



**Why Libya? The Mark Project**

**Now in production: Arab Women in the Heart of the Father. And more...**

**Equipping Algerian Christians: Keep the Body of Christ Healthy!**

## Why Libya?

The Bible mentions Libya several times. For instance, in reference to Simon of Cyrene who carried Jesus' cross. Mark 15:21 says: *"A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross."* Mark calls him the father of Alexander and Rufus, who must therefore have been more or less known to his readers; the same Rufus is mentioned by Paul in Romans 16:13, where Paul writes *"Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord"*.

And among the representatives of many different peoples mentioned in Acts 2 are those from "Cyrene in Libya".

Mark's mother, Mary, and Mark himself are mentioned in the same breath as early Christianity in Libya: Mark, the apostle who traveled to both Egypt and Libya to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ideas of great fathers of early church history, such as Origen, Augustine, and Athanasius, first took root in Egypt and Libya, and then in North Africa. In the first five centuries of Christianity, this region is characterized by Christian leadership, to which we in the rest of the world owe a lot. When "we Europeans and North Americans" knew nothing about scriptural interpretation and biblical ethics, Leptis and Cyrene were known as cities that were already involved in this.



After a century of Arab domination, there were unfortunately not many Christians left in Libya and now, centuries later, we have almost forgotten that Christians in Europe and North America owe it to Libya, among other things, that we believe what we believe.



Sabratha,  
with Christian remnants

## The Mark Project

Yet even now, in the 21st century, there are still Christians in Libya. Only a few, and they are struggling, but the Libyan Church is growing. Through the Mark Project, Arab Vision wants to show the Christian roots in Libya: Christians and Muslims alike often have no idea that the country they live in has been such a thriving Christian community. The whole country is still full of - largely undiscovered - remains of this early church.

In 6 short programs Mark himself will tell us how he brought the gospel to Libya, and how it spread across North Africa. After that, 21st century Libyan Christians talk about their faith now. In this way, Libyans will (re)acquaint themselves with the age-old belief in their own country. Through the programs on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, we reach people in Libya and enter into discussions with them. We also expect this project to be broadcast by our satellite TV partners.

**The Mark Project is Arab Vision's anniversary project in 2022. If you would like to know more about the project, please email [contact@arabvision.nl](mailto:contact@arabvision.nl). If you would like to contribute financially to the production of the Mark Project, go to page 7 and 8 for more information.**



Cyrene

## Peace

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

~ Philippians 4:7

Peace, in a world where peace is hard to find in so many places. The war in Ukraine will hopefully be over by the time you read this, but is still in a devastatingly full swing while writing this letter. Heartbreaking as well: an almost forgotten war in Yemen that has lasted for 7 years, in which millions of children, women, and men float on the brink of starvation; a war in Syria that killed three hundred and fifty thousand between 2011 and 2021... just to name a few places in the world where peace is far away.

Peace is not just the absence of war. The biblical Hebrew 'Shalom' means so much more than that: a wholeness, a good health of both body and mind.

Arab Vision aims to participate in sharing that peace that surpasses our human understanding to those who seek peace, the peace that is found in Jesus Christ only.

Through our ministry of *Media for Change* we have an eye for and reach Arab and Berber speakers throughout the Arab world.

In the coming years we plan to pay special attention to the countries of Libya, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Yemen, for various reasons. This newsletter pays special attention to Libya and Algeria.

Our project for Libya, see page 2 and 3, is our anniversary project this year. Arab Vision exists 25 years this year! For twenty-five years we have been producing TV programs that have been watched by millions of Arabs, for twenty-five years we have provided follow-up to people who reacted to our TV and online programs. For twenty-five years we have come along Arab people, to support them on life's journey: people became followers of Jesus Christ, people got healed, they found a listening ear, answers to their questions, a prayer...

Thank you to all of you who make our calling and mission possible!

Please, consider becoming Arab Vision's partner by praying for our ministry and sending a regular gift, or send a special, one-off anniversary donation for our projects in Libya and Algeria!

Shalom - Salaam - Peace!



Umm al Farieq  
International Director Arab Vision

## ◆ Let us tell you about some of our current projects!

### *And you, who do you say I am?*

89 video clips in which gifted Bible teacher Youssef discusses complicated questions from the New Testament - now completed after delay due to illness and soon to be watched on TV, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

### *Names and Attributes of God*

103 video clips by pastor Ezzat. Soon to be seen on TV, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

### *The youth have the future*

Drama series of 13 episodes about young (anti)heroes from the bible. God uses youth: an encouragement for Arab youth who are struggling with their identity (in Christ). Filming will be finished before the summer heat kicks in in the Middle East.

### *Women in the heart of the Father*

A series of programs about God's care for Arab women, based on often heartbreaking stories that women shared with our follow-up support worker. The series will be filmed in April.

### *Bible verses in Saudi Arabic*

Encouraging and inviting words from the Bible, spoken by a Saudi woman, in the Saudi Arabic dialect.

### *The Journey*

15 programs in dialogue and discussion between a taxi driver and his passenger, on themes such as Jesus' incarnation, His forgiveness and mercy, joy, hope and blessing. The dialogues are interspersed with Arabic songs. Now on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and soon to be watched on TV.

### *Strengthen the Persecuted Church in Kabylia (Algeria)*

12 Programs to strengthen the attacked and weakened church in Kabylia and to equip believers, featuring Abdelkader, a Kabyle brother living in the Netherlands. The series was filmed in March, and can soon be watched on our Facebook page 'As-Siwel'.





## **Keep the body of Christ healthy!**

*Church Leadership Training in Kabylia*

In our previous newsletter we told you about our social media ministry, and especially our ministry for Kabyle-speaking Algerians. We told you about Abdelkader who has an enormous passion for talking to his people about the gospel, and who watches with concern how one church after another in Algeria and especially in Kabylia is closed by the government . Due to COVID and the lack of church buildings to gather, it is difficult to hold on to the Christian community. Many believers don't think they need 'the church' either, but because of this, many Christians hardly receive any Christian education and spiritual food.

Abdelkader recently rediscovered the first Corinthian letter during his trip to Algeria and felt a strong call to make a series of programs to address some of the issues it addresses which are vital to the spiritual well-being of God's congregation, the body of Christ. He will discuss topics such as 'the love of agape', 'the character of workers in the church', 'male-female relationships', 'tithing', and 'gifts of the Spirit' in 12 programs of about 10 minutes for TV and YouTube broadcast and short clips for use on Facebook.

Do you want to help equip Christians in Algeria? Go to page 7 to see what we need for this project.

## Become an Arab Vision Partner

### ◆ Prayer

Ramadan, celebrated in the month of April is a time when Muslims fast and focus more on Allah. Often it is during this period that Jesus reveals himself to people who are seeking truth and peace. Pray that this will happen again this Ramadan.

Our Yemeni employee has been imprisoned since December in a country in the Middle East, where he came as a refugee, as a widower with his 4 children. He married again last year and his wife gave birth to a son last month. She can visit him once a month. There is no prospect of a trial yet and we do not expect a fair trial. Pray for this situation. We have temporarily made our Facebook page for Yemen invisible due to the risks for the rest of the team. This is unfortunate because there is a lot of reaction to this page by Yemenis.

Pray for our production team, for the TV broadcasts, the use of the programs on social media and for our follow-up team; for wisdom, creativity and for belief in change in people's lives.

**Let us know if you're interested in receiving our email prayer letter that we send out every 2 months with prayer requests and points for thanksgiving.**

### ◆ One-time gift

Our anniversary project: Mark, for Libya - US\$ 500 needed per episode  
Equipping Algerian Christians - US\$ 200 needed per episode

### ◆ Or give regularly - monthly or yearly

For follow-up  
For social media ministry to Arab women  
For social media ministry to Arab youth  
For our general work (your donations will be used where we need it most)

## We are so grateful

**We look back on 2021 with gratitude. Ultimately, of course, we do not know exactly how we have changed people's lives, and how we were able to contribute. What we do know is that...**

**64 people have told us that they have become followers of Christ, after intensive contact with our follow-up team - about 5 per month!**

**We sent more than 9,500 bibles, articles and books about the Christian faith to people who indicated that they wanted to know Christ (better).**

**Zahir secretly converted to Christianity. He told us that he fears for his life and wants to leave his country, Yemen. We support him and continue to pray with him.**

**Maryam, a student, 20 years old, immediately after the first meeting asked: "Tell me more about the Jesus in the Bible." In the meantime, we are studying texts from the New Testament together with her.**



**Email: [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org);  
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