IN THE SPOTLIGHT -Tanas Al Qassis
Chairman of the international board of Arab Vision

“Growing up in the little village of Shepherd Field in a town called Beit Sahour has been a blessing and a curse at the same time. It was a blessing because it is an amazing little town just south of Bethlehem. As a kid I had a wonderful time playing in the fields, we did not have a TV or a computer so we were very creative in what we did for fun. Both of my parents worked hard to give me and my two brothers the best possible life, but they were always worried about us as we grew older and the political situation changed. As a child I did not understand the occupation; I saw the Israeli soldiers around in their jeeps, sometimes they stepped us no reason, closed our schools and controlled our education system. As a teenager the whole situation got to me. I have seen violence, a cousin being taken to prison for no reason, my uncle’s shop being emptied by the soldiers because he refused to pay tax, my school mates getting shot, schools being closed down, and demonstrations were held almost three times a month. Life became complicated, my parents insisted that I came home before sunset and were always worried about us being away even when we were at church in the evening. I never realised the effect of the conflict on myself until I left to go to the USA for my studies in 1986.

Freedom is an amazing thing. The fact that I could travel, go places without being stopped and asked for my ID, the fact that I was treated like anyone else, was amazing. Many young children and teenagers who live in Palestine face these problems and that is the reason that alcohol, drugs and just hanging around in cafés become part of life. For me, if it was not for my faith in Jesus, my life would not have turned out the way it is now. Jesus gave me hope that things will be better, taught me how to love instead of hate and most of all how to pray for my enemies. So please pray for the Palestinian and the Israeli people; they both need the blessing and a curse at the same time. It was a blessing because it is an amazing little town just south of Bethlehem. As a kid I had a wonderful time playing in the fields, we did not have a TV or a computer so we were very creative in what we did for fun. Both of my parents worked hard to give me and my two brothers the best possible life, but they were always worried about us as we grew older and the political situation changed. As a child I did not understand the occupation; I saw the Israeli soldiers around in their jeeps, sometimes they stepped us no reason, closed our schools and controlled our education system. As a teenager the whole situation got to me. I have seen violence, a cousin being taken to prison for no reason, my uncle’s shop being emptied by the soldiers because he refused to pay tax, my school mates getting shot, schools being closed down, and demonstrations were held almost three times a month. Life became complicated, my parents insisted that I came home before sunset and were always worried about us being away even when we were at church in the evening. I never realised the effect of the conflict on myself until I left to go to the USA for my studies in 1986.

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Media for Change

TWO NEW Program PROPOSALS:
BRIDGING THE GAP & RECONCILIATION

It is not only the generation gap that separates people, there are many more situations of misunderstanding and hostility in societies. We would like to develop two new programs in order to help understand the ‘other’ in society.

The first program is a series to help children aged 10-12 to understand and appreciate those who have a different religion, a different ethnic background, or who may have a disability. Each episode covers the story of the ‘other’ group in documentary style. The second half is a spontaneous, reality-TV style segment showing the two groups of children interacting with each other. The purpose is to help them realise that on the inside people are the same, with similar dreams, fears, family joys and struggles, etc.

The second program is about reconciliation and we hope to produce it in cooperation with Musaha, an organisation in Jerusalem which has been working with Palestinian Christians and Messianic Jews since 1990 to promote reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians according to biblical principles. No funding is yet available for these program proposals. Would you pray with us that God will never forgive me. What can I do?"

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FROM OUR FOLLOW-UP TEAM

Our follow up team, based in the Middle East, often gets questions about the relationship between parents and children. Here are some of their questions asking for prayer and advice on parenting. The names have been changed or withheld to protect privacy.

“My name is Nahlia from Iraq, please would you pray for my two teenage brothers Yoshiash and Ishak that the Lord may give them a tender heart. They often shout and curse, and they don’t listen to any advice; there is always fighting in our home.” (Nahlia in Iraq)

“I have great problems that destroyed my family and I was in relationship with a woman other than my wife and committed adultery. Consequently my wife was angry and quarrelled with me in the presence of my two daughters. Actually, my wife and I hate each other very much. All neighbors complain about my behavior. I’m worried about my two daughters and I don’t know what to do.”

(Mother from Upper Egypt)

I stopped leading the worship, I also stopped going to the meetings. I feel as if I am two persons who are fighting each other inside of me. I have experienced God’s hand in my life: He even did a lot of miracles and saved me from various situations, but I left Him. I am so ashamed and feel that God will never forgive me as I experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. But I left all of that and the ministry. I am afraid that God will never forgive me. What can I do?”

“I am one of the worship-leaders in the church, but I am struggling with sexual immorality and pornography. I even visited strip clubs recently. I stopped leading the worship, I also stopped going to the meetings. I feel as if I am two persons who are fighting each other inside of me. I have experienced God’s hand in my life: He even did a lot of miracles and saved me from various situations, but I left Him. I am so ashamed and feel that God will never forgive me as I experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. But I left all of that and the ministry. I am afraid that God will never forgive me. What can I do?”

We are in the process of producing a series of 13 episodes of about half an hour each about Biblical teaching and the life of faith. The interviews have been filmed in street will be used to represent “the voice of the people” on various subjects, like human nature, justification, salvation and the church.

One of the questions asked on the street was: ‘What will you ask God?’ The answers were diverse, here are some of them. ‘Why did you create us? Why did you make evil? Do you love me? I won’t dare to ask Him anything; I just accept what He does.

The pictures give you some impression of the preparation and filming of part of the program series.

REVOLT OF THE YOUNG – A QUEST FOR TRUTH, continued

Joseph and Moses immediately come to mind. Both of them lived in Egypt and had to deal with the concept of “saying face” and “covering up.”

As a young man Joseph finds himself a slave in the house of one of Pharaoh’s officials, Potiphar. Joseph was well-built and handsome. (Gen.39) Potiphar’s wife takes notice of the young man and says, “Come to bed with me!” Joseph refuses and runs away, so Potiphar’s wife has to save face and reverts to false accusations. Consequently Joseph ends up in prison.

The Joseph Canal and Sea are found near the Fayoum Oasis, south of Cairo, and remind us of Joseph’s role in Egypt. Visiting Fayoum with teenagers presents a great opportunity to discuss biblical values and learn from the choices Joseph made. Moses’ life provides teenagers with various lessons about the search for truth and freedom. Memphis is a place where many of the pharaohs lived and during a visit to Memphis teenagers can learn about that particular time in their history.

Arab Vision is in the process of producing a competitive reality series in which two groups of three teenagers set off on an adventure, trying to solve a riddle of Egypt’s past. While visiting 13 different locations they learn about their Christian heritage, study biblical principles and are in a competition to win a valuable prize. The Quest will be a series of 13 programs of 28 minutes each.

See Your Help Needed for more information about The Quest

FREEDOM CAFÉ

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Follow-up

On a quest in Egypt

US$6775 or €5000

In this series of 13 episodes six teenagers travel through Egypt with a presenter and a film crew to find the solution to an ancient riddle. Whoever solves the riddle, wins the competition. During the trip the teenagers will be amazed by the stories from the Bible which took place in their own country and they learn valuable lessons about identity-development. We still need at least US$6775 or €5000 for the production of this series.

Using our treasures again

US$6775 or €5000

Since 1997 Arab Vision has been producing TV programs and we have built up an impressive video archive of hundreds of programs and thousands of stock-shots which need to be digitized. This way they can be used again for new productions, especially short video-clips for the social media. It is quite a job to digitize everything, but we lose a great treasure if we fail to do so. For US$6775 or €5000 we can appoint a part-time worker for one year to complete this job. With a minimum investment we can then re-use what we produced during the past years. We would greatly appreciate your help in this matter!

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