

## Encouraged

A kind gentleman called our office the other day. 'I read your newsletter and I want to send a donation, what is the best way to do that? By the way, what exactly does it mean, Arab Vision? (being Dutch and of a generation that doesn't speak as much English as our younger people, he didn't know).

After having explained that Arab Vision has the meaning of us having a vision to reach the Arabs with the Gospel, using the medium television to help them getting the right vision on the Gospel, he told me firmly: 'Please continue, don't stop this great ministry! Be blessed!'

A few days later I found his donation in our bank account.

Our work in the Middle East is often hard and complicated, so much going on in the region is discouraging, so many people fleeing violence and death threats... and being killed.

But for more than 18 years we could reach huge numbers of Arabs with the principles of the Gospel - people who started to think about Christianity, about following Jesus Christ, about contributing to more justice in their society, and speak out for the weak and oppressed.

We saw people come to Christ, we were able to encourage numerous Christians and pray for them; we equipped (young) believers with biblical education, and strove for more justice in societies with our TV programs.

We are encouraged by the faithfulness, grace, and wisdom of our triune Lord God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If there is any hope for you and me, there is hope for the Syrians, Tunisians, Lebanese and Yemenis. Please stand with us in prayer and giving!

*Umm al Farieq*

Umm al Farieq  
International director Arab Vision

## Atheism - a new trend?

Not that long ago, the concept of atheism was unknown in the Middle East and North Africa. In many, if not all, countries it is customary to record someone's religion on the ID card. Often that indication is hardly necessary as a clear distinction is being made between typically Islamic and Christian names. 'No religion' is simply not an option.

Since the Arabic revolutions this is changing, both with Muslims as Christians. A quick look at Facebook will tell you that there are groups like 'The Egyptian Association for Atheists', 'Saudi Feminist Atheists', and 'Tunisian Atheists'.

Individual students like the Egyptian Karim Mohammed al-Banna openly express their choice for atheism.

Therefore he was sentenced to three years imprisonment in November 2014. It's blasphemous to have questions and doubts about a religion and doctrine which should be followed without criticism.



Arab Vision advocates freedom of religion. Our TV programs are aimed at making people think and having them make their own choices: to believe, to change religion or to stop believing. In a new series of programs we are preparing, the spotlight will be on families who have to deal with young people who have doubts, relatives who openly call themselves atheists, parents and other members of the family who have no idea how to relate to this. Nobody is used to have an open conversation about believing or not believing, and this is the purpose of the programs: to open up the conversation, to give room for questions and doubts. No ready-made answers, but a search for the essence of faith together.

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## HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Our follow-up team received a phone call from Dahab\*, who is a Christian. Previously she used to attend church regularly, but she gave up after she had married a wealthy man who is not a Christian. Soon after their wedding she discovered that he was a drug addict. He became aggressive and violent towards her and locked her alone inside their flat. According to him, he gave her everything she needed, so she had no reason to ask for anything else.

Eventually, she escaped to her mother's home where she happened to watch our "Hope for Tomorrow" program. She was astonished to see her story echoed in the story of Neveen on the program. She felt that this was the God's voice speaking to her. She decided not to give up on her husband yet, but to start praying for him.



## MEDIA FOR CHANGE

# A precious gem from Algeria



We are happy with a series of testimonies on video of North African Christians with a Muslim background, which was made available to us by a friendly cameraman. We are going to watch all of the testimonies and produce a beautiful series. The interviews are in various languages and dialects from Tunisia and Algeria. Here is an impression of Johara's testimony, an Algerian lady. Her name means 'gem'.

*"When I was 4 years old I had an accident and my whole body got very badly burned. There was only a very small chance that I would survive and I was sent to France for treatment. When I returned home I was too scared to show myself. I just stayed in the house and cried.*

*Slowly I started to go out again, but people stared at me and it was very embarrassing. I started to wear the 'jilbab', to cover my body and to please God. I looked for God in Islam; I didn't want to lose His favour. I found it very difficult to accept myself; I was always crying and depressed.*

*When I was 21 years old I moved to a Kabyle town; my roots are Kabyle. That is where I went to university and I met a Christian girl. Once I attended a debate between a Christian girl and a Muslim girl and I heard that God wants to have a heart to heart relationship with us.*

*But I was still depressed and three times I tried to commit suicide. The third time I wrote a letter to God: "Please God, if you exist, reveal yourself to me!"*

*I remembered the words of the Christian girl that God wants to have a heart relationship with us. I started to read the Gospel and I found the word love again and again in the book; a love that gives rest to the soul.*

*I asked God for certain signs and He really took my requests seriously; I was so impressed. He revealed Himself to me several times, the third time in my dream. Several people appeared to me in my dream and they told me: "This is the right way. Follow it!" I woke up with such a joy, extraordinary, supernatural!*

*I started going to church with my friend from university. The people there looked so happy, so alive. I found such joy in the worship and I just kept praying, "Touch me, Lord, touch me!" And He did! After a while I was baptised and my burns were healed. My whole life was turned upside down; my heart was changed. I started to learn to follow Jesus and be faithful in service.*

*God promised me that He would take care of me like a precious gem. I was a desperate woman, full of misery and depression, but He turned me into a gem. When I have my difficult moments, I go to Him in prayer and I feel that I find my peace again."*

Will you pray for this project and consider sending a contribution to make the production possible?

## From our Viewers



Much of our follow-up work is done via Facebook (FB) where viewers can leave their comments and the team can get in touch with those who have questions. Here are a few situations which our team is dealing with. Please pray for them as they need much wisdom to be able to answer a great variety of questions.

**Sabah\*** expressed her love for our FB page and especially the deep questions it raises. She said that most people in this region have questions about religious issues that are very difficult. She loves the short videos about raising children. We suggested she read the Bible and we sent her a link to a video-clip which explains the message of the Bible. She has begun to ask questions like, "What do you mean by saying that Jesus is the Son of God?" We are continuing these conversations with her.



**Yunus\*** is a Muslim who has been in touch with the follow up team through private messaging on FB. He is a photographer who sometimes went into churches for his work and wanted to know more. He showed a desire to read the Bible so we suggested that he begin with John's Gospel. After reading it he expressed how much joy and love he saw in the Christian faith compared with the violence he sees in Islam. We suggested that he carefully read the Sermon on the Mount and he has been asking questions and discussing this with us. We continue to be in touch with him.

\* For privacy reasons we have changed people's names. Most of the pictures don't portray the people we write about.

## Atheism - a new trend? – continued

Where Arabic youth who have grown up as Christians have decided that they are done with the standard answers church and parents are giving and decide that they will follow the trend to call themselves atheists, it is incredibly important that parents and church create the necessary space to talk about these doubts, questions and unbelief. Many Arab Christians are unfortunately not able to have that conversation and they are not equipped to explain the Biblical truths as their own conviction and experience.

## Speaking the truth in love

To answer questions of Christians who are in doubt and Muslims who are searching and to provide room for conversation, is the purpose of a series we will also produce this year, consisting of programs of 3 minutes, during which Biblical truths are discussed in an inviting and challenging way. We'll broadcast this series via satellite TV and YouTube and will discuss them via Facebook.

## Points of praise

We are in dire need of new video and editing equipment, as dust and heavy usage have taken their toll, and we are grateful for some promises to help us buy new cameras and editing equipment with which we not only produce our own programs, but we can also rent it out and provide sister-organizations with training. If you are interested in participating in this project, please write us at [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org), to ask for specifics.

✂ Since we started our ministry in 1997, we have produced thousands of hours of video, including hundreds of Christian video clips, testimonies, (pastoral) programs for women, bible-study, marriage and family, teenager and kids' programs. We recently got a donation to employ someone to organize our vast video library, including all (raw) footage, so that we can re-use our precious material, especially developing clips and short programs for social media campaigns. We could also buy DVD space to digitize and store the material.

✂ TV production is not cheap, you might think. However, throughout the years we have experienced how often our programs have been broadcast, re-broadcast, re-edited and used for the Internet, etc. We just sent 50 Christian music clips to one of our broadcasting partners. These clips were produced over the past 15 years and are tokens of God's love and faithfulness. Please pray with us that they will continue to impact many people's lives.

✂ With our partner *Open Doors* we have produced four seasons of powerful testimonies (104 stories) of Arab women from a variety of countries in the region (and in Europe). We are grateful that many of these stories have now been dubbed in Farsi, to bless women in the Farsi speaking world.



✂ Also with the support of *Open Doors* we could develop our follow-up team to more professional levels, reaching many more people through Facebook now. It is a challenge to keep up with ongoing (technical) developments in social media applications - if you are a pro in this and want to help us, let us know!

✂ Above and beyond all this, we are grateful for our Lord's faithfulness to us: *"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion"; says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"* (Lamentations 3.22-24 NKJV)

## Can you help

### Challenging bible teaching – Apologetics 2x €7500 or US\$8500

We just received the news from two partners who informed us that they are unable to fund the two evangelistic bible-teaching program series. Please prayerfully consider helping us to produce them. We need €7500 or US\$ 8500 for each of them. For more info, see *Atheism- a new trend*, and *Speaking the truth* on page 1 and 3.

### Teenagers on adventure - Growing strong in Christ €6000 or US\$7500

We have almost finalized our exciting Quest in Egypt; a contest between two teams of teenagers, having loads of fun through games, sharing at the campfire, and learning more about their identity in Christ. Being open and vulnerable is not something that comes naturally.



We still need €6000 or US\$7500 for the final editing. This series will be broadcast as interactive programs; teenagers all over the Middle East will be able to download an App to be part of the adventure. Please pray that many teens will participate and become excited about living more outspoken as kids of the Kingdom.

### General donations are most welcome! Any gift will be spent to improve our ministry

Please consider giving a general gift; we will use it for helping our staff developing their professional and personal skills - one of the key values of our ministry. Also we would love to raise our local salaries in the Middle East, as costs of living keep going up dramatically, and we haven't been able to keep up with those developments.

## Personal note and request of Umm al-Farieq, International Director

I'd like to share my personal situation with you. In February I was diagnosed with malignant breast cancer. In the mean time the necessary tests have been done and I have started with various therapies (chemo- and immunotherapy). It's heavy going, but fortunately I've had the first few treatments and a MRI-scan will be made on 1 June, which will show whether the treatment is effective. This will be followed by another phase of 18 weeks of chemotherapy.

I would like to ask your prayers for my healing, directly from God's hand, or God's hand via the doctors. I'd also like you to pray for my family, my husband and our four children with their partners.

Also for the ministry of Arab Vision I would like to ask your special prayers. Fortunately colleagues can take over many of my tasks. On days that I am feeling well, I continue to work as International director of Arab Vision, especially in the field of leadership and fundraising. You would tremendously encourage us by sending an extra donation for our strategic mission work in the Middle East and North Africa. Would you prayerfully consider adopting part of a project or sending a donation for the general funds? You can do this securely via Paypal on [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org). Thank you so much!

## 30 days of prayer for the Islamic world



The Islamic month of Ramadan is this year from 18 June to 17 July. During that month Muslims around the world are expected to abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. The fast is also meant to be a period to refrain from evil actions and thoughts and for spending more time in prayer and reading the Qur'an.

Since 1993, millions of Christians around the world have been praying specifically for the Muslim world during these 30 days of Ramadan, using a prayer guide. This contains daily readings that focus on various topics, people groups and geographical areas of the Islamic world; each day's subject focus is followed by prayer points. There is also a special edition for children. See for more information: <http://pray30days.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/30daysprayer>

## Now on TV:

**Kingdom sat:** [www.almalakootsat.com](http://www.almalakootsat.com)

- Light on the Bible; series of Bible study programs
- The truth about my faith; topics like salvation, the Trinity, etc.

**Miracle channel:** [www.miraclechannel.com](http://www.miraclechannel.com)

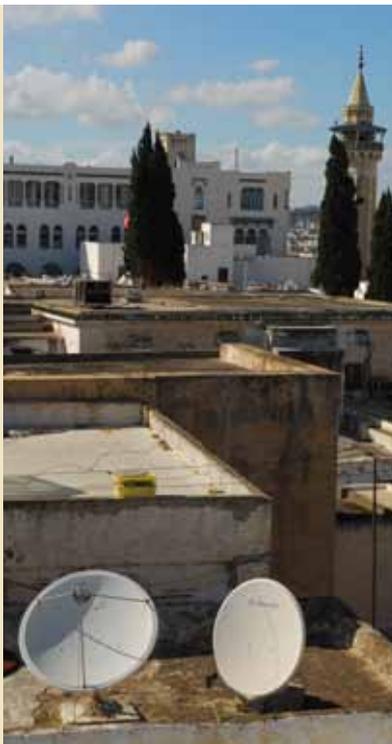
- A series of portraits of Christian women in the Arab World.
- Discipleship program
- Hope for tomorrow; a series about domestic violence
- A series with dramatized testimonies

**SAT-7;** [www.sat7.org](http://www.sat7.org)

- A program for women about marriage, FGM, etc.

**Channel North Africa:** [www.cna-sat.org](http://www.cna-sat.org)

- My Life (Kabyle/Arabic)
- Parables (Kabyle/Arabic)
- Life Stories (Arabic)



## CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

### Arab Vision Trust Fund

is registered as a charity in Cyprus  
email: [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)  
website: [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org)

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

Arab Vision  
P.O. Box 110354  
Dallas TX 75011  
Arab Vision Inc. (USA)  
P.O. Box 110354  
Dallas TX 75011

You may also donate by paying through our website [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org). This is a secure payment facility.

Bank of America  
Branch: 11868 Preston Rd, Dallas TX 75230  
Account name: Arab Vision Inc  
Account no: 004782094990  
Routing no: 111000025  
Federal EID no:  
48-1270313

**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.

Interserve PO Box 231 Bayswater Victoria 3153 AUSTRALIA	Interserve 10 Huntingdale Blvd Scarborough, ON M1W 2S5 CANADA
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Interserve  
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NEW ZEALAND

If you would like to  
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PayPal on our website  
[www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org)

Would you like to receive  
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or write to us at  
[contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)

ARAB  
VISION

Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV and internet in the Arab World