



## Social media is the place where Muslims can get answers

**Jon, the manager of our follow-up team, tells about himself, his life and his involvement with our social media ministry.**

### Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I've been married for 16 years; we have three children 10, 8 and 7 years old. We are Canadians. I love music, playing guitar and leading worship in church. I love playing sports as well, especially soccer.

### How did you come to the Middle East?

For a long time my wife and I felt called to ministry, and God was leading us to the Middle East. We were positive right away about the opportunity to go because we had already visited the region so we already knew some people. We were confident that God wanted us to work with Muslim people for different reasons.

I went to Bible College to do an intercultural ministry degree; part of my program was to do an overseas internship. I had an opportunity to go to Bosnia. The majority of the Bosnian people are Muslims. I was excited to go there but not excited to be working with Muslim people. Then my uncle came to talk to me and the Holy Spirit really spoke through him. He said how God had made me to love and be a friend of Muslim people. The conversation took away all my prejudices. I felt God was saying, "This is where you need to be."

### What is your role in the Arab Vision team?

Part of my role is facilitating communication between the English-speaking donors and the Arabic-speaking follow-up team. Also, I help with developing the social media ministry. My English lets me learn quickly and then I can give the knowledge to the team to benefit from.

### What is your opinion about social media ministry?

It's a very strategic place to do ministry in our time. I always see people with their phones on Facebook; people spend most of their time on social media. Another benefit of social media is an extra level of privacy. If Muslim people have a question they have nowhere to go to ask because immediately they will hear "shame on you". Social media is the place where they can get answers without being shamed.



## CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

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**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  
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You may also **donate by paying through our website** [www.arabvision.org](http://www.arabvision.org). This is a secure payment facility.

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## Christmas concert on the Nile

This year we have the unique possibility to film our Christmas program in the open air, in the heart of Cairo. Together with the "Praise Team of Egypt" we will organize a Christmas concert in one of the most public places of the city, near the Cairo Tower.

This way we can share the Christmas message by singing carols and by telling the story of Christ's coming to this world as Savior, in a way that can be understood by many. There is room for 1200 people who can attend this concert. We are looking at possibilities to broadcast live as well; if that is not possible we will film it and it will be broadcast later by various channels and online. We will use the various songs on our Facebook pages.



Let us know what you think of our newsletters. We would like to keep you fully informed about our work and if you have ideas how we can improve in that area, please feel free to share them with us. Send your thoughts and suggestions to [contact@arabvision.org](mailto:contact@arabvision.org) or share them on our [Facebook page: Arab-Vision](#).

## MEDIA FOR CHANGE

Issue 46, December 2018



# ARAB VISION

## The righteous will flourish like a palm tree – Psalm 92.12 (NIV)

Are the Copts made of steel? I would rather compare them to a palm tree, with a tough but flexible outside and a soft heart inside. Palm trees can bend quite low, but do not break. They can grow very tall, but will bear most fruit when the roots are as deep as the tree is high.

In this newsletter you can read about the Anafora feasts we develop with and for the Coptic Church, to support Christians in Egypt to hold on to their faith, to embrace the community, to have their roots go deep to the life giving spring. To blossom and bear fruit, even in times of persecution and discouragement.

I would also like to ask your attention for a special opportunity we have to (help) organize a Christmas concert and to film and broadcast it. It will take place on one of the most prominent and public places of Cairo, the Cairo Tower. Read about it on page 4 and consider sending a Christmas gift for this unique opportunity to share the Gospel message.

Last but not least, we do not all need to win the Nobel Prize for Peace, but let's all live and share God's peace.

We wish you God's blessing and peace,

on behalf of the Arab Vision team,

Umm al Farieq

## Are the Copts made of steel?

History was made this year when for the first time an ethnic religious group was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Egypt's Coptic Christians were nominated because of their refusal to retaliate against deadly and ongoing persecution from governments and terrorist groups in Egypt and elsewhere.



Although the Norwegian Nobel Committee decided to award the Peace Prize to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict, it is quite significant that the Egypt's Copts were actually nominated. Their attitude and response to persecution has been noticed worldwide.

On Palm Sunday 2017, St Mark's cathedral in Alexandria was one of the targets for a suicide attack. A young man with a bomb in his backpack killed 17 people, including Naseem Faheem, the cathedral's guard. He had redirected the man through the metal detector, where the bomb exploded. Faheem saved the lives of dozens inside the church.

National Television interviewed his widow in Alexandria. "I'm not angry at the one

who did this," said his wife, children by her side. "I'm telling him, 'May God forgive you, and we also forgive you. Believe me, we forgive you. You put my husband in a place I couldn't have dreamed of.'"

Amr Adeeb, presenter of the program, was very quiet after the interview and was obviously searching for a response. "The Copts of Egypt ... are made of ... steel!" he finally uttered. Quite stunned, he continued to talk about the atrocities the Copts have to endure and the forgiveness they have so often shown. "How great is this forgiveness you have!" his voice cracked. "If it were my father, I could never say this. But this is their faith and religious conviction."



Are the Copts made of steel? It may look as if every attack makes them stronger and more resilient in their faith, but in reality many of them also get tired of always being the target of violence and persecution. With many the fervor of their faith has become a tiny flame. Arab



Vision is working with Bishop Thomas of the Coptic Church to encourage the Coptic Christians in Egypt to rekindle their faith. Bishop Thomas, whose diocese is in the south in one of the poorest parts of Egypt, will provide the teaching in a series of seven videos.

>>> Continued on page 3

# ARAB VISION

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



# MEDIA FOR CHANGE

## In Algeria and Yemen TV is a source of encouragement and inspiration

Everyone in the Middle East has access to television, even though they may not own their personal set. Watching TV is very much part of the culture. The TV is on in the background. When satellites are confiscated, people will quickly buy another one. They want to know what is happening outside their region. Many women and children are isolated in their homes and this is their connection to the world.

The impact of TV programs in a country like Algeria cannot be overestimated. Every year about 10,000 people turn to Christ and are baptized. Most of them have come to faith through Christian TV programs. 'A spiritual revival is taking place,' says Abdel, who is involved in producing TV programs in the Kabyle language.

Although the church faces oppression and hostilities, many of the Christians continue to come together in secret for worship and encouragement. Christian satellite TV programs are a source of encouragement and inspiration for them.

*With a simple concept Arab Vision would like to "take the church to the people", to those who are not able to attend a church, - and there are many of them. New and isolated Christians don't have any concept of Christian worship services and how a Christian community functions. That is what we would like to show them in our programs. Could you help us make that possible? You can send us a donation or write to us if you would like more information. (contact@arabvision.org)*

Many people in Yemen are getting disappointed with Islam. Because of the war people are scattered all over the country, including believers in Jesus who have the opportunity to share their faith with others. It reminds us of the believers in Acts 8 who were spread across the country because of persecution, and suddenly so many people had the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

The number of people who have come to faith in Christ is growing steadily. Although a few thousand doesn't look like many on a population of 27 million, it is a significant growth over the last 20 years. Almost all of them had their first encounter with the Gospel through a Christian TV program.



## I believe Christ can change my life...

Sabira, a 36-year-old Muslim woman from Tunisia, asked us for prayer. She feels that she is being destroyed due to witchcraft. She has no husband and no job. We talked with her about the deliverance that Jesus gives. She replied: 'I believe Christ can change my life.' Now we are looking for someone in the country that can help her.

Huda from Algeria is divorced and her son is very violent towards her. She got in touch with our follow-up team and together we tried to find out what the reasons could be for her son's violent behavior and talked about ways to deal with him. At the end of the conversation she said: 'I thank you so much, this was really useful. Thank you for listening to me.'

Abdul Rahman from Morocco has been in touch with us for quite some time. He started out with questions about Christianity, soon he requested a Bible. Recently he asked how he could become a Christian. Now we are trying to connect him to a church in Morocco.



## Christmas greeting

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings. (Isaiah 52:7)

مَا أَجْمَلَ عَلَى الْجِبَالِ قَدَمِي الْمُبَشِّرِ، الْمُخْبِرِ بِالسَّلَامِ، الْمُبَشِّرِ بِالْخَيْرِ،  
الْمُخْبِرِ بِالْخَلَاصِ، الْقَائِلِ لِصِهْيُونَ: «قَدْ مَلَكَ إِلَهُكَ!». إشعياء ٥٢: ٧



## Are the Copts made of steel? - Continued from page 1

The purpose of the course is to invite people to return to the community of faith and the heart of the Christian experience. The Coptic-Orthodox Pope of Egypt, Tawadros II, will also provide a contribution. Priests of local Coptic churches will be trained to teach the course.

Actually, we would rather not call it a course, but a celebration, as celebrating the Christian community is at the heart of the series. People are invited to share a meal, to watch the video and to discuss things together. Does that sound familiar? The difference is that we would like to support the Coptic Church in a country where, for centuries, it has not easy to persevere as a Christian minority.

Filming will take place in December in Anafora, a Coptic retreat centre between Cairo and Alexandria. After that more than twenty priests will be trained and will then teach the course, as a pilot. At a later stage, many more priests nationwide will receive training in using the course.

Would you pray with us for this project, that this course will indeed be a celebration for many Coptic Christians so they will find new courage to participate in and contribute to the Christian community, including reaching out to non-believers?



## Now in production and on TV

### Baby on board:

A series about a healthy pregnancy and delivery, without being hindered by all kinds of superstitions. We have a new scriptwriter. Please pray that we will find the right tone of voice.

### Mark my words:

In Kabyle and in Sorani Kurdish. Children presenting Bible verses; short clips of 10 – 20 seconds. The clips for North Africa in Kabyle and possibly more languages can probably be filmed soon. For the Sorani clips it is more difficult to find children who speak the language. We may produce clips in Aramaic.



### Light for North Africa – the Heritage project:

You may have seen this project on our list for a long time already. This is going to be a beautiful drama-documentary about church fathers and martyrs from the first centuries of our church history.



### My first words:

We have just received a grant which is sufficient to produce 100 clips that will help Arab children who are unable to attend school to learn reading and writing. We would like to film the clips in a refugee camp in Lebanon; will you pray for the logistic challenges?

### Maaki 5

Maaki is Arabic for 'with you'. We have produced four seasons of Maaki already; they are filled with impressive testimonies of Arab women who put their trust in their God and Father in spite of the difficult situations in their lives. In this fifth series we include portraits of women in refugee situations in the Middle East and other areas.



**On television:** At the moment the programs *Hope for Tomorrow* and *Kingdom Person* are on TV. *Hope for Tomorrow* discusses taboos in the area of domestic and sexual violence and our follow-up team is still being overwhelmed by responses. Please pray especially for our team that we can give them enough support; this work is emotionally and spiritually very demanding and takes much energy. *Kingdom Person* is a very practical 'manual' for living a Christian life.

## Can you help?

### Christmas program – US\$6800

For more information about this program, see the article about the Christmas concert. Arab Vision is contributing to the costs of renting the premises, plus we have costs of filming, editing and broadcasting the concert, and use of the clips on Facebook.

### Follow-up team:

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of our follow-up work via social media. It is a vital element in reaching people in the Arab World. However, we don't have a fixed income to pay for the salaries of our follow-up team. Would you consider giving a special gift for them? If you have the opportunity to take up an offering in your church or to apply for one, please do!

### 100 conversations every day!

Our follow-up team has approximately 100 conversations each day.

On our various Facebook pages we had over 1.5 million completed video views in the first half of 2018. (For non-Facebook users: most people watch a clip only for a few seconds and then move on to something else.)

During that same period we were able to provide more than 300 people with materials they needed, including Bibles, discipleship materials, articles, etc. to help the people who connected with us.