



Hospital Bethlehem

Now in production

Testimonies

Love them

Dear friends,

As a child I didn't appreciate just how bizarre the Christmas story is. Of course I loved the presents, the traditions and the food but I was too young to understand how strange the whole thing is. A king is born in the middle of nowhere. Hardly anybody notices. His mother, an unwed teenage girl, is greeted by illiterate shepherds and Persian astrologers. God's entire salvation plan hinges on a fragile baby. That same baby's birth sparks a massacre of children by a bloodthirsty, paranoid tyrant and the baby's family flee to Egypt as refugees.

But the Christmas message has never seemed quite as bizarre to me as it does this year. That same part of the world which hosted the birth of Christ has seen violence reach hideous levels. The same hills of Ephrathah which echoed the call of the angels, "On Earth peace, goodwill towards mankind" now echo to the sound of airstrikes and weeping. "All is calm, all is bright"? Doesn't feel like it, does it?

That is why the ministry of Arab Vision is needed more than ever. Peace, that elusive ideal, is possible only through Jesus. Not just in the narrow sense of an absence of fighting but rather in the richest, broadest possible meaning of the word: full reconciliation between God and men, leading to transformed hearts. I am privileged to be involved in the ministry of Arab Vision and I hope that the news and stories in this letter will encourage you.

May God continue to transform us all, and may He give us peace.

Matt Vaughan
Trustee, Arab Vision UK.

Your help needed Hospital Bethlehem

It is late December. A young couple walks into the hall of a hospital. He looks around hurriedly; she is clearly heavily pregnant. They report to the counter and tell them that labour has started and they are looking for a place where their baby can be safely delivered. All delivery rooms are occupied though. While searching for a solution, the man has found a quiet corner in the hospital hallway. Next to a lifelike nativity scene. And while they wait there, their first baby comes into the world.

This is a scene from the series we are producing for Christmas: *Hospital Bethlehem*. In 15 dramatised episodes, we translate events surrounding Jesus' birth to present day scenes, framed by devotions and Arabic songs. We want to bring the well-known Christmas story closer and make it more accessible to people in the Arab World, especially those who do not yet know the story of Jesus.

Please pray with us that the ancient story of Christmas, the message of hope, will appeal to Arab people for the first time or as a renewal of their faith? Also, would you consider sending a special Christmas gift to make this project possible? Thank you very much!



Now in production

Who do you say I am? Season 4, 70-90 Short clips

A gripping Bible teaching series on the many questions asked in the Gospels, by disciples, pharisees, and others, and questions by Jesus. In this season we focus on some parables among which: The Parable of the Two Sons, the Good Samaritan, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and The Faithful Steward.

The programmes generate lots of reactions from and interactions with viewers.

Here are some impact figures from the follow-up of season 2:



Who do you say I am? 3 Months' Campaign

Reach	6.382.834
Views on socials	312.612
Engagement	257.514
Private messages	15.030
Conversations	4.317
Bibles shared	444
Online discipleship	118
Professions of faith	9

Athanasius and the Council of Nicaea. Film and series of 8 episodes

1700 Years ago, the Council of Nicaea took place, to which we owe the well-known creed. Meet Athanasius who played an important role in theological debates at the time. Nice project for an offering in your church?

Ask us for more information about this project at contact@arabvision.org.



Council of Nicaea 325 AD



Arab Women & Identity

Series of 15 episodes

Women in the Middle East and North Africa often struggle with their identity because of cultural norms and habits. They are not valued and appreciated in ways that acknowledge that God created them and made them in His image. Femininity is a unique gift from God that needs to be embraced and its purpose understood. Identity and value are a struggle for both Muslim and Christian women alike.

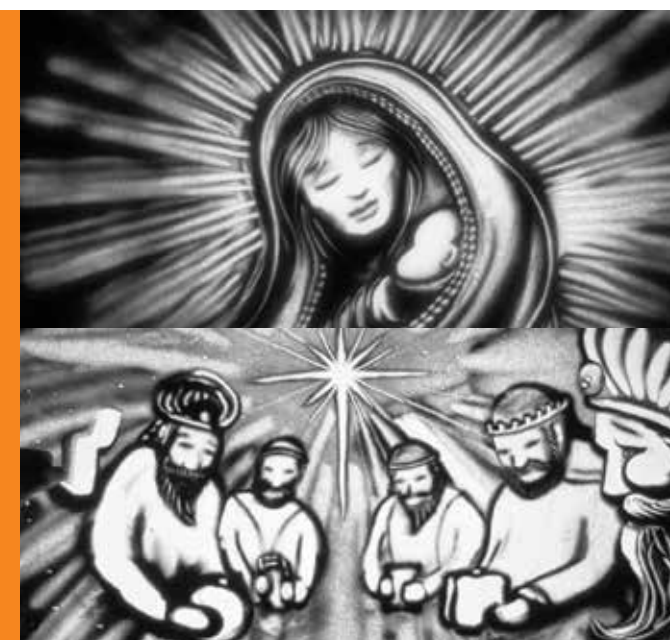
The project aims to create a video program series from a Christian perspective addressing issues related to identity, gender, and empowerment.

Sandy Tales

30 episodes in 8 languages

Bible-stories, artistically drawn in sand. We produced 22 episodes in a variety of Arab dialects: Egyptian, Yemeni, Sudanese, Algerian, Libyan, Moroccan, and languages: Kabyle Berber, and Kurdish Surani. We are producing 8 more in all these languages and dialects.

Watch a Christmas story in Yemeni Arabic,
scan the QR code 





Mahir: “He is my Lord and my Saviour!”

Through our ‘Light of the World’ social media platforms we reach hundreds of thousands in the Arab world and receive nearly 9800 comments from viewers a day. A multiplicity of them watch the videos and posts without leaving a comment. Our reach is huge, but we are also very keen to engage with people personally. Sometimes they just need a listening ear. Often we walk up with someone for longer.

22-year-old taxi driver Mahir from Egypt is one of them.

In early 2024, he seeks contact. We talk to him about Jesus and he tells us that Muslims think he is a prophet and Christians that he is God. We share and explain the Gospel message with him. Mahir does want to start reading the Bible and after he has finished the Gospels of John and Luke, he tells us that the passages from the Sermon on the Mount about love and tolerance impressed him a lot: Love your enemies, bless those who curse you.

After that, we talk a lot with him about Jesus, and about whether he is the Son of God. Then we get to a point where we feel free to ask him the question, “Do you believe that Jesus came for the forgiveness of your sins? Will you open the door of your heart to the Lord?” His resounding ‘Yes!’ makes us happy and grateful. On 1 March, we pray with Mahir and we also send him the Jesus film.

Then, the contact is suddenly over; Mahir no longer responds to the encouraging messages we send. On 12 April, only a thumbs-up. But a while later, he suddenly seeks contact through one of our other social media channels.

“How are you doing? Are you still reading the Bible?”, we ask him. “Yes indeed,” he tells us. “I have started reading further in the Gospels, and it has made me very happy.” My life has turned 180 degrees. I feel calm and stable now.” When asked who Jesus is to him, he replies: “God incarnate, and He is my Lord and my Saviour!”

Light of the World social media impact January-September 2024

1,111	photo and video posts
714,525	comments, shares, likes
74,387	personal messages
14,233	people with whom we have conversations
396	online Bible or pieces of scripture shared
3133	people disciplined online
93	people who accepted Jesus as Lord
15	new believers we have put in touch with a church



Habiba: ‘Even if it would cost my life, I will continue to follow Jesus’

Habiba, a young Arab woman, started a youth Bible study in March this year. We are studying the life of Onesimus and the change his life went through. From a worthless person, he became a valuable human being. Habiba says: “If God’s grace can transform a thief into a disciple of Jesus, even if he is weak or doubting, that same grace gives me faith in the loving Father. I get to learn from Jesus and imitate him by being there for people around me. Even if it would cost my life, I will trust Jesus and continue to follow him.”



Will you join us in praying for Mahir and Habiba that they will grow in knowledge and faith? Pray also for wisdom for our follow-up workers who follow up on all the calls. That they may speak words of hope, love and grace at the right time.



The man in the picture is not Jalil

Love them **A call from Iraqi Jalil**

“What is it like to be a refugee and be forced to leave your home and family, to flee to a foreign land to survive? In all honesty, no one would do that voluntarily.”

I meet Jalil, now pastor of an Arab church in Dallas in the United States, and he shares his story with me, chronicled in the booklet ‘The Refugee, a story of God’s grace and hope on one man’s road to refuge’*. Jalil fled his native country Iraq in 1982, became a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ in Rome, Italy, and found a safe haven in the United States. He is still grateful for the country that gave him hospitality.

Jalil studied, became a church pastor, and also founded an organisation that helps refugees. In his booklet, he writes: “Whatever your political beliefs on the refugee issue, there is one truth we cannot deny as Christians: refugees are your neighbours. And what does the Bible say about your neighbours? Love them. ”

** interested in getting the booklet? Let us know: contact@arabvision.org*

Inge Verhoef-Postma, international director.

In May this year, 120 million people worldwide were displaced, fleeing persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations. That was almost 10% more than in 2022 and amounts to about 1.5% of the world’s population - according to a recent report by the refugee agency UNHCR. This number doesn’t even include Lebanon, presently hosting more than 1.2 million new refugees.

ARAB VISION



contact@arabvision.org
www.arabvision.org

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

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Lloyds Bank Plc Account name: Arab Vision
Sort Code: 30-97-24 Account no: 49415760

Or if you have a Stewardship account
<https://account.stewardship.org.uk/Give>

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