



Is my child an atheist?

Rahma and Lydia

Who is counting?

Baby on Board!

Maternal mortality is still unacceptably high in the world; every day some 830 women die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. In order to focus on pregnancy and childbirth and to refute superstitious beliefs and practices, we have produced the series *Baby on Board*.

Two women are sitting on the back seat of a taxi, chatting 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 is ready to be broadcast and we will also use clips on our Facebook page about family life.



Help, my child claims to be an atheist...



The spotlight in this series is on families who have to deal with young people who have doubts about their faith, relatives who openly call themselves atheists, parents and other members of the family who have no idea how to relate to this situation. The purpose of the programmes is to open up the conversation, to give room for questions and doubts and to focus on the essence of faith. The series will be broadcast on satellite TV and we will have several campaigns on social media, using the clips.

Sandy Tales

Arab Vision, in partnership with Jesus.net, is working on the Arabic voice-over for *Sandy Tales*, the ancient Bible stories told through sand art. Recently we finished the voice-over for *The Lord's Prayer* and *The Samaritan Woman in Yemini* and Egyptian Arabic and we are working on Kabyle, Algerian Arabic and French. We will use the *Sandy Tales* to reach out to thousands of people via our Facebook pages.



We see a different picture.....

Two recent news items caught my eye. The death of Hosni Mubarak, former President of Egypt, at the age of 91 and the announcement that Egypt's population had officially hit 100m.

Mubarak had served in the Egyptian Air Force before becoming vice-president to Anwar Sadat, a former army officer. Mubarak was ousted from office in the Arab Spring and briefly replaced by Mohammad Morsi, who in turn was overthrown by yet another former army officer, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. It seems that Egypt is forever destined to be ruled by a military dictator. Openly using the "D" word (Democracy) is not recommended.

The growth of the population also seems to be inexorable, increasing from 18m in 1945 to its present peak of 100m, placing more and more strain on the country's creaking infrastructure.

It is tempting to shrug one's shoulders and fall back on the French saying "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." (The more things change, the more they stay the same.)

But Arab Vision's Follow Up team sees a very different picture. Last year, tens of thousands of viewers contacted the team, responding to our programmes and social media output. Many enquirers expressed dissatisfaction with their lives and were seeking change. The story of Rashid (see p.7) is a typical example of a person seeking God. We know that across the Arab World, television and social media are the most effective means of reaching those who want to change their lives.

Please pray for and support our production and Follow Up teams in every way you can.



Ian Sutherland
Arab Vision UK

Rahma and Lydia

In 2007 we started to produce *Maaki*, a series of portraits of Christian women. Since that year we have produced four seasons of *Maaki* and we have seen how these programmes have been used to encourage people as they watch the testimonies, since the focus is on God's faithfulness in their situations, not on a solution to the problems.

For this fifth season, which is ready to be broadcast, our producer Bassem interviewed 26 women from Syria, Iraq and Egypt. He shares two heartbreaking stories with us. "Two is enough, I can't share more."

Rahma

Rahma, a Muslim woman from Syria, lived in the countryside. "When the war broke out, this happened in the cities, far away from where we lived. We said: 'You are at war. We are not.' However, the war also came to us."



Rahma was one of the many women who were raped by the ISIS-fighters. Our producer Bassem spoke with her for three hours. "What hurt me so much is that her in-laws are blaming Rahma for something she cannot be blamed for."

"Halfway during the conversation I could not go on. Her story was heart-breaking. She constantly had to cry as she spoke. I also shed a few tears. I decided to pray and I also prayed with Rahma. After that we were able to continue," says Bassem.

"When we finished recording the story, Rahma asked me not to broadcast it, as her family still did not know about the situation. In our culture, rape is a very shameful thing and often the woman gets all the blame and is rejected by her family. She has taken an inner-healing course in the country where she now lives and Christians have helped her in many ways. We are glad that in the end she gave permission to show her story. We are sure that many people will pray for her."

Lydia

Lydia is a Christian woman from Syria. She lived with her husband and two teenage daughters near Damascus. The war broke out and Lydia's family decided to stay in Syria, but after a while their circumstances became too demanding.

Their daughters were persistently harassed on the way to school because they were not wearing the niqab. The family decided to leave the country but were not able to do so legally. "In that time they (the European countries) were not giving visas to Syrians at all."

Lydia's husband paid a large amount of money to a smuggler and took the dangerous route by sea to Europe on his own first, with the intention to have his family join him later. His boat capsized and although he was a good swimmer, he drowned. He died, trying to save others who could not swim. Lydia received permission to go to Greece to attend her husband's funeral. Her daughters, however, were not allowed to come.

"I lived in Greece for one year and then I went to Germany. That year was very difficult. I wanted to go back for my daughters but they told me: 'Don't come, mum. You are better off in Europe than in Syria,'" Lydia shares. Once in Germany, she arranged the paperwork for her daughters to join her and now the family is reunited.



With tears in her eyes she says: "Thank you Jesus that you have helped me in everything. God has been faithful. He said to me when I had lost my husband: 'I will give you peace.' I prayed to God that He would strengthen my faith. He answered: 'I will be your Father and your *habib*' (beloved)."

The forgotten man



Most of Arab societies are patriarchal, but changes are taking place, often on the side of the women. However, something can only be achieved, if men are included in these processes.

Arab Vision is preparing a series of 26 clips of about 3 minutes each, discussing the roles of Arabic men in a changing society, family and church. Subjects include roles of men in marriage and family; showing emotions, dealing with authority, midlife crises, sexuality, view of God in the family, etc.

Production of the clips costs £5,460 (£210 per clip) Total budget for this project, which includes intensive use of the clips on social media and providing follow-up for one year, is £13,440.

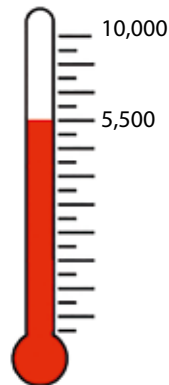
Could you or your church sponsor one or more clips?

You and I – the light of the world

Thank you for the 65%...

At the moment we are producing short video clips to be used on social media, featuring principles and deeds of Jesus, reminding us what it entails to be the light of the world. Jesus proclaimed that He is the Light of the World, and continues to declare that his followers are the light of the world. But what does that mean for us and how can we share the light? How can we ease people's burdens, feed the hungry, care for the stranger?

We are very grateful for the £10,000 we have received for this project. We still need about £5,500 for producing the clips, running campaigns on social media and providing follow-up.



How can I pray to God?

Rashid from Algeria asked us: "How can I pray to God? How can He listen and answer my prayers?" We shared with him that God would like to have a relationship with us, as we may know Him as our Heavenly Father. We can talk to God every day and He listens. Rashid responded, saying: "Can you tell me more about Jesus? How can I become a Christian?" So we began to share about Jesus, and sent him a Bible at his request.

Who is counting?

4,396,774	Number of people who were reached by our <i>Hope for Tomorrow</i> Facebook page
325,221	Page likes for <i>Hope for Tomorrow</i>
110,630	Individuals who connected with our <i>Light of the World</i> FB page
101,825	Page likes for <i>Light of the World</i> FB page
72,023	Engagements (likes, comments, shares) on our <i>Hope for Tomorrow</i> FB page
40,499	Private messages received on our <i>Hope for Tomorrow</i> FB page
30,279	Private messages received on <i>The Secret</i> FB page
988	People who received Christian materials as follow up
741	People who received a Bible or Bible portion
31	Professions of faith on our Facebook pages
24	People who had a face to face meeting

These are figures for 2019 from our follow-up team. Countries of origin of all these people: Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and some others.

Wisdom needed for our follow-up team

Please pray for our follow-up team as they create content for each theme for our various Facebook pages. "We need much wisdom as we respond to men and women who are hurting and living in difficult situations physically and emotionally," says the team leader.

"We need wisdom to be differentiated, to maintain a healthy connection with those we counsel, but not to take all of their stress and problems on ourselves and get burned out and have compassion fatigue."

30 Days of Prayer – order the prayer guide now!

Over the past 28 years, millions of Christians have joined together across denominations & cultures to pray during the month of Ramadan, in over 23 languages for Muslim people.



The purpose of **30 days prayer guide** is to motivate and inspire the reader to pray. Each article of the prayer guide contains enough content to provide a brief overview and up-to-date information about a specific people group or issue. Many stories and testimonies can be found on www.pray30days.org. The UK prayer guide can be ordered on <https://30daysprayer.org.uk/>

30 Days of Prayer begins 24th April 2020. Will you join us?



Email: contact@arabvision.org;
website: www.arabvision.org

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