



“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”- Isaiah 41:10

What would you say to people when they ask you about your job? And how would you answer if I asked you what it means to be a Christian? How would you tell someone about your faith?

Many years ago, the slogan WWJD became popular; people would wear a WWJD bracelet, others a T-shirt, etc. The sad thing is that when you ask people what it actually means, they will only tell you “What Would Jesus Do?” When you ask them, “Well, what would He do?” they struggle to find an answer.

It is easy to wear our visible crosses, but what is more important is carrying our invisible cross and make people see it. *“My identity shapes my behaviour, but my true behaviour shows my real identity.”*

It is very easy to say anything we like, but if we do not live it, people will soon know the truth about it. If I want to practice WWJD, then I need to really know Jesus well in order to know what He would do. The more intimate I am with the Lord, the more I know the Lord, the more I can talk about Him and the easier it will be to share my faith.

My faith gives me hope because I know I have a Saviour who loves me and cares for me. I have hope because I can go back to the Lord and tell Him how I feel. I have hope because one day I will be with Him. My invisible cross should reflect the hope I have in Jesus.

Let’s continue to share that hope for today and for tomorrow!



Tanas al Qassis
Arab Vision UK
board member

Peace and war begin at home...

21 September is the International Day of Peace; a peace that is far away in the Arab World.

Mother Theresa once said, *“Peace and war begin at home. If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families.”*

When we were in the process of producing the second season of *Hope for tomorrow* we had no idea that the response would be so overwhelming. The stories of 6-year-old Manal, who was sexually abused by her cousin, Najla who is cruelly beaten by her own mother, Sahar who was married off to a rich man who sent her back to her family after several months of sexual pleasure, Samira who is married to a man who has an incestuous affair with his mother and many other heartbreaking stories, have all but overwhelmed our follow-up team. So many of our callers were grateful that they could finally share their own story with someone who listened.

The second season of *Hope for tomorrow* will soon be available with English subtitles. If you are interested in receiving this series on USB, please let us know. By talking about these sensitive issues, a door is often opened to find peace again, even though the road may be long and difficult.



From our viewers:

Jihan wrote to us on our *Hope for tomorrow* Facebook page:

“I really love this page because it changes a lot of misconceptions. My husband loves and respects me, but isn’t able to get children. Some people advised us to get a divorce, but we don’t want that. You offer good solutions and make people aware of the problems. May our Lord strengthen you to continue to solve the problems of many people.”



MEDIA FOR CHANGE

Light for North Africa

It is hard to say exactly how many Christians there are in North Africa because the numbers usually only include members of registered churches. Abdel, a pastor from a Kabyle area in Algeria, sheds some light on the situation in his country: *"Local pastors give an estimate of 30,000, others 100,000, but it could be that there are more than 500,000 Christians. Even in our village there are more than 40 'unknown' Christians, mainly women. The number of unknown believers is at least four to six times higher than the registered number."*



Arab Vision wants to encourage the believers in North Africa with programmes in their own language. In 2003 we started producing unique TV programmes in the languages of North Africa, mainly in the Kabyle language, but we also produced the very first Christian TV programme in Tunisian Arabic.

We would like to produce more for TV and social media. At the moment we are working on two series for North Africa: *The Heritage Project*, about the history of the early church in North Africa, and *Mark my Words*.



The Heritage Project

This docudrama series portrays eight Christians, some of whom were martyred, from the early history of the church in North Africa. The first episode, which has now been completed, looks at the theologian and teacher Tertullian. Further episodes focussing on Bishop Victor, Perpetua and the Scillitan Martyrs are close to completion. In the coming months our production team will be filming on location in Egypt and Tunisia, and also outside of North Africa, where the drama parts will be filmed. The first versions will be in three different Arabic dialects for each of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Later versions will be in other North African languages.

We are eager to show you something of the series, so here is a photo-impression to give you some idea. Will you continue to pray for this beautiful, but complicated and labour-intensive project?



Response from Mohammed, Nour, Amal and Laila from North Africa

Mohammed is a young Muslim from Algeria who struggles with feelings of fear and worry. He got in touch with us on Facebook and we were able to help him understand his feelings and deal with these emotions.



Nour, a 23-year-old Muslim woman writes that she feels hurt by the way society treats her and she hates the way she looks. We explained to her that she is accepted and loved by God and that she can develop a relationship with Him. She responded very positive: *"You changed many strange ideas I had. Talking with you has relieved me a lot. I will talk with our Lord every day like you taught me."*

Amal: *"I am a Muslim but the advice has touched my heart. I encourage you to continue with this teaching on your page."*

Laila: *"Your page is wonderful and useful."*



Not always a happy end...

We are working on the fifth season of *Maaki* (literally 'With You'), a series of portraits of Christian women from the Arab World showing the situations that confront them in their lives. These TV programmes have encouraged numerous men and women in the Arab World, especially because the focus is not the solution of the problem, but God's faithfulness in every situation.

"With the fifth season we want to focus mainly on stories of refugee women, of the war in Syria among others; they will have so many things to share," says Shady*, the managing director of this programme. "We are, however, still looking for stories of Syrian and Iraqi women. If someone can help us get in touch with women who would like to tell their stories, we'd love to hear from you. Even if they don't want to show their faces, we can think of a solution to deal with that."

"This fifth season will be different from previous ones," Shady continues. "Not only will there be a strong focus on refugee women, but we also would like to have a song in each episode. For instance a hymn in which a woman is crying out to God, asking Him to help her in her situation and her pain. The women who share their testimonies about problems in their lives, are often still in the midst of these troubles."

Unlike some movies where there has to be a happy end, *Maaki* doesn't only show stories with happy endings. What makes *Maaki* unique is that we present stories of women who can still be in the midst of their trials. By doing so we want to encourage women that God is *with you* (*Maaki*) in the midst of the storms in your life.

Appeal: If you live in Europe and know refugee women with a story that can be an encouragement or challenge for the Arab World, would you please send a mail to contact@arabvision.org? Thanks!

Mark my words!

The series *Mark my Words!* has been produced in Egyptian Arabic and consists of approximately 380 short clips. Children from different backgrounds recite a Bible verse without mentioning the reference. The series is broadcast on SAT-7 and used on various social media channels. We are now working on a similar series in Sorani, the main Kurdish language, and Kabyle for North Africa. For Sorani we have made some pilot clips and plan to start production in September, as soon as children have returned from their school holidays.



Now on TV

Hope for tomorrow:

The second season of our programme series with Dr Amany deals with all kinds of taboo subjects, like domestic violence, sexual intimidation and incest. Women in similar situations can find hope that by God's power and grace things can change. *Hope for Tomorrow* is broadcast on Miracle Channel and SAT-7.

Kingdom person:

The second season of our Bible study programme with Dr Awsam who explains what it means to be 'a new creation' is broadcast on SAT-7.



Can you help?

My first words – £135 per clip



Short clips for refugee children, teaching them how to read and write. You can sponsor one clip (production, broadcasting and follow-up via social media) for £135.

If you are interested to receive the pilot and the project description of *My First Words*, please contact Ian at: ian@arabvision.org

Good news for Yemen



We are in the process of producing clips for women in Yemeni Arabic. This is done in cooperation with a Yemeni producer. The first two clips have been produced and are already used on social media. A woman is in a 'mirror-conversation' and wonders where and how she finds her value and dignity. If you would like to support this, please contact us for a complete project description.

Thank you – Shukran! شكراً

A big "thank you" to all our supporters. Many of you give regularly to the work of Arab Vision and we are very grateful for income that we can rely on. We also receive gifts anonymously or without an address, again please accept this as a personal "thank you" from all the Arab Vision team.

In preparation:

At the moment we are working on the script for *Baby on Board*. Many women in the Arab World spend a significant amount of time on the back seat of taxis, often together with a friend. That is where discussions on every topic take place. We would like to produce a real life TV series *Baby on Board! Back-seat talks with pregnant women*. Two women chatting together on the back seat of a taxi about the joy of being pregnant, but also about taking care of your body, recognising danger signs and getting medical support when needed.



The series *Help, my child claims to be an atheist* is in preparation. Middle Eastern communities have a trinity of taboos that must not be discussed: sex, politics and religion. Speaking openly about your doubts and questions on religious issues is strongly discouraged. Atheism also challenges the Arab Christian youth who are not so sure of their faith in Christ.



CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

email: contact@arabvision.org
website: www.arabvision.org

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Account: Arab Vision
Sort code: 30-97-24
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Alternatively, cheques can be sent to:
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Messages of Hope in a Divided World - Reconciliation



Our Arabic / Hebrew documentary about reconciliation, consisting of three episodes of 15 min, is available on USB with English subtitles. 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 this subtitled series, please send a note to contact@arabvision.org

Every month prayer requests are sent out by email. If you would like to join the 'Gideon's Band' and make a difference by interceding for the Arab World and the ministry of Arab Vision, please let us know.

Bookmarks available

To let your Arabic speaking friend, neighbour or colleague know about some of our Christian programmes 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.



Getting digital

If you'd rather receive a digital newsletter instead of this printed one, please let us know by sending a message to contact@arabvision.org

**ARAB
VISION**

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