



**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 Europe owe a lot. When "we Europeans" 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 owe it to Libya, among other things, that we believe what we believe.



Sabratha,  
met 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



## Goodbye to Tony and welcome to Matt

Last year Tony Mason indicated that, after eight years as a trustee, he would like to step down. We were sad to lose Tony but fully understood his reasons. Tony was a source of great wisdom and a support to us all. He will be missed.

At the same time we welcomed Matt Vaughan as a new trustee. In his own words:

*I was born in Woking, England, in 1983 and grew up in that part of the world, attending boarding school and then taking a degree in Modern Languages at Oxford. I had long felt a call to cross-cultural Christian work and took a job with Interserve upon graduating from university, managing their magazine and their prayer materials. While working there I met Andrea, who grew up in Pakistan and was working in the Middle East at the time. We were married in 2008.*

*In 2011 we moved to Pakistan with Interserve where we worked until 2019, when our visa was refused. We are now based in Birmingham, where we work in a part of the city that is around 70% Muslim, chiefly of Pakistani heritage.*

*Andrea and I are passionate about seeing the name of Jesus glorified among Muslim people, and I see media outreach as a key tool to help us towards this end. With technology allowing the message of Christ's love to be spread easily and in a cost-effective manner, and with the connections made possible by global migration and diaspora populations, it is an exciting time to be involved in this work.*

*I am looking forward to doing whatever I can to help the work of Arab Vision thrive in order that more people can have the opportunity to hear about the love of God in Jesus. To him be the glory.*



## 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 viewed 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 harrowing stories that women shared with our aftercare providers. 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 viewed on TV.

*Strengthen the Persecuted Church in Kabylia (Algeria)*

12 Programs to rebuild the attacked and weakened church in Kabylia and to equip believers, featuring Abdelkader, a Kabyle brother living in the Netherlands. The series will be filmed in April.



**Would you prefer to receive this a digital version of this newsletter? It will allow you to easily view subtitled clips of our programs! Send an email to [contact@arabvision.nl](mailto:contact@arabvision.nl) if you are interested.**



**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: Marcus, for Libya - 500 euros needed per episode  
Equipping Algerian Christians - 200 euros 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.**

We want to express our thanks to all of you who have supported in prayer, financially and other ways in 2021. Our financial support comes from regular monthly gifts, charitable trusts, and churches. We would like to thank the trustees of the following trusts for their generous support.

Alfred Haines Trust

The Almond Trust

Challenge Trust

The James Grace Trust

Micaiah Trust

Mill Dam Trust

The Rozel Trust

SMB Charitable Trust

Thanks are also due to Ashdon Baptist Church, Essex for their support and Tracy Todman, the independent reviewer of our accounts.

Ian, Rosemarie and Matt  
Trustees of Arab Vision



**ARAB  
VISION**

[contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org)

[www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org)

Arab Vision is a registered charity in England (no. 1154993).

In the UK, you can send your gift direct to our bank:

Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc,

Account: Arab Vision,

Sort code: 30-97-24,

Account no: 49415760,

Alternatively, cheques can be sent to:

Arab Vision, 23 Mill Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2AS