



MEDIA FOR CHANGE

Issue 7, June 2008

ARAB VISION

Anniversary of Tunisian TV Series

The first episode of our Tunisian TV series was broadcast on satellite TV a year ago. It was the first time that Tunisian Christians, still residing in their homeland, were bold enough to testify of their faith in Jesus Christ in a TV series.

There is much cause for celebration, rejoicing and thanking God on this first anniversary. Not only have the productions and broadcasts continued over the course of the year – the most recent 3rd installment of 30 episodes was produced earlier this month - but we have also been receiving very encouraging viewer response and follow-up reports which suggest that many Tunisian lives are being touched, encouraged and changed through these programs.

“Several Tunisians have made clear commitments to follow Jesus Christ, and others have revealed that they have already been secretly believing in Him,” says Arab Vision’s North Africa director.

“Our program prompted them to make contact as they realized there were other Tunisian Christians; now some have joined church fellowships.”



Viewer’s Church?

Attending church and being part of a Christian fellowship do not happen easily for our Muslim viewers who respond to the Gospel. In many cases, there are no churches in their area, and even if there was one, visiting it could be problematic and dangerous. Some viewers are not giving up though; they are beginning to meet together to form their own church, as this recent report from Tunisia suggests.

Ashraf lives in a city some distance away from the capital. He wants to know the Bible. He has been watching and memorizing all of the programs on the Christian TV channel, and then, he has been telling people about these programs and the good news they bring. He contacted us through the phone numbers that appear on our program. He is very interested in forming a congregation and meeting together with other believers!



Around 8 million people in Morocco have Tashelhiyt as their mother tongue. Most of them have been forced to learn Arabic and adopt Islam as their religion. Until now, the only Christian broadcast for these people has been through Trans World Radio (TWR) since 1974. Arab Vision now wants to compliment these radio broadcasts with the first ever TV programs for the Tashelhiyts.

Christian TV in Tashelhiyt

In neighboring Algeria, thousands of Kabyle Berbers have recently turned away from Islam to embrace Jesus Christ. In the previous issue of this newsletter, we reported on the production of a special TV series to train the fast-growing Kabyle church leaders. Some have pointed out that the interest of the Kabyles in the Christian faith is directly linked to the oppressive policies of the Algerian government with regard to the Kabyle culture and language. Many Kabyles not only resist the fact that the Algerian government favors the Arabic language, but also the religion of the Arabs that is closely linked to the Arabic language.

The Moroccan government is following a wiser policy of treatment of the Tashelhiyts, who do not have the same negativism as the Kabyles have toward the Arabic language and religion. However, we believe that when we honor them by sharing the Gospel in their own mother tongue, they will also respond in a positive way like the Kabyles.

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“I was sexually abused by my parents. What should I do?”

An Arab woman shares her anguish with the follow-up team for one of our women’s programs

Community around Jesus

In the Arab world, people often look with horror at the individualism and the lack of community of the Western world. And in the Western world, we find it hard to understand how people can appreciate the rampant legalism of the Muslim world. It seems that rules and regulation are the precondition for maintaining a strong sense of community, at the expense of individuality. There is certainly a 'clash of civilizations' here!

As Christians, we proclaim a Gospel message that maintains individual liberty with true communion, without the concomitant individualism or legalism. That is possible, because our Gospel attaches people to Jesus Christ.

As we are all focused on Him as the center of our communion, we - as His followers - are also drawn together to each other. This community is kept together not by laws, but by Jesus Christ, so our individuality is guaranteed.

We call this community around Jesus Christ the Church. In our programs, we proclaim Jesus as the savior for all individuals who put their faith in Him, but the community that we form around Him, is also an example for society as a whole.

A great society is not a loose conglomeration of individuals, neither a community thanks to strict laws for every detail of life. Our societies need focal points: ideally Jesus Christ himself, and also the Christian views and values that we believe in.

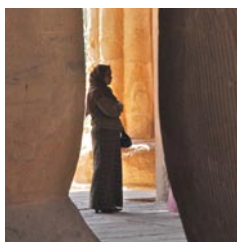
Our Arabic TV programs fill every hour of the day in the Arab World; in those programs, we present Jesus Christ, as the personal savior. We also speak of the Church, where people can find Christ. And we present our views of a better society. No wonder so many of our audiences contact us for coming closer to Him!



Abu Banaat
Arab Vision International Director

From the Viewers

"I follow your programs regularly and am very pleased with them. I want to be in touch with you." **Viewer from Yemen**



"My daughter suffers from problems with her husband. We need your advice. I will get her to call you and speak to you."

An Egyptian father

"Your program has helped me very much in my personal life. I want to thank you." **Viewer from Iraq**

"I want to thank you for your program. It addressed a very important issue in my life which had been causing me a lot of pain. But I thank God that now I am completely changed." **Viewer from Tunisia**



Producing now...

GOD: 3 OR 1?

Thirteen programs of an ongoing TV series which highlight some of the key and difficult issues Christians in the Arab World face. The program is presented by an apologetics lecturer with 20 years of experience at an evangelical seminary in the Arab World. Some of the topics include the Trinity, Jesus as the Son of God, and the authenticity of the Bible.



BIBLE SCHOOL ON TV

Thirty episodes of this theological education series were recently recorded. A review committee, made up of various Arab Christians and Muslim converts, is providing feedback for the next stage of the production which will entail the recording of another 30 episodes this summer.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A special series for Arab women which we reported on in the previous issue of this newsletter. The goal is to produce 80 new episodes by next summer, so the production team is busy preparing for this now. So far, we have received a couple of thousand dollars towards the target of US \$120,000 we need to raise for this project.





www.stfrancismagazine.info

Church, Islam and Missions

The Sign of Jonah as a challenge to the Arab Church

What does the Qur'an teach about Jihad?

How did the Qur'an actually come about historically?

What is the Arabic language of the Qur'an?

Mission cannot do without sacraments and creeds

We must dialogue with Muslims

Christian theological libraries in the Arab World

These are the articles you can read in the latest online issue of the St. Francis Magazine, a joint publication of Arab Vision and Interserve. Both organizations are committed to witnessing to Jesus Christ in the Arab World.

St. Francis Magazine aims to strengthen the Christian witness in the Arab World. The magazine does this through articles, studies, and offering applied training on matters related to the Christian apostolate in the Arab World.

Visit www.stfrancismagazine.info to read more.

How can you help?

Arab Vision is reaching out to viewers all over the Arab World with the Gospel. You can be a part of this ministry. In fact, we *need* you to be a part of it! Would you, your family or your church consider adopting one of these projects? Some of them are 'on hold' until God provides people to support them through prayer and finances. Would you take a moment and ask God to show you what role *you* could play in this ministry?

Making a Difference

80 TV programs for an ongoing series for Arab women. Around 1000 viewers are responding every month, and many are finding hope and salvation. Each episode costs US \$1,500.

Local Producers

Arab Vision makes it a priority to train and work with local Arab believers in each country. Many of these are new believers from Muslim background. Would you consider helping with their support and praying for them regularly? How about contributing to their ministry with a US \$200 monthly support?

TV Equipment

New equipment and replacements are always needed to meet the demands of our busy production schedule. We currently have a list of 23 items needed, ranging in price from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. Write to us for details or visit www.arabvision.org and click on the 'Current Projects' link on the top left.

Tunisian Series

Part 4 of this first-ever series by Tunisian Christians is scheduled to be produced in the next few months. How about sponsoring one of the episodes? We would be happy to provide more details and inform you on the production/broadcast times so you can pray for it as it 'happens'. The cost per episode is US \$1,000.

Please contact us if you are interested in any of these. Thank you for your help for the sake of the Gospel in the Arab World.



continued from page 1

Christian TV in Tashelhiyt

The number of Tashelhiyt believers is barely in the hundreds – a minute minority among the general Muslim population. Yet, the impact of seeing one of their own prepared to show his face on TV as a Christian will be huge. We have already observed similar results from our Tunisian series where local believers were bold enough to go on TV.

We are now in the initial pilot project stage for the Tashelhiyt Series. A local believer has been preparing the material for the episodes, focusing on the principles of Godly living from the Sermon on the Mount and explaining the salvation available through Jesus Christ. The programs will feature some contemporary indigenous music and footage from Southern Morocco.



The Tashelhiyt TV Project

A series of 50 TV programs of 15 minutes to explain the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Muslims in Morocco whose mother tongue is Tashelhiyt. This is part of a three-year project with a production budget of US \$42,000. A Dutch organization has agreed to fund half of this. We are seeking support for the rest.

WHO'S COUNTING?

The Tashelhiyt TV programs we are currently producing will be the first such series in this language. Here are some facts about the language, people and TV production, expressed in numbers.

Tashelhiyt Project

1
Tashelhiyt Christian willing and able to go on TV _____

3
years of searching to find this Tashelhiyt producer _____

33
phonemic consonants in the Tashelhiyt alphabet _____

42,000
the total cost in US \$ of 50 Tashelhiyt TV programs _____

8,000,000
estimated Tashelhiyts living mostly in Morocco _____

CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
PO Box 21258
1505 Nicosia, Cyprus
Email: contact@arabvision.org

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

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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

www.arabvision.org

Be sure to visit our website regularly. Here are some of the things you can find there.

- Daily prayer request
- Viewers' responses
- Production news
- Current projects
- Samples of our TV programs
- Free download section
- Opinion pieces & articles
- Job openings
- Online donation
- Free newsletter subscription
- Profile & documents

If you have friends interested in mission work or the Arab World, why not share our website link with them? We would be happy to send them a free DVD about our work.



Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World