

Producing TV in Iraq

Two of Arab Vision's production crew members were recently in Iraq for a special conference featuring the presenter of one of our most popular TV program. Around 250 viewers were in attendance and 12 episodes of the program were recorded during their time together.

"Most of the Iraqis have many tragic stories," reported one of the crew members. "However, they were very happy during the conference days, and the time of worshipping and teaching were more than wonderful."

The themes discussed during the conference and in the programs, include faith, marital relations, intercession and safety in God. Similar conferences were held in other Arab countries this past year, but this was the first time we were able to be in Iraq.

The program receives over 1000 responses from viewers every month.

"We want to do everything possible to encourage the Christians in Iraq," explained Arab Vision's international director. "More than 500,000 have fled their homes recently because of sectarian violence and persecution. Our TV programs bring God's Word and comfort to the suffering body of Christ there."



Waiting for 18 years!

A viewer in Tunisia contacted our follow-up team and told this amazing story. He said he had a dream 18 years ago, in which he was visited by a 'man in white'. After many years, he was given a DVD called 'Dreams and Visions'. On this DVD, there was the story of a man who was visited by Jesus. When he watched that part, he exclaimed, "This is the same man who visited me!"

After this, he began to seek more by watching satellite TV. This is when he found our Tunisian TV programs. He immediately called the local follow-up phone number and arranged a visit. He told us how he had been waiting 18 years to find out who this man was that visited him in his dreams!

He now has a Bible and is closer to giving his life to Christ.



Arab Vision is working on producing a special TV series featuring the testimonies of Moroccans who have turned to Christ. Here is one of those stories.

Moroccan Testimonies on TV

Since the time I was 12, I was an atheist. To me, God was meaningless: a fable used by people in power to control others, or an imaginary source of comfort for people in difficulties.

I remember that a distinct change began in my life when I was in university. One day, a fellow student told me something strange; she had heard on a radio station that a person called Christ would soon come to the earth accompanied by signs, wonders, earthquakes and unusual events as evidence that He is the King. As an atheist, of course I laughed at her foolish words. I remember clearly when she told me that the radio program declared plainly that the following Wednesday there would be an occurrence of earthquakes as a testimony to His coming. I couldn't wait until the next Wednesday to come so I could enjoy ridiculing her once again with great laughter. I was enjoying myself and sitting comfortably when an earthquake shook right there in the classroom. I became very afraid, not because of the quake itself, but because perhaps what the Christians were saying was true after all!

From that day I decided to find out if there is a God in this world or not. And if He does exist, who is He and what does He expect from us? I read the holy books of many religions.

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"Now I know that Jesus can penetrate the dark clouds of my life."

The testimony of an atheist Moroccan man after reading the New Testament

From a very grateful heart

Dear friends,

You will enjoy this newsletter, I believe. I find the testimony from Morocco very uplifting. It is amazing how the Holy Spirit of God works in the Arab World.

In communication theories nowadays, the focus is on the audience – the 'receptor' of the message. I believe that because we endeavor to speak to people in their own cultural context and in their mother tongue, thousands of people contact us each month. May we perfectly love Him and worthily magnify His holy name!

One example of this audience-focus, is how we produced a TV series in Iraq last month. I am so proud of our personnel who are prepared to take certain risks for furthering the Gospel. Please pray for their safety.

I am also glad that we have personnel like Kahina; you can read about her work and motivation in this newsletter. Allow me to mention that we are still looking for people and churches who are prepared to financially contribute to her work in our organization. Are you interested to play that role?

We also continue to look for people who will lift us up in their prayers. We need you! Have you already registered for our prayer letter? If you want to receive it, you may register through our website or by e-mailing us (contact details on back cover).

Thank you for your interest in our work. If you have any questions, please contact us.

The Lord be with you.



Abu Banaat
Arab Vision International Director

From the Viewers



“I have a difficult problem without a solution, so I think very much about suicide because of my torment. But I also think about my only child who doesn't have anyone else. I want to talk to somebody.” **A female viewer**

“I now know Christ and have found a Bible. Can you send me more literature to learn from?” **Viewer from Bahrain**

“I would like to encourage you and thank you for all the issues that you bring up in your programs.” **Viewer from Kuwait**

“Your programs are truly worthy to be seen. You talk about issues that are important and beneficial.” **Viewer from Saudi Arabia**



Producing now...

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Nine episodes of this special documentary on the various problems Arab children have to cope with, have already been produced. This month, the production crew will be working on the 10th episode.

The documentary covers issues such as child labor, incest, FGM, street life and poverty. Arab Vision has regularly highlighted these taboo problems through its TV programs, some of which have been screened on secular stations and at conferences and film festivals.



PRINCIPLES OF LIFE

The first episodes of a new TV training series will be produced this month. The concept is based on a course which has been running in different parts of the Arab World.

The content will introduce principles and skills for emotional growth and maturity. It will encourage the viewers to have an open mind and grow in their spirituality and walk with God. The training in the programs will be given in the format of a psychiatrist talking to an audience in the studio.



Kahina: Our first North African producer

KAHINA, A NORTH AFRICAN LADY, RECENTLY JOINED OUR PRODUCTION TEAM. OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, SHE HAS BEEN WORKING ON TV PRODUCTIONS AND PREPARING PROGRAMS TO REACH HER OWN PEOPLE. WE CAUGHT UP WITH HER AND ASKED HER TO TELL US A BIT ABOUT HERSELF AND WHY SHE JOINED ARAB VISION.

Can you tell us about your childhood and how you became a Christian?

I grew up in a large family. My father was a hard man and used to get angry very easily, especially after he became partially paralyzed. He believed there was a God, but he didn't believe in the Prophet Mohammed.

One day, when I was 12, he came home with a Gospel in his hands which one of his friends had given him. He read some verses and he felt comforted. Then he ordered us to go to church with him. We did not have a say! We had to drive 3 hours to get to this church.

The preacher talked about love and how much God loved us. My father was really touched and we all started crying. We could not believe that God loved us so much that He gave His Son for our sins.

We were also thrilled with the people of the church. They all showed their love to us and cared about us; two things that we never experienced as a family: care and love

When we got home, we could not forget the wonderful experience. That is how God started working in our family. My mom, sister and grandmother had dreams about Jesus and salvation. I also had some nice dreams.

My father was a singer, so he started writing songs about the Lord. He would teach them to us and we started praising God in our home. God changed him completely from a very hard man to a nice and caring one.

Did you face any problems because of your new faith?

We shared the Gospel with everyone we met. All the neighbors heard about Jesus. We were really on fire for the Lord.

At the beginning, it was a shock for them and it was something new and strange, but later they got used to it. It was not hard for us because my father was already a hard man. So no one would really mind our business as a family. But others who came to Christ, especially single people, experienced real difficulties.

After three months of our conversion to Christ, we experienced a miracle! God raised our 3-year-old cousin from the dead. Her family came to Christ after they saw the unbelievable miracle.

When I was in high school, I could not stop my mouth from sharing the word of God with others; many came to know the Lord. When we discovered the truth, nothing mattered to us any more except sharing the Gospel with other people.



So, why are you now with Arab Vision?

Well, I already had a background in media and had been working in that field for a while. When I traveled to my region, I discovered that in my village the majority of the women, most of who are illiterate, love to watch TV for many hours. They loved watching ordinary people speaking in their own language on TV. I realized how much TV could influence lives of individuals, families and society.

I also always wanted to help our youth, and now I see TV as a powerful means of communicating with them.

My husband also played a big role in helping and encouraging me to be involved in ministry. It took three months of prayer together, after which God made it obvious to us that He was calling me to serve Him through Arab Vision.



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Moroccan Testimonies on TV

Being a Moroccan from an Islamic background, I said to myself that perhaps it is because I only know Islam and don't know what the other religions say. So I started studying the Hindu religion and Buddhist writings, and even studied African traditional religions to discover truth anywhere. I did find some things that seemed to ring true but other things felt clearly false. I asked myself why I wasn't drawn to these other religions.

Then a Tunisian friend offered me a New Testament; but actually I had no interest in reading it. When I did finally read it, many things changed undeniably in my life. One of the first things I read was the 'Sermon on the Mount'. As I was reading this passage, tears just streamed from my eyes. I felt as though the Bible was reading me, not me reading it. I understood that the perfect image of God was displayed in the person of Jesus Christ. I was certain that a mere human could not utter the words He spoke. Afterwards, I read some Christian books that contained artwork of Jesus coming from the heavens, penetrating the clouds. I understood then that Jesus could penetrate the dark clouds of my life.

Jesus is the true and living God, the one who would descend to us in humble circumstances, so that He might walk with us in our streets, that He might hear us and we hear Him. This is my testimony.

Moroccan Testimony TV Series

More testimonies - like this one - are being gathered this month by our team. Also, the scripts are being written and a crew is being put together for the production. Our North Africa director asks for prayer for this project, especially for wisdom to choose the right people.



WHO'S COUNTING?

It is often not easy to get comprehensive reports on all the viewers' responses generated by our programs, since in most cases, they are dealt with by the broadcast stations themselves. But there are exceptions, like one of our testimony programs on Miracle Channel for which we receive regular monthly reports.

Here are some of the response figures from the month of July - *just* for this one program and on that one station.

19 negative responses

58 viewers received Christ

60 directed to churches

189 prayed for and counselled

241 New Testaments & DVDs sent

637 Total responses in July*

* Over half of them from Arab women

CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
PO Box 21258
1505 Nicosia, Cyprus
E-mail: contact@arabvision.org
Website: www.arabvision.org

Financial support for Arab Vision's work can be deposited in our head office bank accounts in Cyprus.

Arab Vision Trust Fund
GB£ IBAN CY16-0020-0154-0000-0041-0005-3401
US\$ IBAN CY09-0020-0154-0000-0041-0005-4206
Euro IBAN CY83-0020-0154-0000-0041-0005-6948

Swift BIC: BCYPCY2N
Name of Bank: Bank of Cyprus Limited
Address of Bank: 54b Demokratias Street, Latsia CYPRUS

Checks can be made out to 'Arab Vision' and sent to our head office in Cyprus.

In the USA, checks can be sent directly to our American office. Arab Vision Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.

Arab Vision, Inc.
Rev. William Lovell
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Dallas, Texas 75230

In Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, cheques can be sent to Interserve with a cover letter indicating that the money is meant for Arab Vision.

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Prayer DVD

Just out! Arab Vision has produced a special prayer DVD, featuring the North African countries of Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

The DVD will inform you about each country and alert you to the key needs and issues which need to be prayed for.

Contact us to order copies for your family, Bible study group or church.



Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World