



Issue 37, September 2016

ARAB  
VISION

## Running the race

As I write this column, the Olympic Games have just finished. The medals have all been awarded, the closing ceremony is over and the Olympic flag has been handed over to Tokyo for the 2020 games. For the armchair sports enthusiast it was exhausting, never mind the athletes for whom it was the culmination of four years training, preparation and single-minded dedication. To have a chance of winning a precious medal they needed to be totally focussed and committed.

In Hebrews chapter 12, the writer uses a long distance race as a metaphor for the Christian life and, like a marathon runner, the reader is encouraged to persevere. The 1st century Christians were constantly at risk of persecution. The writer firstly reminds them of the Old Testament heroes of faith who, without knowing Jesus, trusted God, then rises to a wonderful finale:

*"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"*

(NIV Hebrews 12:2)

As I read these words, my thoughts go out to the church in the Arab World. Just as the early Christians were persecuted, today in the Arab World Christians routinely face discrimination and persecution. Occasionally, it features in news bulletins in the West but mostly it goes unreported. A key part of Arab Vision's mission is to support the church in the Arab World. Programs such as *Kingdom Person* (see page 4) teach biblical principles and provide guidance for day-to-day living.

Please help the church in the Arab World to "run the race" and to persevere - take a look through our newsletter and select one or two topics for your prayers. Thank you.

*Umm al Farieq*

Umm al Farieq  
International director Arab Vision

## From the heart of our ministry...

In December 2006 we published our first newsletter about the work of Arab Vision (you can read it on our website) although we had been producing programs since 1997.



In that first newsletter Abu Banaat, the founder, wrote: *"We have a good story to tell! The good news that many Muslims from all over the Arab World respond positively to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each month, over 2500 Arabs respond to our programs. Dozens of them tell us that they have been found by God through the Lord Jesus Christ through our programs."*

Today we continue to share that good story with Muslims and Christians. Many of them respond to our programs, especially now that most programs have their own Facebook page. The follow-up aspect has always played a major role in our ministry. We aim to reach people's hearts; we want to be available for prayer, provide a listening ear and a helping hand when needed.

Our follow-up team is exceptionally dedicated to this ministry and to the people who contact them. Every day they are aware that they need much wisdom. We are grateful that we are able to share some of the stories of people who respond to our programs in this newsletter. (For privacy reasons we have changed names and left out some specific details.)

God continues to touch people's lives and we thank Him for the privilege of serving Him in the Arab World. Please pray for our follow-up team at the heart of our ministry and if possible, adopt them financially as well.

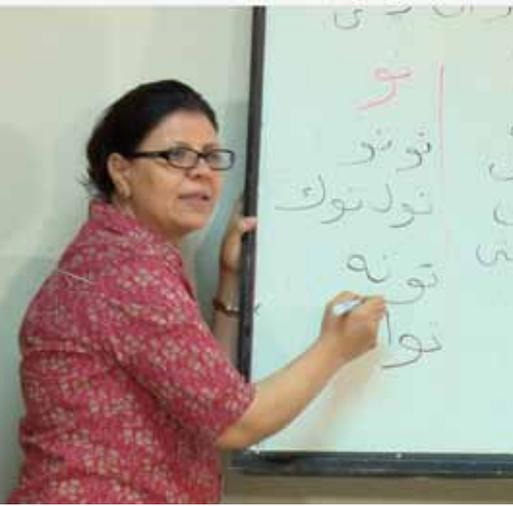
## From our viewers:

### Touched by Jesus' love and mercy

*Just a couple of words* is a series of 3-minute apologetic programs in which Biblical truths are discussed in an inviting and challenging way. Yaser got to know Jesus through watching Christian television and from our program *Just a couple of words* he learned that God is able to do whatever He wants to do, even to the point of becoming man. He discovered a new meaning of eternal life and learned that the Bible is true. When he read John 8 and saw how Jesus dealt with the woman who was caught in adultery, he was deeply touched by Jesus' love and mercy for sinners.

Now he has a strong desire to be baptised but many churches are afraid to baptise him as he is from a Muslim background. Yaser asked us to pray that his wife will also have an encounter with the Lord Jesus.





# Literacy for Change

Illiteracy is still widespread in Egypt and other countries in the Arab World. Our partner, *Good message for all*, has years of experience in teaching people how to read and write. They provide classes to the poorest of the poor. We decided to support their ministry by filming their classes. The filming resulted in almost 7 hours of video. The material will be cut into 15-minute clips and will be used as training materials, but it can also be used as a self-teaching tool by people who are illiterate.

The learning method is based on daily life. The teachers do not use the usual method of repeating and memorizing, but they use topics from daily life, such as social, economic and political issues, basic human rights, and other important issues in life. The letters of the alphabet are introduced and built into the discussions about the topics.

Not only are people taught to read and write but they also learn their basic rights in a society where the poor are regularly oppressed.

## Listen to Nour and Sara

Nour and Sara both watched our program *Hope for Tomorrow* about domestic violence and sexual harassment. Both of them felt incredibly lonely and finally decided to get in touch with our follow-up team.

Nour had left her family in the province and came to the city to study at the university. Her mother had asked Nour's uncle, whom she trusts completely, to be responsible for her. That trust, however, is totally misplaced; the uncle is addicted to drugs and sex and abused Nour sexually.

She cannot share this with anyone in her family as her mother would never believe Nour. She doesn't know who can help her, but watching the program encouraged her to pick up the phone and talk to us. Although she doesn't know how we can help her, she really appreciates the team's support. Please pray with us for Nour that her situation will change and she can find a place to live in safety.

Sara also watched our program *Hope for Tomorrow*; she feels desperate and hates everyone, including herself. She feels absolutely worthless and wants to die.

Sara decided to call our number and we talked to her. We encouraged her to accept herself, to see the positive things in her life. We know it is not easy for her, but we promised that we'll stand beside her and help her get out of this situation of despair. Fortunately we can see some improvement in her situation as Sara is taking small steps in her healing process. Please pray for Sara that she may see herself as a precious woman, loved and appreciated by God and people.



## I like your music!



The 2016 Easter program *Victory over death* consists of 33 episodes of 7 minutes each. All the episodes have live-recorded Arabic worship songs which we put on a separate Facebook page.

Omar, a Muslim living in North Africa, happened to see that page. He got in touch with us to let us know that he really likes the Christian songs. We are praying for him that God may open his heart so he will come to know Christ.

*We have a wealth of video clips of Arabic Christian songs in our library. We believe we can bless many refugees from Syria, Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries by making them available through you and your churches. Email us if you are interested in receiving a collection of them on a DVD or USB stick. Also, you can refer Arabic speaking refugees to our programs online and Facebook pages, so that they can find people to talk to if they are interested - we can help you to serve them!*

# Please, listen to me ...

The series *God is Able* was produced in 2006 and is one of our most popular programs. It has been broadcast several times and our follow-up team still receives phone calls and comments. One of the reasons why this program is so popular is because of the part in which Dr Nura responds to questions and prayer request of the viewers. During the program time is set apart for prayer and we have often received feedback from viewers that their prayers had been answered. The program is a great testimony that *God is able* to do anything.



Umm Kamal is one of the many people who contacted us via the *God is able* telephone number to share the problems which she has with her family and she asked us for prayer. Her husband is involved in sorcery and treats her badly; so do her children. She can't see an end to her troubles, doesn't know what to do and is thinking of turning to Islam.

We listened to her and prayed with her and just the fact that we were there for her and took time to listen, was such an encouragement for Umm Kamal. She begged us to always be available for her whenever she needs support.

## Mercy's open door

*The Quest*, an interactive program for teenagers produced in 2015, is being broadcast again by our broadcasting partner SAT-7. Two groups of young people travel through Egypt to visit places related to Biblical and/or Church history. Meantime they have competitions and need to find clues to solve a mystery. (At the moment the second season of *the Quest* is in preparation which will deal with the Sermon on the Mount.)

One of the episodes of *The Quest* I is about discovering your gifts and talents. Karim told us that he is gifted in writing poems, so we asked him to send us some. One of the poems is called 'Mercy's open door'.



*Your mercy is large enough to include all of us.  
Please hear my prayer.  
You are the One who listens to those who suffer.*

When we asked Karim whether he experiences God's mercy, his answer was very honest. "No, in fact I don't think I deserve His mercy or His presence in my heart." We replied, "Nobody deserves God's mercy, but nevertheless God is knocking at the door of our hearts and He desires to enter our lives. Quite amazing, but true!" Karim answered, "I want to take a step towards God. Perhaps I will write to Him."

After several weeks we talked again and Karim told us that his relationship with the Lord has improved and that he is talking to God through his poetry.

## Can you help?



**Let us reason together –**  
**26 x €1350 or US\$1500**

In this program series we want to engage Arabs (especially Muslims) with the truth, reality, and practicality of the Christian faith as found in the scriptures and to reason and examine their own beliefs without attacking their religion. The gospel is a message to the heart of every culture, belief system, and civilization - just as Paul engaged the Athenians on the Areopagus. We believe that this type of apologetic programs is urgently needed in the Arab World. Please consider helping us to fund this project.

**The Quest –series 2 –**  
**13 x €1500 or US\$1680**

Teenagers of today are church leaders of the future. To help this age-group think for themselves, understand the message of the Bible, and ask all the questions they have, we produce these interactive program series with a group of teens. The theme of this second series is 'lessons from the Beatitudes'. On a quest to the heart of the matter, teenagers use their talent and creativity to express what they learn from Jesus' radical words.

**Support our Arab workers -**  
**any donation**

The majority of Arab Vision's workers are based in the Middle East, in a country where inflation has been sky-high for years now. We want to give them a fairer salary than they now have but can't afford the raise. We would be extremely grateful if you could adopt the salary of one of our production workers or follow-up team, or send us your one-off donation to support salaries in general.



## Thank you – Shukran

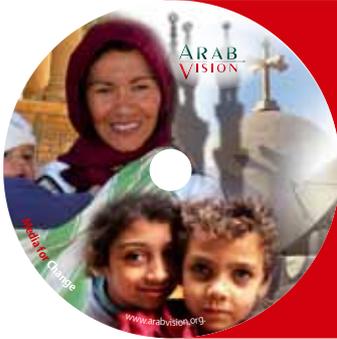
### Words of Wisdom

In our June newsletter we wrote about our plans to produce *Words of Wisdom*, a series of 365 short clips with quotes from the church fathers that will inspire people today. We're very grateful that we have received the necessary funds to start producing this series.

# How can God be a Father?

Kingdom Person I is the first series of a Bible study program about living out Biblical principles in everyday life based on the book *Kingdom Person* by Dr Awsam Wasfy.

Dahab contacted us via the Facebook page of Kingdom Person. She is a young woman who has a disease for which there seems to be no medical treatment. She shared her feelings of anger and hurt with us and told us about how she views God. "I see God as an evil creature towards mankind. How can He be a 'Father' and do this to his children?" We are trying to help her and talk about God's goodness, despite all the suffering in the world and in her life. Would you pray for Dahab, please?



## Order the new DVD

A new 8 min. video about the work of Arab Vision is now available. If you would like to have a copy to show it for instance in your church or home group and share about our work, please write to [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org). Would you please indicate whether you would like to have it on a DVD or via a link?



## 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 Inc. (USA)  
1101 S. Broadway St. #120  
Carrollton, Texas 75006

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  
PO Box 10244  
Auckland 1030  
NEW ZEALAND

If you would like to make an online donation, you can do so via PayPal on our website [www.arabvision.org](http://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](http://www.arabvision.org) or write to us at [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)

## Now on TV

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

- Kingdom Person: a program based on the book *Kingdom Person*, written by Dr Awsam Wasfy. (Watch an episode of Kingdom Person with English subtitles on our YouTube channel.)

Sat-7 : [www.sat7.org](http://www.sat7.org)

- Kingdom Person (See Miracle channel)
- The Quest: an interactive program for young people. (Watch a short clip of the program on our YouTube channel)
- Hope for Tomorrow: series about domestic violence against women. (Watch an episode with English subtitles on our YouTube channel)
- Women in the Bible: one of our most recent productions which is now daily on TV. Short episodes of about 10 minutes with some drama and a short explanation by an Arab Christian lady focusing on one of the women in the Bible, for instance Abigail, who had a fool for a husband.

Please like us on Facebook and make our work known!



ARAB  
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Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV and internet in the Arab world