

Grace

A few years ago the BBC invited "Songs of Praise" viewers to nominate their favourite Christmas carol. It was no surprise that "Silent Night" was there in the top ten. Its simple narration of the Christmas message and its peaceful melody created a carol that is utterly timeless. Rereading the words, I never fail to be inspired by the lines

*"With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth
Jesus, Lord, at your birth"*

Grace – God's Riches At Christ's Expense - is at the centre of Arab Vision's message to the Arab world. Our programmes are not confrontational. Instead, we show God's love for all the people of the Arab world through His grace. This is a theme developed by Steve Bell of Interserve in his excellent book "Grace for Muslims?" with its all-important sub title "The journey from fear to faith"

As we approach the end of AVUK's first year, it has been very encouraging to receive your messages and gifts in support of Arab Vision. This year has been very difficult for our production teams based in North Africa and elsewhere in the Arab world. Civil unrest, financial constraints and general uncertainty have combined to make this one of most difficult periods in our short history but the knowledge of your support provides them with great encouragement.

Back to "Silent Night", the original poem has some additional verses including the words:

*Abundant grace for our intent.
Jesus, salvation for all.
Jesus, salvation for all.*

Please join with us in supporting Arab Vision through your prayers and gifts so that God's abundant grace will be proclaimed across the Arab world.



Ian Sutherland
Arab Vision UK

Hope for Somalia

Where is the hardest place in the world to be a Christian citizen? North Korea, perhaps? Saudi Arabia? Try Somalia. There are thought to be no more than a thousand Christians in a resident population of 8 million people. Most of them live in total isolation, some are able to meet secretly in small house churches.

The Islamist Al-Shabaab militia, which controls most of southern Somalia, is dedicated to hunting them down. Al-Shabaab originated in 2003 as a youth militia during the civil war that continues to blight Somalia. Since its existence Al-Shabaab became more radicalized and from 2008 they are linked to Al-Qaeda. Their goal is to establish an Islamic state based on a strict-reading of sharia law, in which things like music, videos, football, and shaving are strictly forbidden. In their state there is no room for Christians.



As Arab Vision was approached recently to consider producing the first ever Christian TV programmes in the Somali language, we started discussing the needs and options with ministries already involved in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Somali people.

In partnership with those ministries, we are planning to produce 26 evangelistic programmes with a dedicated and mature Somali Christian,

and make them available to the already existing Internet ministries aiming at Somalis, and to (satellite) TV as well. We will thus be able to reach millions of Somalis in their own country, as well as in the diaspora.

Please, pray for this pioneering project, and consider partnering with us! You will find more details on page 3, under Your Help Needed.

Our God is merciful - From a viewer

It is amazing how a viewer of our programmes shared his desire to accept a merciful God in his heart and life through a simple text message. This is what he wrote to us:

"I was watching your programme by chance and they were talking about "Adam", then I heard some words that I never heard before, like: "Our God is a merciful God." I also heard that His desire for all people is to be saved and know the truth, but I don't know what to do because my brothers are Salafis and if they knew what I'm thinking of, they may kill me."

Our team responded to him by text message as well as asking him to contact them through email, to be able to help and support him.

Please pray with them that he will get back with more questions so that they can keep in touch and be able to pray for and with him.



Any hope for Eman?

She is only 29 years old but her life, marked with suffering, has deprived her from her youth. Eman was eight when she got circumcised in a horrific way. At the age of thirteen she was forced into marriage. The day before the wedding she took a large amount of sleeping pills. Her suicide attempt failed. When after six years she was still childless, her husband, 45 years older, divorced her.

Back with her family she soon received a marriage proposal from a widower. She got married, a forced marriage again. Her second husband turned out to already have two wives... Eman became pregnant. Her husband felt betrayed; he thought she couldn't have children. He tried to abort her child with violence. Eman's father took her home where she gave birth to her first son. At home Eman suffered under the tyranny

of her father. A second suicide attempt failed. Finally she married Hesham, to escape from her father. Hesham was good to her; with him she had another child. Her happiness ended suddenly when Hesham was diagnosed as HIV positive and had also infected Eman. After three months he died. Eman now lives in a one room flat and works at a clothes repair shop. Eman is Muslim but she gets professional help to deal with her traumatic experiences through a Christian counselling programme. Please pray for her!

Arab Vision portrays women like Eman in a series of TV programmes, in order to stand up for the right of a dignified life for Arab women. So many of them suffer from domestic violence. We are thankful that we can help by showing that these women are not alone and that help and support is available.



As you will understand, the lady in the picture is not Eman, and Eman is not her real name either

“From our viewers”



“I'm a Muslim and I live in Egypt. I believe in Jesus. I go to church secretly and I do not know how I can live with an Islamic identity... I live a hard life, but I will endure it for the Lord Jesus. I need advice and guidance.”

Name known by follow-up-team

“I'm a songwriter. I find it hard to describe my testimony. I dreamed of Christ and He spoke to me. I don't know how to describe it...”

A man from Egypt

“I suffered from strong feelings of low self-esteem when I contacted you for help. You sent me very helpful articles and it was so good to talk to you as well! It has made a big big difference in my life. Also I enjoy the great topics in your programmes!” female from the Middle East



Relevant for today's church: lessons of Paul

Today, the churches in the Arab world face problems similar to the 1st century when the apostle Paul wrote his letters to the early church. Marginalisation, oppression and persecution were a daily reality, as they are for the church today. Struggles in daily church life are not new neither. Our series of bible study programmes 'Message from Paul's



letters to you' in which Paul's theology is discussed, is mainly focussed mainly on discipleship and becoming mature Christians. Two highly appreciated bible teachers present biblical principles like sin, grace and salvation, and the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as principles for daily Christian life. Paul's teachings, his warnings and words of encouragement are presented clearly in the context of the early church and the Old

and New Testament as a whole. Our producers, not used to this type of contextual bible study themselves, learned a lot from producing the series. We hope and pray that the programmes will help many Arab Christians grow in their faith, to be blessed and be a blessing for the people around them. The series is still in the editing stage (39 episodes) and will be broadcast early 2014. Please pray for this stage of the production.



“Simple words can make a big change”

An ambitious young man with a living faith has joined our follow-up team. Adel is responsible for stimulating comments and discussions on the Facebook pages of our TV programmes. According to Adel, Facebook is a great tool to spread the Gospel. “With little effort we can reach thousands.”

Adel is also involved in posting new information on the Facebook pages and answering phone calls from our viewers. While we were talking, he received two phone calls. The first call was from a lady who had called previously to request prayer for her mother, who was about to undergo eye surgery. Now she called to say that her mother's eyes were healed. The doctors called it 'a miracle of God'!

Adel feels he is called to this important work. “God wants me to do this right now. I pray to God every time before work. I feel it as a big responsibility to give good advice to people who call with all sorts of questions. Simple words, from God, not my own words, can make a big change in someone's life.”

Your Help Needed

Urgent! Camera - £1300 still needed

In our previous newsletter we requested funding for the editing of 39 bible study programmes, for the purchase of a new camera, and for storage capacity for our productions. We received donations for each request!

For the new camera we still need an additional amount of £1300 – so please consider a donation to support the actual filming of our programmes.



A one-hour Christmas TV programme - £3000 needed

There is so much despair and violence in the Middle East these days! And so much material support needed... More than 2 million Syrians have become refugees, many of them left a completely destroyed house behind. In Egypt tens of thousands of people are without a job, and poverty has become striking. In the midst of misery we want to testify to the light and hope and mercy that our Lord Jesus Christ brings to a world in despair.

This Christmas we want to produce a one-hour TV programme in which the message of peace and hope will be told by many Arab voices from several denominational backgrounds and nationalities. Please send your donation within the next few days!

Please visit our
website
www.arabvision.org
to check out how to make
your donation online.

Arab 'Facebook-generation' expressing themselves



The driving force behind the revolutions that started in 2011 existed mainly of Arab youth. This 'Facebook-generation' is committed to change their societies. They have dreams and visions for their countries. Arab Vision supports the initiatives of these young people to express their ideas. How can you make a meaningful video using a camera, and how, using a mobile phone? Basic principles are being taught to youth to help them express themselves and present the topics that they deem important, for their own future, and the future of their country. Is this an eye-opener? Maybe not for most of you, but in many Arab countries it is!

CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
is registered as a charity in Cyprus
email: contact@arabvision.org
website: www.arabvision.org

In the United Kingdom, you can send your gift direct to our bank:
Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc
Account: Arab Vision
Sort code: 30-97-24
Account no: 49415760

Alternatively, cheques can be sent to:
Arab Vision
Room S0078
120 Kingston Road
Wimbledon
London SW19 1LY

In the USA, checks can be sent directly to:
our American office. Arab Vision Inc. is a
501(c)3 organization.
P.O. Box 110354
Dallas TX 75011

You may also
**donate by paying through
our website** www.arabvision.org. This is a
secure payment facility.

In Canada, 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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In the Spotlight: Basim

Basim is a member of our management team in the Middle East. After having worked for more than ten years as a manager at a restaurant chain, he chose to start working for Christian ministries, leaving the secular business world. For five years Basim worked with one of the Bible Societies in the region. Together with a colleague he developed a project to teach children about the origin of the Bible. "The Quran is part of our culture in which we are being raised, and considered as the word of God. You are not supposed to think about it, or try to understand the texts. I believe our project was essential as it taught children how to read, understand and live the Bible, the true word of God." During his work at the Bible Society Basim realized that modern media can be used as a powerful tool in communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ; in 2009 he joined Arab Vision. "I don't have the creative skills that film directors or editors have, but I do like networking." And that is essential in his current job in which he manages the crew and builds relationships with partners and donors.

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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
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ian@arabvision.org*