

Where are you?

Dear friends,

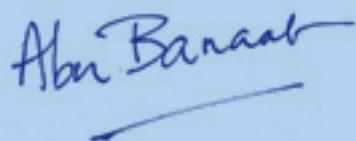
The first question God asked of fallen humankind was, 'Where are you?' (Genesis 3:9) He is interested in men and women, even those who are far away from Him. He seeks people. This love of God has become visible, especially in the incarnation of the Word of God in Jesus. Jesus said of himself: 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.' (Luke 19:10)

God stoops down to us; we do not have to climb up to him first. This means, among other things, that he speaks to us through his Word and we can pray to him in our own language. In Islam, this is impossible. Prayers must be done in Arabic, and only the Arabic Qur'an reveals the will of Allah.

As God speaks to people in their own language, where they are, Arab Vision produces its TV programs in the spoken languages of the people - in Egyptian Arabic, or Kurdish, or Moroccan Arabic. No wonder our audience responds enthusiastically to our message. God is truly willing to be with them!

'Where are you?' Our Lord is asking all of us what we have done with our life. Are we his witnesses? Please, consider what role you may play in regard to our evangelism in the Arab World. We need your support, and you can enable us to reach the Arab World, wherever you are!

In Christ



Abu Banaat
International Director

Christian faith explained for Muslims *TV series in Egyptian Arabic*

Why did Jesus Christ die on the cross? How can God be three-in-one? How can we pray to God? Why does the Bible contain some stories that show followers of God and Christ in a negative light?

These and other questions are answered in the 13 programs we have just shot in Egypt. Our production team went there for one week to shoot all programs. Our producer returned enthusiastically from the shooting because the Egyptian church leader who hosted the programs did a great job: 'He really explained our Christian faith in a manner that can be understood by all people in the Arab World. I am sure many Muslims will respond to this!'



We already know of one broadcaster who will certainly broadcast these programs all over the Arab World, and we expect at least three other broadcasters to do likewise. As these organizations have the habit of repeating their programs a few times, we are assured that these 13 programs will be shown at least ten times within a year from now.

We hope to finish editing the programs before the end of June; your prayers are requested for the finances of the editing, as not all money needed has been donated yet.

New programs for Arab women

We have recently finished the 365th program of in a very popular series of pastoral TV programs for women. The presenter is a warm Christian woman who knows how to touch the hearts of many. We have received thousands of responses for her programs each month. Many Arab women were drawn to being followers of Jesus Christ through these programs.



We have prayerfully decided that after so many programs, a change was important for us and for the presenter. We have therefore agreed with four new women from different Arab countries to continue the programs. This will be more of a team effort than the previous programs.

These four new presenters are great Arab Christian women; we look forward to the impact of their programs. This year we aim to produce 70 or 80 programs with them. Most of the funds needed for this have been promised, but pray with us for full funding, please.

"Thank you so much for your programs about who God really is; this has been of great benefit to me."

Muslim from Egypt

Breakthrough: Kurdish Christian TV

As you read this, the first Christian Kurdish TV programs are being aired all over the Arab World, Europe and North America. Never before could the millions of Kurds in Iraq, Turkey and Iran (beside the many millions scattered over the Arab World and elsewhere) watch the Gospel of Jesus Christ on their own television and in their own language. Today it is happening; this is truly a breakthrough.

We have produced 13 Kurdish TV programs in which former Muslims who now follow Jesus Christ, speak of the impact of the Gospel in their lives. They do this through testimonies, singing, and discussions about Bible stories. In the end of each program, a short Gospel message invites the audience to become followers of Jesus Christ.

The pastor who invites his Kurdish nation to turn to God through Jesus Christ is a fine spiritual man; his words touch the hearts of many.

The Kurds have been badly treated by the Arabs in the past decades; especially under the regime of Saddam Hussein they were brutally treated. This has turned many Kurds away from Islam, the religion of the Arabs. We are excited



that together with your help and prayers, we are now also able to present our Christian faith to them; many are showing a real interest and the Church of Christ is growing in Kurdistan.

Please, pray for our preparations for producing another series of 13 Kurdish programs. We plan to do this in October, God willing.

From the viewers

“Ask the Lord that he will forgive my sins as I was engaged and I got pregnant and then my fiancée left me; also pray that I will not fall into the same sin again.”

Young woman from Syria



“Pray for God to help me get rid of my drugs addiction.”

Muslim man from Kuwait

“Pray that my sons will accept the Lord Jesus as his personal savior.”

Mother from Sweden



“Ask God that my husband, who was once a believer but who is now unfaithful to God and to me, will return to the Lord.”

Woman from Egypt

“You are infidels and dogs. I spit on you; o apostates, your destiny is hell and your fate is the worst.”

Muslim from Egypt

who is probably not so happy with our programs



In defense of the rights of Arab children

Arab Vision produces three documentaries for defending the rights of children in the Arab World. These programs aim to awaken the Arab viewers to the plight of children in their countries. Our Lord God calls us in his Word to defend those who are powerless. (More on Arab children on page 4)



A primary goal of the series is to open the eyes of middle class and upper class Arabs to the needs of children, and to highlight the urgency of taking action. Individual Arab citizens can do much, for instance to demand change by cooperating with NGOs.

Media agencies and broadcasters can augment these efforts by giving space for issues of children's rights to be broadcast. The three programs will focus on:

- The evil of child labor. All Arab countries must outlaw this practice and work toward complete implementation. This issue includes the obligation to offer suitable education to all children.
- The right to protection from violence and exploitation inside the family. This includes legislation against beating, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and rape, and the implementation of these laws.
- The right to a youth. This topic includes speaking out against early marriage for girls. It also includes the need for education for girls and their right to make their own decisions.



FGM in Egypt

FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is an evil habit that is practiced on a wide scale in countries like Egypt, Sudan and Somalia. The Egyptian government has forbidden the practice, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 24.3 of the Convention states: "States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children."

Reports in Egypt say that over 90% of all girls in Egypt are still being 'circumcised' before they enter into puberty. To change this, more is needed than good legislation; societal conversion from this evil habit is needed. Through TV programs, we endeavor to open the eyes of parents so that they will not make their daughters undergo this bad habit.

Your help needed

EDITING OF 'CHRISTIAN FAITH EXPLAINED FOR MUSLIMS' (\$225)

These programs (see page 1) have been shot, but we need support for the editing. Each of the 13 programs needs about 12 hours of editing. This costs us \$225 per program. Can you take responsibility for one or more program?

30 HOURS OF AIRTIME FOR TRAINING KABYLE PASTORS IN ALGERIA (\$4500)

Last time we also mentioned this need. Algeria has seen a great revival in the past decades, but it lacks solid pastoral leadership in the churches. For broadcasting these programs we need to buy airtime.

24 HOURS OF INTERNET BROADCASTING (\$186)

Our TV programs are available on the Internet 24/7, reaching many people that would otherwise not be reached with the Gospel. This channel costs us \$186 per day. Please consider what you can do to reach the Arabs on the Internet.

Ask the Lord what you can do

'You have really made a great difference for the Kingdom of God in the Arab World', one Arab church leader told us last week. This humbles us and it makes us aware of how important our work is.

Will you help us to continue this ministry and to increase our impact on the whole Arab World?

Please pray and consider how you can support us. For easy payment methods, see page 4 of this newsletter.



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

Fate of children in Egypt

The vast majority of children in Egypt face a future that is not very bright. Is there any hope for progress? Most children go to state schools where educational levels are notoriously low; they dream of a good job but unemployment is rampant. Due to overpopulation social tension is tangible.

Life is grim, especially for girls. About 95% are subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) by the time they are 12 years old. They are taught that their sexuality is negative; they must hide in order not to arouse men. The majority cannot freely choose the man they will marry.

Children are usually treated as if their fathers own them. Girls have a double disadvantage, as their brothers tend to treat them as a lower species of mankind as well. This cultural concept leads to much abuse inside the family.

For Arab Vision, this is an important reason to regularly help Arab Christians to make TV programs that focus on the rights of children. (See project on page 3: In defense of the rights of Arab children) This strengthens the witness of the Church in Egypt as followers of Christ who defend those who have no audible voice otherwise.



St Francis Magazine

Arab Vision publishes the webzine www.stfrancismagazine.info. We do this together with mission organization Interserve. We began St Francis Magazine (SFM) because we want to support the development of a missiology that is suitable for the Arab World.

In the West, much is written about 'how to reach Muslims', but in many of those books, articles and courses the local churches in the Arab World are not mentioned. The idea that Western missionaries come to the Arab World without even wondering what local Christians think of their methods is something we do not understand. Only *together* we can fulfill the plans of God; only in Christian unity is the full love of God revealed.

SFM has become a platform for mission thinkers who want to proclaim the full counsel of God in the Arab World and who want to do this in unison with the Arab Church, based on a Christian theology that is consensual with the theology of the historic Church.

CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

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In the USA, checks can be sent directly to our American office. Arab Vision Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.

Arab Vision, Inc.
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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.

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Job Opening

Our company for distributing our TV programs and for producing evangelistic websites and graphic design is in need of a new Managing Director. This newsletter you hold is also produced by this company! We need a native English speaker for the job.

This is a challenging job for a dedicated Christian with stamina. He or she must be prepared to live and work in the Arab world. Leading a team of Arabs has its own cultural challenges.

On www.arabvision.org you can find out more about this job. Go to 'job openings' for the complete job description and for our personnel policies etc. You can mail contact@arabvision.org with more questions and for your application.

**ARAB
VISION**

Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World