

24/7 Arabic Christian TV on the Web

Over the last few years, the number of Arabs with access to satellite TV has grown immensely, and along with it, the number of Christian TV channels covering the region. Governments and religious groups in the Arab World are aware of this, and there is a good chance that availability of Christian channels through satellite TV will be curbed or placed under censorship. The broadcast charter agreement last year between the Arab League countries may well be the first step towards tightening the control on satellite TV.

So what other option do we have to make our programs accessible to the millions of viewers in the Arab World? The answer is becoming increasingly obvious: the Internet. The number of people in the Arab World with access to the Internet has grown exponentially the last 5 years. The Gulf region leads in this, but also poorer countries like Egypt have made good progress. Overall, it is estimated that 24 million in the region have access to high speed Internet.

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Audience Follow-Up

Arab Vision's TV programs can be found on the broadcast schedules of many Arabic Christian satellite stations. In most cases, the staff of those stations have been receiving and dealing with the response from the viewers. Now though, we have set up our own Audience Relations Department, made up of qualified and committed Arab Christians who are able to answer the questions of the viewers and provide them with counseling, prayer and practical support.

Each month, thousands of phone calls, e-mails and SMS text messages are received by this new team. You can read some samples on the second page of this newsletter. The department manager asks for prayer – that God will endow them with daily wisdom, discernment and love as they communicate with the viewers.



'The Kurds have no friends' has been one of the most frequently used sayings for many years by the Kurds themselves. For centuries, they have been struggling for autonomy in a region with more than its fair share of conflicts, wars and broken promises. Today, though, there is an unprecedented opportunity to share the good news of the Gospel with the Kurdish people.

Finally, Christian TV for Kurds

In spite of the fast development of Christian media in the Arab World, there are still no TV programs in the Kurdish language. The Kurds are a people group numbering around 35-40 million people, spread across Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. The first indigenous Kurdish church was recognized in 2003 by the local government in Northern Iraq, home to around 6-7 million Kurds. Nowadays, there is openness among the Kurdish people towards the Gospel, and a bold, evangelistic spirit within the infant Kurdish Church.

"Currently only secular and Islamic satellite media broadcasts are available to people in Kurdistan," reports Arab Vision's project manager. "So when local Christian leaders approached us with the idea of producing Christian programs in the Kurdish language, it was hard not to be excited and fully committed to this unique and great opportunity."

Arab Vision will produce the first ever Kurdish Christian TV programs in one of the main Kurdish languages. The full project will entail the production of 52 TV programs during the next 2 years. Each episode will be 30-minutes long and contain a testimony from different Kurds who have come to Christ, a Kurdish music clip, and an evangelistic message.

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"I was a Christian by name only, but after watching your program I got to know Jesus. Thank you!"

An Arab woman living in Germany

In Search of the 365

Dear friends,

A few months ago, we were considering whether to start a Christian Arabic TV channel on the Internet. It sounded like a creative idea to reach the 24 million Arabs who are estimated to have fast Internet connection – but it would also cost money! Based on our budget calculations: \$186 per day.

While considering this new project, a group of Christians visited us, and one of the ladies present prayed for me. She specifically prayed that I would have the courage to adopt new projects that would find a way to use the large library of TV programs we have produced. Her prayer was the confirmation we needed, and I immediately made up my mind to start this web channel!

Here at Arab Vision, we are excited about this new manner of reaching the Arab World with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every minute of the day, Arabs anywhere in the world will be able to watch our programs that testify to our Lord.

But now we need enough people to support this project. One option is to find 365 people who would donate \$186. That will cover the costs of the first year of this new channel. Please pray with us that the Lord will encourage many people to adopt this project!

Pray for our work in the Arab World; it is never without problems and stress. Pray that our Lord God will bless our Arab audiences and draw many people to Him through the Gospel of his Son.

In Christ,



Abu Banaat
Arab Vision International Director

From the Viewers



“I know that Jesus is Lord but the people around me think I am crazy for saying that. Please pray for me.”

Viewer from Dubai

“Can you please tell me more about fasting? And when should I fast?”

Viewer from Saudi Arabia

“Please pray that God would work on my husband’s heart and persuade him to return home to me.” **Viewer from Iraq**

“I had advanced cancer but I became a Christian and God healed me. I am amazed to find that there are other believers in my country!”

Viewer from Tunisia



Producing Now...

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

The final three episodes of this series of 13 documentaries are in production now, focusing on the rights of children with special needs; the rights young girls have against female genital mutilation; and the rights of young girls who become child brides.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERIES

These three TV documentaries are focusing on the problems of violence against women, young girls, and young boys. The production team is made up of local women who have been trained in TV production by Arab Vision over the last couple of years.



NORTH AFRICA PRODUCTIONS

The **Moroccan Testimony Series** is in full production as we go to press; it is scheduled to be completed this summer. Our North Africa team is also working on the **Berber Psalm Clips** series and a special interview program, **Stories from Different Nations**.



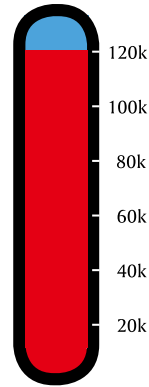
Your Help Needed

Thank You! Target Reached...

RAISING SUPPORT FOR OUR POPULAR TV SERIES FOR ARAB WOMEN

In the March 2008 issue of this newsletter, we shared the need to raise US \$120,000 by June 2009 in order to produce 80 episodes of the **Making a Difference** TV series for Arab Women. We are delighted to report that this target has now been reached! We want to say a special thank you to all the readers of this newsletter who contributed financially and prayed for it.

This program continues to reach many Arab women and entire households with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every month, over 2000 viewers are responding with their questions, prayer requests and testimonies of their newfound faith in Christ.



You can support a full day's broadcast on Arab Vision's Internet station for only US \$186. For more details, write to contact@arabvision.org.

...And Two More to Aim for

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP SPREAD THE GOSPEL IN THE ARAB WORLD

There are still more episodes to produce of **Making a Difference** during the second half of 2009. **We still need to raise a total of US \$23,000 for this purpose.** Can you help us by sponsoring an episode or two?

The second target is to raise the funds needed for the first year of our new **Internet Broadcast Project** outlined in this issue. Millions of Arab viewers will have the opportunity to watch our programs throughout the day, and unlike the high costs of satellite broadcasting, our Internet station will be streaming non-stop **Arabic Christian TV programs for only US \$186 per day.** Would you consider supporting one day of this exciting new project?

24/7 Arabic Christian TV on the Web (continued from page 1)

Popular sites, like YouTube, have become direct rivals to satellite and cable television. Internet broadcasts are also ideal to encourage the feedback and participation of the viewers. In fact, many viewers themselves become content providers with their contributions and video clips, taking the follow-up and interactivity with viewers to a whole new level.

There is a great need to create a dedicated website that provides live streaming Arabic Christian TV programs and establishes itself as a news portal for relevant Christian issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Arab Vision has taken on the task of developing and running this Internet 'station'.

We will utilize many of the programs we have already produced (over 1000 hours worth!), but also produce tailor-made programs with specific style and content for the Internet. One of the benefits of this project will be the empowering of young Arab Christians to easily be involved in this Internet-based media opportunity.

The Internet Broadcast project will proceed as follows:

- A 24/7 Christian program website will go online by the end of this year, offering a daily 4-hour block repeated during the 24 hours. Effectively, this means that anywhere in the world, Arabs can watch our programs at any time. The programs will be available as streaming video, and also as video-on-demand. From January 2010, we will also begin integrating newly produced programs into these Internet broadcasts.
- The second stage comes after we have had the Internet station up and running for a year. We will then begin to include live presenters as hosts of the station. This will greatly enhance the quality and attractiveness of the broadcasts.
- Finally, by the summer of 2011, we plan on introducing a news program especially geared for male and female Arab youth (16 to 21 years old). The news programs will feature the latest news from the Arab World, with some extra attention to church news and Christian comments on the news.

If you want to find out more about this project and are interested in supporting it, please e-mail us at contact@arabvision.org or write to our address on the back page of this newsletter.

Finally, Christian TV for Kurds

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The programs will be broadcast three times per week on one of the prominent Christian satellite stations with a footprint reaching into Turkey, Iran, and all of Europe where millions of Kurds live. This will be the first opportunity for millions of Kurds to see and hear the Gospel on TV and in their own language. Arab Vision also plans on having a follow-up team, utilizing members of different Kurdish congregations, to respond to the viewers who contact the program.

"This is an amazing opportunity to be a part of what God is doing among the Kurdish people," continues the project manager. "The openness of the Kurdish people at this point in time, and the fact that an indigenous Kurdish Church is beginning to take root in Kurdistan, gives this TV project the potential to be a significant tool in bringing many to Christ, and seeing them integrated into local churches."

The main production team made an exploratory visit to Northern Iraq in July 2008 to evaluate the feasibility of producing these programs. A crew of seven are now returning to select people to be involved in the programs and others interested in doing follow-up, and...to start filming!

As literature and church planting teams fan out across Northern Iraq, these TV programs have the potential to 'soften the ground' and prepare hearts for those who will be arriving in person to cities, towns and villages all across that region with the Gospel message. The programs will also highlight the reality that Kurds, from Muslim backgrounds, are actually becoming Christians and are openly and boldly willing to testify to their faith in Christ.



WHO'S COUNTING?

How much do you know about the Kurds? How many are they? And why is Arab Vision investing a significant proportion of its time and personnel to produce Christian TV programs in Kurdish?

The numbers below help answer some of those questions. Be sure to read the full article in this issue to find out more.

0 current Christian TV programs for Kurds

3 main dialects of the Kurdish language

30 Kurds to be involved in this production

40 million Kurds estimated worldwide

52 TV programs to be produced until 2010

2000 estimated number of Kurdish believers in Iraq

CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund

PO Box 21258
1505 Nicosia, Cyprus
E-mail: contact@arabvision.org
Website: 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

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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.

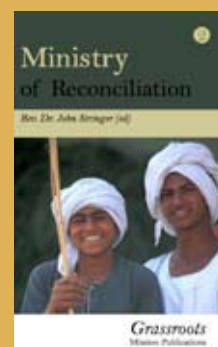
Interserve PO Box 231 Bayswater Victoria 3153 AUSTRALIA	Interserve 10 Huntingdale Blvd Scarborough, ON M1W 2S5 CANADA
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Interserve 5/6 Walker Avenue Wolverton Mill Milton Keynes, MK12 5TW UNITED KINGDOM	Interserve PO Box 10244 Auckland 1030 NEW ZEALAND
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Book Offer

The **Ministry of Reconciliation** is the second book in our *Grassroots Mission Publications* and focuses mostly on issues of reconciliation and mission in the Arab World.

For anyone with an interest in mission and the Church in the Muslim World, this is a very valuable book. The writers are all long-term mission practitioners in the Muslim World.



For more details, visit the website: www.grassrootsmissionpublications.blogspot.com. To order your copy, write to contact@arabvision.org.

**ARAB
VISION**

Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World