

Signs of hope in a divided world

The documentary about reconciliation *Signs of hope in a divided world* will soon be broadcast by SAT-7 and Hayat TV.

Different aspects of the process of reconciliation are discussed in this documentary of three episodes of 15 minutes each, from a Palestinian and Israeli perspective.



Theologians Dr Isaac Munther and Lisa Loden share about the Biblical basis for reconciliation in the first episode, without losing sight of the reality of the situation in the country. "We live here in many respects in a complicated situation. There are many people groups here and we need to get along," says Lisa Loden. "I belong to a small community of Messianic Jews. I have many brothers and sisters here, also among Arab and Israeli Palestinians. But there are many differences and many problems between us. Differences in theology, way of life,



social circumstances, political opinions... there is much that divides us. But as believers in Christ, Who is the basis of our faith and life, we should be united because we are siblings, according to the Scriptures and the will of God... When Jesus was on earth he saw every person, He accepted everyone. He is our example."



In part two and three we see examples of reconciliation in daily life, including a desert trip with Palestinians and Israelis; how people live together in the small village of Nes Ammim and how students in the old city of Jerusalem are studying and performing classical music together.

The documentary is also available on USB with English or Dutch subtitles. If you're interested in receiving it, please send a message to contact@arabvision.org and we'll be happy to send it to you.



Bookmarks available

To let your Arabic speaking friend, neighbor or colleague know about some of our Christian programs and how to contact people who can answer questions in his/her own language, we have produced attractive bookmarks. The verse on the front says "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you."

If you can use them, please send a mail to contact@arabvision.org and we'll be happy to send you some.



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.

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MEDIA FOR CHANGE



Issue 44, March 2018

ARAB VISION

Have mercy, my Lord...

رُحْمَاكَ يَا اللَّهُ

As I am writing this column, I have received several invitations to attend a performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's St Matthew Passion, which will also be broadcast on television in several countries.

I am always impressed by the part "Erbarne Dich". After Peter has betrayed Jesus, an alto sings the famous aria "Erbarne dich, Mein Gott, um meiner Zähren willen!" (Have mercy Lord, My God, because of my weeping!) Just five mournful, yet lyrical lines calling on God to recognize the singer's suffering are repeated over and over with beautiful violin pieces.

I was impressed by an Arabic version of the aria, sung by the Lebanese contralto Fadia el Hage (فاديا الحاج). This aria has been sung in so many languages and it has touched so many hearts!

The best testimony to the meaning and power of the St Matthew Passion is the music itself, and the best way to approach it to simply listen to the words and the music and let them do their work in you. A good time to do so is in the Passion Week before Easter when Jesus Christ revealed His passion for us in the suffering He willingly went through on our behalf.

My hope and prayer is that many listeners, also in the Arab World, may truly understand the real meaning of the Passion and that they will recognize what Jesus, God's son, did for us.

Have a blessed Easter!

جابينو بوتوس

Gabino Boutos
International director Arab Vision

God changed me, He can change others!

The Arabian Peninsula consists mainly of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman, countries where the number of Christians with a Muslim background is small, but growing. People often hear the gospel for the first time through the media. Radio, TV and internet play an important role in this region with hardly any indigenous churches. Gamal is one of the believers. Here follows part of his testimony.

"The thing that gives me strength and gives me hope that God can change the people who are around me, is the transformation in my own life. I have faith and I pray that the One who changed me and keeps changing me and does miracles in my life can use me as a tool to build a Christ-centered society—or that God will do it in His own ways, even if it doesn't involve me. The same way He shaped me, He can shape those around me and this will be the reason for transformation in our society."



One day Gamal entered a small shop by the market and chatted with the shop owner as he made his purchases. Over time he had befriended this shop owner on his regular visits to the market. There was a TV in the shop that was always on. That day, as they were talking, Gamal took the remote control and casually flipped it to a Christian channel.

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Easter greeting



قَالَ لَهَا يَسُوعُ: "أَنَا هُوَ الرَّسُورَةُ وَالْحَيَاةُ. مَنْ آمَنَ بِي وَلَوْ مَاتَ فَسَيَحْيَا" يوحنا 11: 25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies..." (John 11.25 NIV)

The Arab Vision team wishes you a joyful Easter!

ARAB VISION

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

MEDIA FOR CHANGE

Easter: Seeking peace in a troubled world

This year the theme for the program around Easter will be *Seeking peace in a troubled world*. Jesus Christ did not lead an army to convert any country. He never lifted a sword and the only crown he wore was the crown of thorns. He lived, died and rose from the dead to give us hope. He rose from the dead for our salvation. Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

His resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. Christianity derives its existence from Christ's birth, its life from His life, and its continuity from his resurrection. It's the only guarantee that we will not perish – we can receive eternal life.

The program will consist of 10 episodes of 20 minutes each. Twenty special Easter songs will be recorded, a short Bible message will be shared; interviews related to the subjects will be held with people in the streets and special attention will be given to children.



Response from our viewers:

The Easter programs we produce each year are watched by millions of people. Here are some responses to previous Easter programs.

Mariam from Egypt asked us to pray for her: *"There are a lot of things turned upside down and broken in my life. I would like to repair these things and to become better than before."*

Marina got in touch with us and openly told us that she is working in the prostitution. We talked with her about the prostitutes mentioned in the Bible and that they were accepted and loved by the Lord Jesus. Marina accepted these words and decided to stop with her work in the prostitution. We have now referred her to a spiritual support group.

To get an impression of some of our previous Easter programs, please look at the playlist *Strengthening the Church* on Arab Vision's YouTube channel.

Help, my child says he is an atheist...



Middle Eastern communities have a trinity of taboos that are not to be spoken about: sex, politics and religion. To openly speak about doubts and questions you have regarding religious issues is discouraged.

In the wake of the Arab Spring, however, atheism seems to have attracted many followers in the Middle East. In almost every Arab country atheist groups came to the forefront with their own Facebook pages. A silent revolution is now taking place on the social media in the Arab World. Young people are busy attacking the foundations of traditional culture and pushing further the frontiers of freedom.

Atheism also challenges the Arab Christian youth who are not so sure of their faith in Christ. In order to get parents talking about their (lack of) faith with their children, we will produce a program of 26 short episodes in which all kinds of questions are discussed in a setting of a family living in

an apartment in a large building shared with relatives. The first part will deal with faith and science and the second part with questions related to sexuality. Some of the subjects in the first part include: Science and the Bible, Darwin's theories, who is God, the beginning of the universe, etc. We trust this series will create an open atmosphere to honestly discuss questions and doubts.



God changed me, He can change others! (continued)



The shop owner left it there and began to enjoy the programs he saw each day. He enjoyed them so much that he always kept his TV on that channel and refused to change it, even though some of his other customers complained about it.

"Prayer is the most important thing," says Gamal. "It's the most important thing that leads me to Christ. The way I do everything else goes back to prayer, like learning, and meeting with other believers, and knowing my faith, and dealing with problems. The reason of my faith is prayer. Even if all those around me abandon me, prayer gives me strength. The reason for my faith, and the strength of my faith, and the reality of my faith is prayer—because God always answers. He solves my material problems, and the problems of violence, the problems of killing, and the problems of war and displacement. The prayers of the evening are answered in the morning, and this is because of the strength of God's response. I love Him so much."

Pray that God will do in others what he has done in us, as local believers. That he will use Gamal and all the rest of us to transform our nations and build Christ-centered societies.

(Read the full story on the Community of the Arabian Peninsula's site: <http://capvoices.com/2017/03/prayer/>)

Mark my words!

The series *Mark my words!* has been produced in Arabic and consists of approximately 380 clips. Children from different backgrounds have recited verses from the Bible, without mentioning the source. We hope that many people from a non-Christian background will also accept these words as an encouragement or instruction.

The series is broadcast by SAT-7 and used on various social media channels. We are in the process of producing the series in other languages as well, including various Berber languages of North-Africa and we are investigating the possibilities for Sourani (Kurdish).



"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Can you help?



Mark my words! – US\$ 9000 needed

365 short clips with encouraging, inviting words from the Bible, recited by young children are broadcast in Arabic on TV and Facebook. We would like to produce this attractive series in the Kabyle Berber language of Algeria. Can you help us?

Easter programs – US\$ 6000 still needed

For this Easter we produce a series about hope and peace through the resurrection of Jesus; music, interviews and a short message from the Bible. The series will be broadcast on satellite TV and simultaneously on our Facebook page Taraneem. Orthodox Easter is this year celebrated on 8 April.

Adopt a follow-up worker – US\$200 per month

Our follow-up team asks prayer for wisdom in order to deal with the many difficult situations they encounter in the contact with people who respond on our Facebook pages. Are you willing to contribute to the costs for follow-up by adopting one of the follow-up workers with a monthly amount of US\$200? Thank you.



Please, listen to me...

Our follow-up team deals every day with more than hundred serious conversations. In January we had 3364 conversations on three of our main Facebook pages.

A young girl from Algeria (16) got in touch with us on our *Hope for Tomorrow* page. After her father's death she has been struggling with feelings of loneliness and worthlessness. She started to think about taking her own life. We spend much time in listening to her and supporting her in this difficult time.

Abraham from Egypt lost his wife and children in a car accident. He is distressed and sad because of his loss. We talked with him about the presence of God in our lives. He replied that he feels comforted speaking with us and is thankful for our answers to the questions he has.