



Mary's faith and obedience

Each year, Arab Vision produces a Christmas series for broadcasting across the Arab World. This year is no exception and our theme will be the individuals who played a part in the birth of the Saviour of the world.

Foremost is his mother Mary, who, despite her rather important role in the proceedings, often seems to play second fiddle to the shepherds and the Magi. It is too easy to overlook Mary's complete trust and obedience to God. Here was a young woman living in a conservative society who could quietly accept the promise of an angel that, as a virgin, she would conceive and give birth to the Son of God.

"I am the Lord's servant" Mary answered "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38 NIV

We can see parallels with the Middle East today. A woman is forced by a foreign invader to make an uncomfortable journey while heavily pregnant. She gives birth in insanitary conditions. Later the life of her son is threatened and the family flees to Egypt. Even when they return, they fear the tyrant's successor and move back to Nazareth rather than Joseph's ancestral home of Bethlehem.

Yet in all this Mary's faith never wavered. Some 30 years later at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Cana, she could simply say to the wedding servants *"Do whatever he (Jesus) tells you."* John 2:5 NIV

This Christmas, many of our viewers will be displaced families, fearing for their future. Please pray that they may be blessed and encouraged by Mary's faith and obedience.

Umm al Farieq

Umm al Farieq
International director
Arab Vision

Christmas: a cloud of witnesses

The Christmas story is about Jesus' incarnation, his sacrifice for mankind starting with a little baby in a manger. Arab Vision is preparing a series on the Christmas story, featuring the cloud of witnesses around the event of Christ's birth. Think about Mary, how she was chosen by God to become Jesus' mother; she had such an extraordinary calling in life. Look at Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, who chose to be obedient to God, against his own feelings and convictions when he found that Mary was pregnant. What was and is the role of the heavenly angels? And what can we learn from John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin



who humbled himself to point at the person of Christ and give him all the credits? What is the true meaning of peace? The world is craving for genuine peace. These and other people and concepts that are part of the Christmas story will be covered in a series of 15 episodes, to be produced in December and broadcast between Western and Eastern Christmas (24 December - 7 January). [continued on page 3](#)



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

لأنَّهُ يُوَلَّدُ لَنَا وَوَدَّ وَنُعْطَى ابْنًا، وَتَكُونُ الرِّيَّاسَةُ عَلَيْهِ كَتِفِهِ، وَيُدْعَى اسْمُهُ عَجِيْبًا، مُشِيرًا، إِلَهًا قَدِيرًا، أَبًا أَبَدِيًّا، رَئِيسَ السَّلَامِ. إشعياء 9: 6

ARAB
VISION

Arab Vision wishes you a blessed Christmas season!



From our viewers:

'Oh Lord, change me as you have changed many!' Lidia wrote to us, as a response to an episode of our program Kingdom Person



20 Years of Arab Vision in a nutshell

By 1997, several Christian broadcasters had started satellite TV channels, dramatically increasing the amount of available airtime. Abu Banaat, the founder of Arab Vision, was adamant that Christian programs should not only be high quality but produced in the context and language of the viewers, rather than dubbing or subtitling Western programs, not least because of the high levels of illiteracy in the Arab World.

Starting small with a production house in the Middle East, we grew fast, were the leading producer of Christian TV programs for years, and trained people in all aspects of production. Starting with a small production house in the Middle East, Arab Vision quickly became the leading independent producer of Christian TV programs in the Arab World. In a typical year, we provide our broadcasting partners with some 200 programs. These partners include SAT-7, Miracle Channel, Nour Sat, Hayat TV, Malakoot TV and a number of other channels. We started a production house in Khartoum and later produced programs in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, at the same time as producing for and in the Middle East. Over the years our programs have covered 11 dialects of Arabic and 6 non-Arabic languages spoken in the region. Arab Vision's TV programs played a part in the wave of conversions in Algeria among the Kabyle people and we produced the very first TV series in the Tunisian dialect.

Our follow-up ministry has grown dramatically with our team handling up to 3000 per month. With the growth of social media and options to 'broadcast' our programs through the internet, we are developing both our production techniques and our follow-up methods to make maximum use of these new media.

The team at Arab Vision feel blessed. We have had the opportunity to reach so many Arabs in the Arab World and beyond. We have also had major concerns. We have been affected by the worldwide economic crisis and by the revolutions

in the Middle East and North Africa. We have lost our companies in Sudan and Morocco, we have survived a painful reorganisation and we have always been under pressure from the authorities and security agencies. Through our programs we have always challenged people to think for themselves, to take major decisions about belief and religion based on a better knowledge and understanding. We have presented the Gospel of love, grace, justice in many ways and to many different audiences.

In February 2017, Arab Vision will be celebrating the 20th year of its media ministry. We are developing a compilation of program flashes covering those 20 years, including music and interviews, to celebrate God's faithfulness to our ministry and to the people we have reached.

Media for Change has been our motto, and still is. Please pray for us that we will be able to continue reaching out to Arabs worldwide in 2017 and beyond. Please support us financially with a one-off or a regular donation. Visit our website www.arabvision.org to find more about Arab Vision, to read testimonies of viewers and to watch episodes of our programs.



Christmas: A cloud of witnesses “continued”

Each episode will cost \$1,500 to produce and a further \$1,500 is needed for the vital follow-up ministry during and following the broadcasts. The follow-up will be done through social media, and mobile telephone.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters we already have funds to cover the first 11 episodes. Could you help us with the \$7,500 needed for the final episodes and the follow-up ministry? Could your church contribute towards an episode? Or even a whole episode? From previous years we know that the Christmas season is an excellent time to both encourage the tens of thousands of Christians who are now refugees inside or outside the Middle East, and reach out to millions of Arabs with the love and passion of our triune God.

Young people hold the key

The majority of the population in many Arab countries is under 25. Do young people feel they matter in church? Do they feel they can have a say in how the churches view a Christian lifestyle, communication with God and being called by God? Or are they considered too young and too immature - by the Arab church leadership and other adults?



Arab Vision is developing a TV series about young people in the Bible and how they were used in God's plans how they were called and called, taken seriously. The programs will show the great impact on their own and other people's lives. The programs will also apply the stories and lessons learned to daily family life. Also see 'Your help needed!'

Last year we produced and broadcast the series for teenagers 'The Quest in Egypt'. This was an adventurous series that showed teams competing with each other in games and challenges and sharing their lives in the evenings sitting around a camp fire. The main theme was "Finding your identity in Jesus Christ". We are following up this series up through campaigns on Facebook, inviting children of this age group to start sharing their lives and their daily struggles.

An example is this question from Basim, a 17-year old boy from Egypt:

'My friends at college are all Muslims and they ask me difficult questions about the incarnation and the trinity and I cannot answer all their questions. I really love God. Can you give me advice?'

Our follow-up worker talked with him and took time to explain these rather complicated concepts. He was delighted by the advice he received which he found very helpful in his conversations with his Muslim fellow students.

Go tell it on the mountains - Testimonies from North Africa

Ten years ago, in December 2006, we produced the first Christian TV programs in Tunisian Arabic, a teaching series which responded to some of the frequently asked questions from Muslim viewers. We did that from a Tunisian perspective and openly showed that there were Christians in that country. Over the years we have produced several series in Tunisian and Moroccan Arabic, as well as in the Kabyle language, spoken in the mountains of Algeria. Christians in the country were greatly encouraged to see other North African believers and Muslims were surprised to hear the Gospel in the language of their hearts. Many of them came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we are in the process of editing a series of testimonies from North African people who witnessing to the encounters they have had with Christ and how this has changed their lives. Some of them speak Kabyle, others Algerian Arabic or Tunisian Arabic, others speak French.



Your help needed

A cloud of witnesses

Christmas programs - time sensitive!

Needed: **\$1500 per episode,**

\$1500 for follow-up for six months.

See the article on page 1 for more information on this series.

Come let us reason together

- 26 x 15 minutes

Challenging apologetics series by a Lebanese scholar and pastor

With drama segments to be specifically suitable for Facebook. Please contact us for the full project proposal. Needed: **\$1350 per episode.**

Youth hold the key

- 13 x 10 minutes **\$1500 per episode**

The leading theme is the encounter young people have with God and the impact of that encounter on them. An encounter with God and his plans for our young people today will change their lives and their future, and, possibly, the future of complete societies.



One is an Algerian lady, called Johara. She shares the following

"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!

Women: inferior or dignified?

In 1C Middle Eastern society was as patriarchal as it is today. Women lived in special quarters and were not allowed to leave the house unless accompanied by a male family member. Women could not socialise with male guests, nor could they share a meal with males at the same table. Society accepted the fact that women were, in every conceivable way, inferior to men.

Jesus treated women differently; He treated them with respect, gave them dignity and encouraged them to listen to His teaching. We believe that Christ's life is an excellent model for Arab men and women to follow.

The first part of each program is a drama sketch, portraying the situation of a woman in the Old or New Testament. The second part is a thought-provoking talk by various Jordanian Christian women.



On our YouTube channel (in the playlist Women in the picture), you can watch an episode with English subtitles on Martha, who is happily cooking and chatting in the kitchen, and another one on Abigail, who is wracking her brains, trying to come up with a good solution to save her family from certain death.



A number of programs in our series *Women in the Bible* have been broadcast already. A mother contacted our follow up team after she had watched some episodes and asked them to pray for her son. She said, "Please pray for my son; he has trouble to see God as a good God, he does not understand why certain problems happen and blames God. I am very sad about this and I would like him to see God's goodness."

Laila's testimony

This is the abbreviated but moving story of Laila's flight from Iraq, accompanied by her young daughter. They were smuggled to Greece where in the street, someone invited her to church and she became a Christian. They then travelled on to the Netherlands where they were finally reunited with Laila's husband. He was still a Muslim and this led to tensions in their marriage. However, Laila stood firm in her faith and was greatly encouraged by watching Christian TV programs in Arabic. Praise God, Laila's husband became a Christian too. A long story of struggle in many ways, cut short for you to pray for situations like this, and also to pray for believers in places in Italy and Greece, where so many refugees have landed. Pray for boldness to share our Saviour Jesus Christ. Would we be that bold ourselves?

Pray for new believers in our countries, and welcome them.

Catalogue of all our programs - available soon!

Almost 20 years of Christian TV programs, categorised in a catalogue. We will soon make the catalogue available on our website. Most of the programs are still available and can be ordered on a dvd or usb stick soon.



CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
is registered as a charity in Cyprus
email: contact@arabvision.org
website: 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 Inc. (USA)
1101 S.Broadway St. #120
Carrollton, Texas 75006

You may also **donate by paying through our website** 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.

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If you would like to make an online donation, you can do so via PayPal on our website www.arabvision.org

Would you like to receive 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 or write to us at contact@arabvision.org