



**Testimony Libya: Salah & Amal**

**Short film: Lailah**

**Egypt: Stop spraying!**

**Young people are the future!**



## Back to School

As schools are reopening and children are returning to learn, we realise the important position that young people hold in our society. They are beacons of hope and innocence, showing adults that you can always learn and change, whatever your age. The newsletter you are now holding contains different examples of Arab Vision's belief in the relevance of young people in their mission in the Arab World. This is shown to us through a short film production, through testimonies, through a campaign and more. But more than just the young people themselves, it is the change that youth can set about which not only affects their own lives, but also those surrounding them.

We see Lailah as she struggles to realise that she can change her future, and that her past does not need to define who she is, as she is a child loved by our God. We also see Amal, moved by the change in her son's life as he chooses to follow Christ, and even though it is difficult, she is also changed through his witness. Arab Vision is organising workshops for children to learn more about changing the world by improving the environment. We read about the dramatized Bible Stories that focus on the many young people, partaking in the story of God.

The newsletter ends with Romans 8:17, where we are called to be children of the Heavenly Father. Join us and others in seeing how Arab Vision's work changes the lives of children and young people in the Arab World, and through them, many others.

Thank you for supporting our mission.



Rosemarie Strengholt  
Arab Vision UK

# Short film: Lailah

Based on John 4 and an actual story

Lailah is a young woman who has grown up in an environment without affection. As a teenager she saw a world around her in which 'love' was a hollow concept. Not knowing what real love and affection was, Lailah had several relationships, looking for love and hoping to fill the emptiness in her life. Each relationship was shallow and unhealthy. She alternated between being a victim and a manipulator.

When once again she discovers that her boyfriend is cheating on her, she realises that he is treating her as a toy. It dawns on her that her loose morals are giving her a bad reputation and she experiences a complete break-down.

How applicable, confronting and encouraging is the story of the Samaritan woman. Jesus does not judge her because of her murky past but offers her a future of forgiveness and a new life.

As many of Arab Vision's productions, this film also wants to break through taboos and deal with issues like loneliness, rejection, questions about the purpose of life, addictions, etc.

The Samaritan woman's life changed dramatically after her encounter with Jesus. Do we view her as a sinner to be shunned, or as a human being who needs to be embraced by grace and hope for the future?

Lailah also finds the source of unconditional love, which will release and heal her.

**Will you help us produce this film  
so we can show it to Arab women?**

**You can send your donation to our bank account  
The details are on the back of this newsletter.**

**Thank you.**





# Testimony Libya



*'I just could not believe that Jesus was God and Son of God and man, although he is a very special prophet according to the Koran. God kept giving me dreams until I finally saw the light and believed...'*

**Salah and Amal** are a well-educated and outgoing couple from Libya. They currently live in Europe and for the time being they cannot return to their home country.

Salah was a 16-year-old teenager when he first questioned the mullahs about verses in the Koran and the Hadith. He was never satisfied with their answers and kept asking questions. The mullahs were not used to being questioned and dismissed him as troublemaker. Years later, his political activities, advocating rights for the Berber minority were not popular and after receiving threats to his life, Salah went abroad. He thought he would soon be able to return but the political situation in Libya deteriorated and he headed for safety in Europe, leaving his wife and family behind.

In his loneliness, Salah watched a lot of television and happened to come across a Christian programme. He started looking for logical, acceptable answers to his questions about faith but still wasn't satisfied. He didn't give up and through anonymous chatrooms he talked to people and asked for a Bible. Once he had started reading it, he couldn't put it down.

He discovered that he could pose his questions directly to God and started to find answers. 'Love' becomes the key to his heart. But then he read Jesus' words to love his enemies.

*'Love... ok, that's good. Love my enemies?? No way. It took two years until my head and heart came together and started to follow Jesus.'*

Fortunately, Amal and their children were reunited with Salah in Europe, but Amal reacted badly to Salah's new-found faith. She started to read the Koran obsessively, to study Arabic and give lessons on Islam.

However, when Salah was watching the Christian television programmes, she stayed in the room. Amal was also challenged to know the truth about God. Suddenly she encountered voice problems and had to stop giving the Islamic lessons. It seems a coincidence, but it triggered her to read the Bible and Christian literature.

*'I was the first woman in my family who started to wear the hijab, I was the most devout Muslima. I was also the first woman who discarded the hijab, because I had become a Christian.'*

When Amal's son started praying for his grandfather who was seriously ill, she hears a voice: 'learn from your son', and 'you can pray to me without having done your ablutions'. This journey for Amal lasted another two years. She struggled with the concept of the Trinity.

Salah and Amal are now very active on social media in reaching out to Libyans and telling them about God's love.

We are grateful that we got to know them and that we can cooperate in sharing God's truth, love and peace in a way that reaches the hearts of Libyans. Let us give thanks for Amal and Salah and for our cooperation and pray for the many Libyans who have the same questions, that they also may find answers that satisfy them.





# Egypt:

## Stop spraying, for a better future



In the summer months, the temperature in Cairo can reach 45C. Walking through the streets in this immense city, it feels even hotter. If you are brave enough to venture out on the streets, you will see caretakers of buildings busy with garden hoses, not watering plants, but spraying the roads and pavements to bring down the temperature.



Water is scarce in Egypt. All its water supplies are drawn from the River Nile and there are disputes between the countries benefiting from this stream of life, particularly Ethiopia and Sudan. As well as wasting water, which may have disastrous consequences for Egypt in the near future, the Nile is also polluted by waste, usually plastics. The amount of plastic used in the country is colossal and much of it ends up in the environment. An ecological disaster is approaching rapidly.

Arab Vision's producer has taken up the challenge to organise a campaign with local NGOs for better stewardship. Generally, people in Egypt take one day at the time. How do I survive today? Little thought is given to the consequences of the intense pollution and the profligate use of water. To counter this, we are organising workshops for children in Alexandria, Cairo, Aswan and Luxor. We want them to think about and discuss options for a better future and cleaner water. We want them to learn that the earth is God's creation and we are responsible for protecting it. Then the children can encourage their parents to join in as well. We will be filming the workshops and producing content under the theme of protecting God's creation.

In this project we will be partnering with the Dutch organisation, EO-Metterdaad.

# Young people are the future



Last year we produced a dramatised series, 'Young heroes in the Bible'. Our series focused on young people in the Bible, including Joseph, Jeremiah, Jochebed and Esther. In May and June this year these clips were shown on Facebook, YouTube and TikTok and were viewed more than a million times. Our follow up team had some 6,500 conversations, six people became believers in Jesus Christ and 85 started an online discipleship course. We give thanks for all these people and pray for an even greater impact of this series. Scan the QR code and watch the subtitled episode about Mark. The complete subtitled series can be seen on our [Arab Vision YouTube channel](#).

**'Amen, You have started your journey with me.  
I trust that You will be with me till the end.'  
(Response to the episode about Jochebed)**







# A new series about suffering and glory

*'Now if we are children, then we are heirs. Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory' - Romans 8.17*

Despite, the Church in Libya, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, suffering oppression and persecution we see evidence of a growing openness for the Gospel. Our social media ministry in Algeria and Yemen has been welcomed by believers and enquirers alike. We now plan to produce 12 short clips with encouraging Bible verses in the Arabic dialects of these countries and Kabyle for broadcasting on our different social media platforms. Speakers, originally from these countries, will share Bible verses and a brief meditation related to the theme 'suffering and glory'.



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