ali is from a Muslim background. He has many Christian friends who tell him about Christ. He has a desire to experience the joy and peace that are found in Jesus. One night he saw Jesus in a dream. Ali had a lot of questions about Christianity. With the grace of God we answered them all. We shared the Gospel message with him and he was eager to know everything about Christ. Responding to his desire, we managed to connect him with one of our team members to have a face-to-face meeting and now he is on a journey of discipleship studying the word of God.

◆ Project Hope

Through project *Hope* we aim to encourage and challenge Christians in the Arab World to be a beacon of hope in these uncertain times. Christians of several different Arab backgrounds, based in the Netherlands, share words of hope and encouragement through short testimonials and devotions. We have now produced about 35 short programmes. In our previous newsletter we asked you to help us fund this project. *Thanks to you, we are nearly halfway there, having received almost £5,000.*



◆ The film Nadia, the *bawaab*'s daughter

This short film is all about the joy of giving. It is a drama based on a true story. The production costs are £11,000. We have a promise of £6,000 in the pipeline. Could you help us with the other £5,000?

◆ Who do you say I am?

Please ask for a full project proposal if you are interested to partner in this project (contact@arabvision.org). You can adopt a clip for £200. This covers the video production cost, broadcasting the clip, social media campaigning, follow-up and discipleship of people who respond.

Karim is reading the Bible

Karim is a 21 year old Muslim from Algeria. Since he was young he felt that Islam is not from God and he wanted to learn about Christianity. Now that he has connected with us through our Facebook page, we have the chance to explain to him the good news. We sent him a Bible and he is reading it now. We are continuing to walk with him in his search for truth.

Christmas greeting

The Arab Vision team greets you with the words of Jesus from John 14:27 - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give it to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

May that peace fill your hearts, minds, and senses in these, for so many people, worrying times and may that peace prevail this Christmas season and in the New Year.



contact@arabvision.org

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,

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