

Reconciliation in the Middle East?

Is there a more challenging task than bringing Israelis and Palestinians together? The conflict between these nations, which has its origins in the Balfour Declaration almost 100 years ago, shows no sign of ending. What hope is there of ever achieving a lasting peace? From an earthly perspective, it is a hopeless task but Musalaha ("reconciliation" in Arabic) has been quietly engaged in Palestinian/Israeli reconciliation work for more than 25 years.

Based in Jerusalem, Musalaha's work is founded on the biblical principles of peace, justice and love. The work began by taking groups of Christians from both communities on desert treks where they learnt to work together and build relationships. Once the relationships had been established and a bond of trust had been built, then the more sensitive and divisive issues could be addressed. Finally, the participants were trained in reconciliation and leadership to enable them to have a positive impact on society.

Sadly, there are critics on both sides who see any form of engagement as a betrayal but Musalaha's strength is its joint Israeli-Palestinian leadership. I can do no better than to quote from "Light Force" by Brother Andrew and Al Janssen:

"Of all the ministries in Israel, I found myself drawn most to this one (Musalaha). It seemed the most ambitious but also the riskiest. It wasn't an idea promoted by foreign missionaries but was birthed in the local Christian community."

In September, inspired by Musalaha's work, Arab Vision will be producing a 45 minute documentary on the theme of reconciliation. It will be a challenge for individuals from the different communities to appear together. Our production team and the participants will value your prayers.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9)

Umm al Farieq

Umm al Farieq
International director Arab Vision

Whisper words of wisdom...

"Jesus hath many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of His Cross. He hath many seekers of comfort, but few of tribulation. He findeth many companions of His table, but few of His fasting. All desire to rejoice with Him, few are willing to undergo anything for His sake. Many follow Jesus that they may eat of His loaves, but few that they may drink of the cup of His passion. Many are astonished at His miracles, few follow after the shame of His Cross."

Thomas à Kempis, a Dutch priest who lived from 1380-1471, wrote these words in his well-known book *The imitation of Christ*. The above quote is not the only passage in the book that makes people stop and think, neither is Thomas the only one who left us a legacy of words of wisdom.

We have inherited a wealth of wisdom from St Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (Algeria) who lived from 354-430. *"Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore do not seek to understand in order to believe, but believe that you may understand."*



Throughout the centuries church fathers and mothers have left us so many inspiring, encouraging and thought-provoking quotes! Arab Vision wants to share these deep truths with the audience in the Arab World in the language of their hearts and minds, in order to inspire people in their understanding of godly principles and concepts and encourage them in applying them to their actions and choices in life.

>> To be continued on page 3

From our viewers: Hope for tomorrow for Leila!

When Leila was still a child, she was raped by her brother. This was only the beginning and she was subjected to abuse by many other family members, which resulted for her in an addiction to sex. Because she'd always had a problem with her leg, she thought that her chances to get married were very slim. She had become completely addicted to sex without seeing a way out of this bondage and more than once she thought of taking her own life. After having watched our program of *Hope for Tomorrow*, she contacted us and we talked with her about the Lord Jesus and assured her of the fact that He is willing to accept her. Leila prayed to God and asked Him to help her in the situation. Please pray for Leila and the many men and women who respond to *Hope for Tomorrow*.



MEDIA FOR CHANGE

Easter program: Victory over death

Together with our broadcasting partner SAT-7 we produced a special Easter program of 26 episodes of each 10 minutes which is being broadcast between Orthodox Easter and Pentecost. The first episodes talk about Jesus' suffering and the cross as foretold in the Old Testament prophecies. The rest of the episodes focus on the resurrection, the hope we have because Jesus conquered death, and on the Holy Spirit.

The core message is the hope which we have through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and the promise that one day death will be no more.

Please pray that many of the viewers in the Arab World, who are confronted with so much violence and death, will be deeply touched by the program and will find hope, comfort and life in Jesus' words: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11. 25,26 NIV)

Watch a short impression of this program on our [YouTube channel](#). The theme of the program is relevant all year round, so if you would like to give this series of 26 episodes in Arabic (without English subtitles) to an Arabic speaking friend or colleague. A small donation would be appreciated to cover our costs. Please write to contact@arabvision.org



Reconciliation: luxury or necessity?



Is it possible for people who are often geographically isolated from each other and hold entirely different political and ideological viewpoints, to come together and listen to each other? Where clashes continue and hatred grows, can understanding and empathy for 'the other side' break through? Do believers in Jesus find some common ground, in spite of the enormous gap between them? Is reconciliation a luxury or an assignment from God? What is the inspiration for people who want to walk that road of reconciliation? How do they keep going – against all odds?

Many Palestinians and Israelis have learned difficult lessons about the process of reconciliation. Arab Vision is working on a bilingual documentary of 45 minutes about Biblical reconciliation principles, which will be filmed in September. Please pray for protection on the road, the right contacts, an open atmosphere and a willingness to show vulnerability before the camera. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity for our crew. We hope and believe that this production will have a deep impact on many in the Arab World.

Let us reason together

"Why is the Arab World in such turmoil? Where is God in all this? Does God actually care about people or is He waiting to punish us as soon as we do something wrong? How can we live according to His will? My parents believe in God, but why should I? Doesn't atheism make much more sense?"

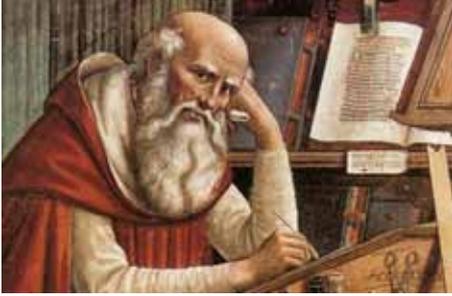
We are planning to produce a talk-show with a guest speaker who is very experienced in respectfully explaining the Christian faith to both Muslims and Christians. The Christian viewer will be provided with practical tools to answer some of the questions from his Muslim friends and the Muslim may receive new insights about Christianity which will make him think.

See page 3 for more information.



Whisper words of wisdom (continued)

The culture in the Arab World is an oral culture; people like to sit together and talk, tell stories, listen to poetry together. There is laughter, comments, jokes, noise. Television, however, has replaced the ancient tradition of storytellers, but we plan to produce 365 very short clips with quotes from the church fathers that will inspire people to stop and think – or to stop and talk about it!



The clips will be broadcast daily via satellite TV and will be used on Facebook as an invitation to discuss issues of faith. We believe these spoken, short messages will appeal to our audience and will share deep and ancient wisdom in a modern way. Please consider adopting a day or week of this year-round project! (See *Can you help?*)

Facebook, feedback and follow-up

We are excited that we can use Facebook to impact the lives of many more Arabic people than before. By posting short clips or complete episodes of our programs, our follow-up workers have the opportunity to interact with many people who have questions about life and faith.

Amina commented on a post about *Kingdom Person* and attacked us because we said that Jesus loves to spend time with the sinner and people who commit adultery. We explained to her that Jesus does this out of love and we also told her how much Jesus loves the whole sinner and his main desire is to draw people to repentance and to change their lives. This opened her eyes. She had always believed in a God who is waiting for a chance to punish sinners. How totally different is a God who is eager to show His love to us and restore our lives.



Our follow-up team-manager: *"I have recently marketed a few posts on Hope for Tomorrow for 5 euro's each. As a result of the marketing we have added about 7000 fans to the page, accumulated over 6000 likes to the posts and around 50 comments. The best part is that there are 10 ladies connecting with us in the private messages about various issues that they need support for. It just shows how a small amount of money can have a major impact!"*

New equipment for video and editing

We are very grateful for the donations we received to acquire new cameras, monitors and equipment for editing and lightning. After many years of intensive use in countries with much dust and dirt, our equipment was on its last legs and more than ready for a change!



Can you help?

1. Whisper words of wisdom - €20 or US\$22 per clip

A quote a day...

365 very short clips with quotes from the church fathers that will inspire people to stop and think. These spoken, short messages will appeal to our audience and will share deep and ancient wisdom in a modern way.

2. Let us reason together - €750 or US\$840 per program

A talk-show with a guest speaker who is very experienced in respectfully explaining the Christian faith to both Muslims and Christians. 26 programs of 25 minutes each.

3. Kingdom Person 2 - €2000 or US\$2230 for editing

"I loved the idea of not being manipulated by each other. I hope we can deal with each other in a simple way without using pressure to get what we need." Nada's comment on a post on Facebook about an episode of the program *Kingdom Person 1*, about living according to *Kingdom* principles.

The second season of our successful program *Kingdom person* is about the spiritual focus of the *Kingdom person* in every situation.

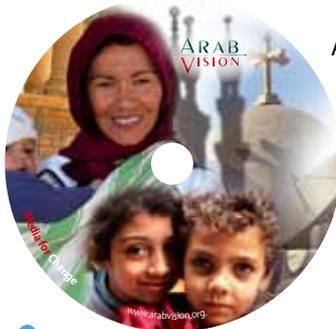
4. Translation of Hope for Tomorrow - 13 x €150 or US\$170

The story of Leila on page 1 shows that *Hope for Tomorrow* is indeed a life-changing program. We'd like to be able to make this program available in other languages as well. The issue of sexual violence is not limited to the Arab World. Would you please help us with the translation of the program into English?

5. Follow up team, social media ministry - €50 to €500 or US\$ 55 to US\$550

In order to improve the interaction with viewers and Facebook users, we set up small marketing campaigns which cost between 50 and 500 euro. See page 3 for more information about our follow-up ministry.

Become an ambassador for Arab Vision!



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. Would you please indicate whether you would like to have it on a DVD, a USB flash drive or via a link?



Mohamed called us. He regularly dreams that someone who looks like a priest comes to talk to him about Jesus while he is in a mosque. He prays for Jesus to reveal himself to him and he wants to know more about Christianity.



Praying through the Ramadan

Join millions of Christians in praying for the Muslim world during the month of Ramadan. (6 June – 5 July 2016) Every year a special booklet is produced with information for prayer during the Ramadan. Visit the *praying for 30 days*-website for more details: <http://pray30days.org/>



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.

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

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

Now on TV

Miracle channel: www.miraclechannel.com

- Kingdom Person: a program based on the book Kingdom Person, written by Dr Awsam Wasfy. How can we live according to biblical principles and be a blessing for other people. The Facebook page of Kingdom Person is frequently visited.

Sat-7 : www.sat7.org

- Easter program: Victory over death (see page 2)
- Kingdom Person (See Miracle channel)
- Speaking the truth in love: A series of thirty 3-minutes clips in which Biblical truths are discussed in an inviting and challenging way by Dr Luis Abdullah. (Visit Arab Vision's YouTube channel to watch an episode of this program)
- The Quest: an interactive program for young people in which two teams are in competition to find a code which leads them to places in Egypt with Biblical significance. Meantime they learn about Christian values and identity. (Watch a short clip of the program on our YouTube channel)



ARAB
VISION

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