

"Because Christianity is originally from the Middle East and is facing a hard time there at the moment, I gladly support Arab Vision. It is good that this organisation uses the media to make the gospel accessible to people in the heartlands of Islam. God bless the team who preach and practise faith, hope and love, and in this way exalt God."

Jan Jongeneel, emeritus professor missiology, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Now in production:

Testimonies of Arab women

In the past we produced four seasons of this popular series of programs for women, which are still broadcast on TV and social media. In this fifth season we want to focus on women who have become refugees. The purpose of this series is to encourage Arab women (and men) with the testimonies of other women, which reveal how God is faithful in all circumstances, though He doesn't always handle the situation the way we would like Him to, it's He who carries us through. This series will soon go in production.

Signs of hope in a divided world - Reconciliation

Our Arabic / Hebrew documentary about reconciliation, consisting of three episodes of 15 min, is now being broadcast and also translated and subtitled in English and in Dutch. Part 1: the Biblical principles of reconciliation. Part 2: Principles put in practice focusing on activities of Musalaha; part 3: Principles put in practice: peacefully living and playing together in a village near Nes Ammim and a music college in the old city of Jerusalem. In every part a Jewish and a Palestinian perspective is provided. If you are interested in working with this subtitled series, please send a note to contact@arabvision.org

Mark my words

Mark my words is a heart-warming series with children who share short Bible verses with the viewer. 365 short clips of about 20 seconds, without giving a Scripture reference or any explanation. The Word of God speaks for itself, through the mouth of children. We also want to show through the children that everyone is valuable, that is why about 5% of the verses are read by children with special needs. Some of the clips are in sign language. We start with producing this series in Arabic and plan to continue with producing series with children speaking Berber languages of North Africa and Sourani (Kurdish). These clips are ideal for use on social media, but they will also be used by various satellite broadcasters.



CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund is registered as a charity in Cyprus email: contact@arabvision.org website: www.arabvision.org

In the USA, checks can be sent directly to: our American office. Arab Vision Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Arab Vision Inc. (USA) 1101 S.Broadway St. #120 Carrollton, Texas 75006

You may also donate by paying through our website www.arabvision.org. This is a secure payment facility.

Bank of America Branch: 11868 Preston Rd, Dallas TX 75230 Account name: Arab Vision Inc Account no: 004782094990 Routing no: 111000025 Federal EID no: 48-1270313

In Canada, 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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MEDIA FOR CHANGE



How will you respond?

The year 2017 has almost come to its end, but the world is still facing an incredible refugee crisis. In the Arab World millions of people had to leave their homes. According to the UN, more people have been on the move in 2017 than at any other time since World War II.

In our television programs for December we are focusing on Christmas: Christ the Saviour is born. When Jesus was almost two years old, he was a refugee child. In Egypt there are many 'holy' places reminding us of that fact that the family sought refuge there.

Would they have had the same thoughts as today's refugees? 'How long will we stay? Can we ever return? How can we start again?'

Today's refugees fleeing for their lives can certainly relate to Jesus' situation. Herod wanted to hold on to his power at all costs and killed the children of Bethlehem. We see similar situations in today's world where evil and ruthless people attempt to seize power or hold on to it.

So how will you respond to the refugee crisis? Do you take your decisions based on politics or fear? Please remember Jesus' words from Matthew 25: 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

Arab Vision wants to do its part and we will continue to provide television programs with bible study and testimonies to give comfort and encouragement to those in need. Furthermore we provide education programs for children in refugee camps who do not have the opportunity to attend a regular school. (See page 3)

Will you help us in prayer? Will you pray for the refugees in the camps during the winter? Will you pray for our team so they can produce excellent programs and for our follow-up team that provides a listening ear to the thousands of people (Muslims and Christians) responding to our programs?

For this Christmas and for 2018 we wish you peace. "May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

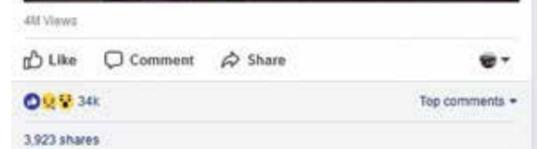
Gabino Boutros international director Arab Vision

Hope for Tomorrow: Taboo subjects brought into the light...

Our program *Hope for Tomorrow* deals with some very sensitive issues which are usually not discussed on TV. In the Arab World, no secular channel would dare break the taboos surrounding issues like trafficking, incest, marital infidelity, early marriage, emotional and physical violence, etc. When our second season of *Hope for Tomorrow* was produced, some Muslim members of the crew could hardly believe that Christian TV channels were willing to broadcast these programs. *Hope for Tomorrow* is now on TV (Miracle Channel) and online – and it certainly does not go unnoticed!

Our follow-up team had received specialised training beforehand to help them respond to these highly sensitive issues, but they were amazed by the overwhelming response to the episode about incest.

It was watched **more than 4 million times** on Facebook, shared almost 4000 times and at the time of writing there have been thousands of public comments. The team also receives around 150 private messages every day.



The story, based on real facts and presented by actors, is about a young woman who lives with her husband and young children in the house of her mother-in-law. One day her husband is seduced by his own mother and the young woman finds them in bed together. She decides to go and see a counsellor to find a way forward in this situation.

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Greetings

قال يسوع: "أَنَا قَدْ جِئْتُ نُورًا إِلَى الْعَالَمِ، حَتَّى كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِي لَا يَمُوتُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ". يوحنا ١٢: ٤٦

Jesus said: "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."

John 12.46

The Arab Vision team wishes you light and peace and a blessed Christmas season.



Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV and internet in the Arab world

جابينو بوتروس
international director Arab Vision

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register." (Luke 2:1,2)

The entire Roman world ...

At the height of the Roman Empire, it was easier to travel from North Africa to Rome than from Paris to Rome. Leaving the shores of Tunisia, one could arrive in Rome 24 hours later.

The early church in this Roman province knew waves of persecution, but also enjoyed periods of relative peace. The waves of persecution, however, often showed the strength of the believers' faith.



In 203 AD two young Christian women, Perpetua and Felicitas were martyred at Carthage, in Tunisia. While in prison, Perpetua kept a diary, which has been preserved to this day. She wrote: *"My father arrived from the city, worn with anxiety, and came up the hill hoping still to weaken my resolution. 'Daughter,' he said, 'pity my white hairs! Pity your father. Make me not a reproach to mankind! Look on your mother and your mother's sister; look on your son who cannot live after you are gone. Forget your pride; do not make us all wretched! None of us will ever speak freely again if calamity strikes you.' So spoke my father in his love for me, kissing my hands and casting himself at my feet, and with tears. And I grieved for my father's sake..."*



In 248 AD Cyprian, of Berber descent, became Bishop of Carthage. Emperor Decius started a new wave of persecution of the Christians. He ordered all Roman citizens to sacrifice

to the Roman gods and the emperor, tempting many to lapse into idolatry. Cyprian went into hiding for 10 years but was eventually discovered and imprisoned. When he was sentenced to death, his only answer was "Thanks be to God!" A vast multitude followed Cyprian on his last journey to the place of execution. He removed his garments, knelt down, and prayed. After he blindfolded himself, he was beheaded by the sword.

In 698 Carthage and all of North Africa was conquered by the Arab/ Islamic armies, but the church continued to exist, although at a smaller scale, till around the beginning of the 15th century. In recent years we have seen a resurrection of the church in North Africa, particularly among the Kabyle in Algeria. Christian TV programs have played an important role in this process.



The Heritage Project

The Heritage Project is a series of 8 x 30 minute programs depicting Christians who lived in the first five centuries AD. We hope that the series will be a great encouragement for the Christians in North Africa and an eye-opener to many who do not know the message of the Gospel. This project is being produced in partnership with International Media Ministries. (Watch the trailer on our YouTube channel)

One of the crew writes the following:

"We spent two days last week in a medieval prison portraying Christians arrested for their faith. It had a very fortress-like feeling though it was not that big.

We tell about a God who is with you no matter what kind of persecution you face. That you overcome if you live and you overcome in Christ if you die, as well! To live is Christ, to die is gain! Wow!

We are in the middle of 20 shooting days that spread out over 8 weeks. We are occupying this project with fear and trembling. Will we remember all the details? Will the budget make it as far as it needs to with the unexpected things that occur? We will hold the line here as you back us up in prayer."



Hope for Tomorrow:

Taboo subjects brought into the light... (continued)

The first person to respond to the second series of *Hope for Tomorrow* was a Muslim man. He said, *"I find it very encouraging that you show these programs and give women an opportunity to talk about these issues. Other TV channels don't dare to address these topics."*

Some people get extremely upset with us for making these programs. *"Why are you showing these videos that open the eyes of people to something dirty? Do you want people to sympathize with the filth? God will punish you."*

Others are recommending the program and say, *"This is not a disease, this is incest, and it is a disaster."*

As so many people have questions about these issues we are planning to set up live-sessions with the counsellor involved in the production of this series, so that she can answer frequently asked questions and discuss recurring themes.

Our follow-up team is extremely busy answering all the messages, many of which are very emotional. They appreciate your prayers for much wisdom and discernment. Because of the increased number of people who are connecting with us through private messages, we are also in need of more capacity for the follow-up team.

Would you consider supporting the follow-up team financially as well?



Arab Vision provides educational programs for SAT-7 – Academy

Refugee children are sometimes labelled as the "lost generation"; children who are not accepted in the local school system. In Lebanon there are about 200,000 refugee children who cannot be accepted in the local schools. Across the Arab World there are over 13 million children out of school.

Arab Vision's partner, SAT-7, has established a channel precisely to meet the urgent needs of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). SAT-7 Academy is filling this educational gap with a series of programs, addressing all aspects of life. The channel has some 20m viewers and the programs are also available on the internet.

Arab Vision has already supplied more than 80 programs to Sat-7 Academy on a great variety of issues, including programs on HIV, FGM (female genital mutilation), anti-violence campaign, raising children, domestic violence, kindergarten teacher training, providing basic human rights to people with disabilities, etc.

We're happy to see that many of the programs we have produced over the past twenty years are still very effective for reaching today's generation.



Can you help?

Reaching the refugees - US\$ 5300



With so many Arabic speaking people outside of the Arab World, we would like to make programs available for churches and individuals who want to share the Gospel with them. We want to subtitle and re-edit seven series of excellent programs on a variety of subjects and make them available to you. With about US\$ 5300 we can make at least 120 unique programs available for distribution.

Follow-up for Hope for Tomorrow - US\$3000

See the article about the program series *Hope for Tomorrow* on this page and page 1. Temporarily we need more capacity for our follow-up team to deal with the response on *Hope for Tomorrow*. Would you also consider supporting the regular follow-up team on a monthly basis with US\$ 30?

Christmas programs - special Christmas gift



This year we produce a series of Christmas programs for children, 10 episodes of 5-7 minutes. Granny Samia sings Christmas carols and tells Christmas stories to the children.

The stories include the angel's visit to Mary, John the Baptist's birth, the angels appearing to the shepherds, the birth of Jesus and the flight to Egypt.