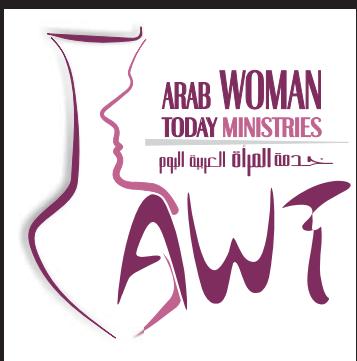




Arab Woman Today Ministries

Annual Report 2008



Arab Women Reaching and Equipping Arab Women

What is AWT doing for the Arab woman?

Being her voice

Motivating her Listening to her Affirming her value
Equipping and Empowering her Supporting her
Demonstrating the love God to her
Affirming her value Raising her awareness Inspiring her
Inspiring her Listening to her
Equipping and Empowering her
Raising her awareness



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Turning Challenges into Opportunities

2008 was a year of progress for AWT in Jordan. There were many things that God blessed us with during 2008, most importantly a team and volunteers who helped carry our vision of reaching Arab women. We had new opportunities to reach and equip more women through our media and training locally and regionally.

Our performance

It was a year of transition toward a new, more open and more efficient operating environment. Through this transition, the AWT staff proved to be more resourceful and professional in their performance. With the collapse of the global stock market, we encountered numerous financial challenges. The AWT staff turned those challenges into opportunities to transform their humble skills into a wide range of experiences managing crises.

On a personal level, I have learned a great deal about myself as a woman, businessperson and what it means to be a leader. I appreciate the support of our board that believed in me first and empowered me to carry this responsibility in a professional and integral manner.

Outlook

We will celebrate our first decade of the radio program in 2009. Although it will be a challenging year, we are confident we are creating a ministry that is more responsive, innovative and efficient. We believe we will be a ministry that is winning many souls to Christ and equipping women leaders to carry the legacy of training others. We also have faith that this ministry will see peaceful and healthy homes that seek to raise healthy generations and live in a safe environment that is free of violence.

We invest in people through the contribution of generous donors. We expect that successful strategic planning over the coming years should provide AWT with financial growth and expansion of the ministry.

These are exciting times for AWT. Our audience and trainees in Jordan and the Arab region will truly benefit from what we offer, which will eventually lead them to have a better life and a joyful hope of our Savior. I believe AWT is a vital and unique ministry in the entire Arab world.

I am blessed to be here working with you. Your investment, your encouragement and your support will help us to go further and faster in expanding God's kingdom. I give thanks to God for your part in building AWT over the last 10 years.

In Him,
Ruba Abbassi



Ruba Abbassi

Arab Woman Today Ministries, CEO

Ten Years on Air

"Woman Today" is a radio program started in 1999 on radio Moscow with a mono format. The program tackled a wide range of social issues that face Arab women. The biblical view was presented during the talk and the Gospel message in the closing segment. It was the only program for Arab women broadcast on the radio.

Two years later the program transferred to TWR (Trans World Radio) with the same format. In 2003, the program hosted experts in various subjects and women from different countries, ages and backgrounds. True life changing stories were aired to give hope to desperate hearts and draw a smile on stricken faces. The Biblical message was presented in every episode.

In 2005, an additional voice joined the program to handle the interviews. During that time the idea of drama drew a great deal of interest among the audience.

In 2006, a smaller team of three and sometimes four persons performed two minutes skits as an introduction. It gave the audience an idea about the topic for the daily episode.

Major progress took place in 2008. Drama became the main segment in the program, which brought more interest to men and women to listen, laugh, and learn countless lessons about themselves and their life.

The biblical message continued on the same format presented by one voice for about 3-5 minutes.

In 2009, more volunteers joined the drama team which added more experience and efficiency to the radio program and to our media ministry in general.



A prayer group was formed to pray for the radio program/2000



Ruba in the transmitting station/2002



Ruba participated in an advanced training in media production/2003



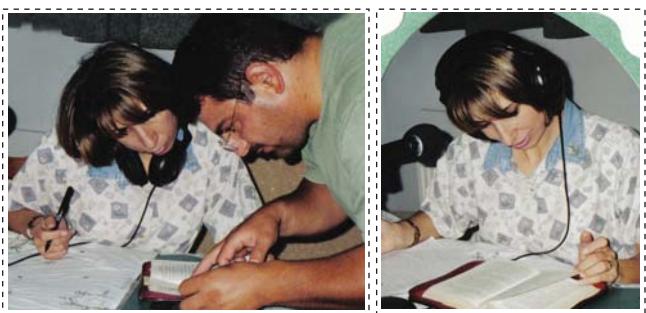
Ruba writing for the program/2004



Recording at TWR studio



Ruba and Basma; the new voice in the program, with TWR director/2005



Ruba with IBRA producer/1999

Ruba Recording/1999



Basma interviews a lady from Jordan/2006



Ruba recording the biblical message/2006

Radio Program

Our 15-minute radio program titled "Woman Today" continued to effectively reach the Arab woman in the 22 Arab countries. Twice a week, on two outlets the radio waves carried our voices to these women giving them hope and guidance.

In 2008, we added a new format to our program. The program started with a drama, followed by the biblical message. Forty new topics were discussed in the radio program in 2008. Seeds of truth were planted in the listeners' hearts, minds, and souls helping to lead them to the Savior.

Some of the discussed topics:

1. Sexual abuse of children
2. Addiction to Internet Pornography
3. Husbands that are intimidated by his wife's success
4. Honor killings
5. Separation of spouses
6. Wife beating
7. Breast cancer
8. Shopping addiction
9. Absence of husband
10. Why do children steal?
11. Abusing housemaids



52 episodes were recorded and edited at TWR studio



Program team rehearsal before recording



Woman's Today program team

During 2008 a team of volunteers and some of AWT staff was formed to produce the program. The team has variety of talented young men and women who live in different cities in Jordan. Some of them are students in schools or universities, others are employees in the community. The radio team met regularly during 2008 to plan and write the scripts and rehearse the skits as well.



Feedback from listeners:

(Kh. from Jordan):

"The AWT radio episode on "why children steal" helped me a lot to notice my children's behavior as they sometimes bring home stuff from school that do not belong to them! I learned how to handle such situations with my children."

(M. from Lebanon):

"I can't find the right words to express my love and adoration to your program; it has a great deal of importance in religious, psychological, scientific and health issues."

(L. from Tunisia):

"I don't leave my house much often... I have to take care of my old mother and all my family since I am still a single woman. Many nights I go to bed with tears in my eyes but I would be holding my radio close to my ear listening to AWT radio program. It brings me hope... the radio became my best friend! Thank you for what you do!"

(M. from Egypt):

"Your program is great, my wife and I pray that it will be a success, we listen to Trans world radio and like the "Arab Woman Today" program the most as it provides effective articles for life."

Training & Seminars

Our 2008 training and seminars created a platform for AWT to equip women with knowledge and skills for daily life. Whether the teaching was about achieving intimacy in marriage or the impact of pollution on women and children, the information was practical and could be applied immediately.

Approximately 249 people from the local church and the community participated in our training seminars this year; 203 women and 46 men.

Trainees from the north to the south of Jordan had the opportunity to be equipped to make a difference in their own lives and therefore in their society.

List of training held in 2008:

1. February 2008/ Amman:

The effect of environment pollution on women and children

2. May 2008/ Amman, Zarqa, Hussun:(for couples)

More than Intimacy

3. August 2008/ Jerash:

Women health problems

4. September 2008/ Aqaba:

Emotional Maturity

5. October 2008/ Amman: (for deaf girls)

Building a healthy character

6. November 2008/Amman:

How to be a woman of influence



Left: Couples of different ages participated in the marriage seminar. Each couple had the opportunity to discuss its marital life according to the presented teaching.



Participants of marriage seminar - Amman



Participants of marriage seminar - Hussun



Special sessions for women addressed different topics such as: "Motivation" & "Seasons in a man's life"



Special sessions for men addressed different topics such as: "Job performance" & "Seasons in a woman's life"

Feedback from Training participants:

(A couple who attended the couples training):

"We have learned new things although we knew them before but we understand them now from a different point of view. I would like to thank you all for your hard work in this conference."

(A lady who attended the couples training):

"I liked the way the subjects were brought up ; it was practical and uncomplicated. The speakers were obviously professional."

(A man who attended the couples training):

"The conference was great. It was very useful to me, I would like to participate in other conferences like this for sure in the future and I will defiantly recommend others to attend."

Seminar in Jerash: "Women Health Problems"



Participants from Jerash church and community



A group of AWT volunteers joined the staff in building new bridges with the participants

Training in Aqaba: "Emotional Maturity"



AWT staff travelled to south of Jordan to encourage the women in Aqaba and dedicated a special time for individual counseling and prayer.



The ladies were put in teams of two to become prayer partners

Seminar in Amman: "How to be a woman of influence"



49 women from churches in Jordan attended this seminar



Guest speaker:
Mrs. Letta J. Taylor,
Mayor of Montreat, NC

The speaker addressed the differences between influence and leadership, and she shared 10 steps of becoming a leader of influence



Seminar for girls in the Deaf Center:
"Building a healthy character"



15 young deaf ladies attended this seminar where two issues were discussed: Self Confidence and the Five kinds of Love

Feedback from Training participants:

(A lady who attended the training in Aqaba):

"I was facing many problems with my husband, as I attended this training I learned so many things which I went home determined to apply. A couple of weeks later, things started working out better step by step.

Learning how to be emotionally mature and to understand the differences between men and women was the key to that change!"

(A girl from the Deaf Center):

"No one has ever cared enough to tell us what we have learned today! Please keep coming with more!."

(A girl who attended a training in Amman):

"After attending the seminar "Reaching your way to the top" which taught me steps on how to become a woman of influence, I went and shared the same material with 14 ladies in a house group."

Network Conferences

AWT held two Network conferences this year, one in Jordan and the other one in Tunisia.

1. Under the title "**Powerful beyond Measures**", our annual Network Conference was held in Amman, Jordan. Approximately 50 women from 12 countries were empowered to discover their vision and to set goals. By sharing ideas, accomplishments and failures the women had the tools to evaluate their projects and ministries. Like a ship that charts a course for its destination, women were able to chart a course that allows success to take the place of failure, allowing the Lord to be the captain of the ship, turning their dreams into reality.

Topics discussed under the title "Powerful beyond Measures":

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Vision, goals and setting plans | 4. Conflict resolution |
| 2. External and internal challenges | 5. Motivating others |
| 3. Supporting your project and ministry | 6. Team building |



A discussion panel made up of four women who revealed their insights on how they took their visions and turned them into reality.



Praise and worship.



All participants united in prayer for each country and women's ministries there.



Hand in hand to help Arab women in our countries.



Participants in Jordan Network Conference



Mrs. Abeer Qumsieh-speaker



Practical teaching on team building



Group discussion



Participants in national dresses

Feedback from Network participants:

(M. from Palestine):

"The things I have learned at the Network Conference 2008 were very helpful and such a great value to me. I shared what I have learned especially the topics regarding "Goal Setting" and "Team Work" in a conference that was held in Jerusalem about setting goals and a plan to the ministry in the Holy Lands, and many leaders from all over Palestine attended this conference, So thank you so much for inviting me and for giving me this great chance to learn so I can teach others."

(T. from Egypt):

"Attending this Network conference formed a strong iron base for me to stand firm on! It made me stop and evaluate the way I am doing my ministry then work again differently."

(T. from Egypt):

"After listening to the teaching in this Network Conference it made me notice that I haven't yet shared my vision with anybody and that is the reason why I am alone getting no help at all. But now I will seek to find someone to share my vision with and to help me put this vision on ground in a more effective way."

2. "Being a Woman of Influence" was the title of our second network conference held in Tunisia. Twenty women attended from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. This Conference helped us to reach Christian women from different backgrounds, to encourage them in their new life with Jesus Christ and to equip them to make a difference in their own lives and ministries.

Topics discussed under the title "Being a Woman of Influence":

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Starting point | 4. Vision and responsibility |
| 2. Way of thinking | 5. My ministry with others |
| 3. Reactions and behaviors | 6. Influential at home |



Two of our volunteers who were trained by AWT, helped us in this conference.



Each one had the opportunity to talk about herself in a group discussion.



Women received practical teaching on putting their vision in words and pictures.



Having fun together helped in getting closer to each other quickly.



Participants in Tunisia Network Conference



Women were eager to pray and worship God with other believers



Participants were hungry to learn and develop themselves

Feedback from Network participants:

(F. from Morocco):

"I encourage you, the conference was magnificent and the advantages extensive, May the lord bless you."

(N. from Morocco):

"God bless you, what an integrated effective team; easygoing, encouraging, nimble, persevering and courageous personalities."

(S. from Tunisia):

"Thank you so much for doing this conference. This teaching was exactly what we needed. Thank you for being my family. Thank you for all your love and for sharing my vision."

(Z. from Algeria):

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the great fellowship we had together and the teaching. Please come to my country and church; the need is huge."

Websites

1. English Website:

Our English website continues to provide accurate information for those who seek to know about the Arab woman. More studies and stories were added in 2008, some of which have been reported by Arab women themselves. New statistics, articles, pictures and videos were also added in 2008 to our website. This enriched our user's research about Arab women and what AWT Ministries is doing to reach and equip those women.

The English website users had the opportunity to share their opinions about AWT Ministries in a new section titled "What others say". We received many encouraging words from our partners, contacts and friends.



English Website: www.awtministries.com
An average of 850 visits/month



Arabic Website: www.arabwomantoday.com
An average of 5155 visits/month

2. Arabic Website:

The number of our website users has continued to increase. An average of 5155 visits per month by users of different genders, ages, and backgrounds benefited from our Arabic website articles. Seven writers from Jordan and other Arab countries wrote 571 articles which responded to the daily needs of Arab women. The articles discussed enlightening, educational and inspiring topics and included biblical teaching. These had a formative influence on women's minds and hearts. The information guided them towards improving their personal lives by being better people in their homes and societies.

A new interactive button titled "Topics for discussion" was added in 2008. The visitors were able to post their opinions and questions about certain subjects we discussed and to raise other subjects they were interested in discussing. This button gave us an opportunity to hear from the website visitors and communicate with them. The users were also able to communicate with each other at the same time.

Although our main target group is Arab women, we found from our correspondents that men were also interested in our website. We continued to add more articles in the section titled "Only for men". The information helped them build bridges of understanding with women.

Feedback from website users:

(N. from Egypt):

"I like your website and always use its articles in my lady's ministry in my church."

(S. from Sudan):

"I like this website as it taught me about many important things for women, it also helped us women in groups by raising our awareness."

(A. from Germany):

"I really like the articles on your website, they are so useful especially spiritually, and I would like your permission to use your articles here for benefit."

(M. from Lebanon):

"your website is always ready to give answers for all questions."

Follow Up System

1. Follow up with our Arabic website users and radio program listeners:

Everyday a dedicated team in AWT office communicates with our correspondents through emails and postal mail. In 2008, 114 new contacts were to the 781 previous contacts. Their letters addressed different stories, questions, challenges and needs. Our team replied and followed up hundreds of these contacts. We also met once every week to pray for each one of them.

Although there was a 49% drop in our incoming letters in 2008 due to different technical problems, the AWT team received 598 letters in seven months of the year and sent 1,962 letters by email and post mail.

Main topics that correspondents ask about

1. Spiritual Topics:

- Christianity
- Salvation
- Baptism
- Explanation for biblical verses
- How to know God's will in our lives
- Fasting
- Better relationship with God

2. Marriage, family and relations:

- Marriage problems
- Advice for a happy marriage
- Infidelity in Marriage
- Inquiries about sexual habits and practices
- Marrying the right person
- Relationships with men from other religions
- Raising children and dealing with teenagers

2. Follow up with our trainees:

This year AWT team took a new step in building bridges with our trainees. A new follow up system was developed during 2008 to keep in touch with them. Our team started to dedicate the time for phone calls and personal emails, checking on them, sending them words of encouragement, asking for prayer requests, and much more. AWT also visited its trainees in their churches. These visits strengthened them in their ministries which left a great influence in their hearts.

Number of Correspondents by Country
(Total of 895 contacts)

Algeria	29	Iraq	45	Saudi Arabia	11
America	9	Israel	8	Slovakia	1
Australia	2	Italy	3	Sudan	9
Austria	1	Jordan	56	Sweden	1
Canada	1	Kuwait	3	Syria	18
Egypt	302	Lebanon	24	Tunisia	4
England	1	Libya	1	Turkey	1
France	2	Morocco	20	UAE	9
Germany	5	Nigeria	1	Ukraine	1
Greece	1	Norway	1	Yemen	4
Holland	1	Palestine	13		
Iran	1	Russia	1		

There were 304 people who did not mention their countries.

Feedback from Follow up:

(T. from Egypt):

"Thank you so much for the advices which I applied exactly, I would like to tell you this is the first time I feel confident and that's why I wrote for you to ask you again."

(R. from Egypt):

"Thank you so much for the book you sent me, I can't express my happiness that you didn't forget about sending me theology books which I always looked for, I never found anyone else to help me like you did."

(A. from Iraq):

"Dear AWT, I'm embarrassed from being parasitic by writing to you as I am first a man not a woman, and a Muslim not a Christian. But I desire your generosity and I'm sure I'll find what I look for with you. I wrote to you after listening to the program hoping you will provide me with the information I need about the matter I shared you."

(O. from Jordan):

"Thank you so much for your fast reply and caring about me."

(H. from Iraq):

"Thank you so much for your help, I consider you my family, and you have played a big role in supporting my faith in God."

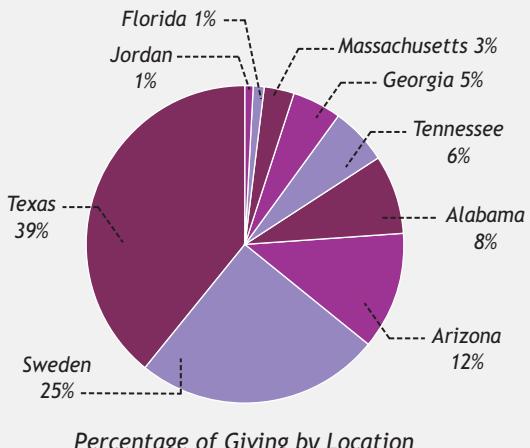
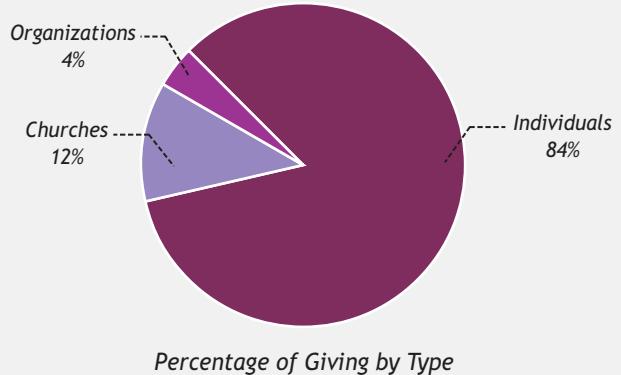
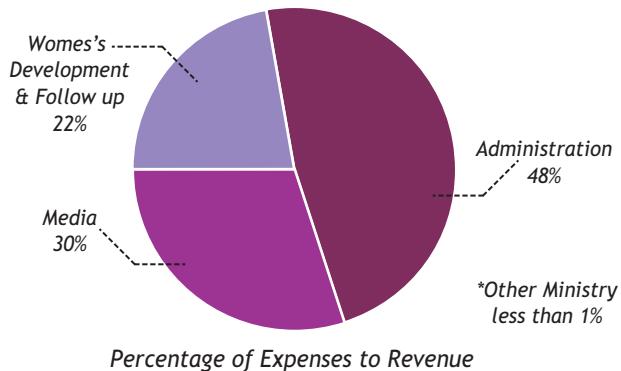
Financial Information

The year 2008 was challenging for the world financially and our ministry was no exception. Costs rose significantly and donations declined, however we continue to cling to the promises of the Lord for His provision. (Philippians 4:18-20) is a sweet reminder that the Lord will provide for His ministry in Jordan, the Middle East and North Africa:

"I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Three major overseers hold AWT accountable financially:

1. PMU Interlife, a mission organization that receives grants from and is responsible to SIDA (The Swedish government). According to their laws with their partners they must analyze, evaluate and measure the effects of projects implemented.
2. CHRISTAR is a mission organization that receives funds for AWT projects and provides donors with receipts and reports upon their request. AWT is fully required to submit financial reports and receipts of expenses relating to their account with the mission.
3. The third area is our ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT. The auditor is certified according to the auditing standards in Jordan. The audit examines the consolidated statement of financial position of AWT and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses and the cash flow for the year then ended. The financial report matches the bookkeeping, the accounting system and the quality of internal control of handling money.



(Kay Parker, US Liaison for AWT):

"What is God doing in the Middle East and North Africa? It takes 10 years for missionaries to learn the language and politics keep them out of the Arab World. So how is God making himself known? He has chosen Christian leaders local to every one of the 22 Arab countries. They need encouragement, teaching and networking with other Christians. AWT not only reaches into homes all over the Arab World offering hope and salvation, but through the radio show they provide teaching and encouragement for Christian leaders as well. AWT offers seminars and conferences to leaders and local women. This group of Arab women God has called to reach the millions of hurting women in the Arab world needs our help. Look around at how blessed you are and ask God how you can help Him and join His work in the dark countries of the Middle East and North Africa. It is such an honor for me to give to AWT. I believe in the power of reaching millions of the lost and hurting though radio. Radio is expensive, but oh so powerful. I believe in the work that AWT is doing to make God known all across the 22 Arab countries."

AWT Goals & Plans

AWT General Goals:

1. To see Arab women gain moral and spiritual insight.
2. To see Arab women develop a healthy view of their self-worth.
3. To see Arab women equipped to make a difference in their own lives.

AWT Plans for 2009:

Projects:

a. Training and Conferences:

1. Merge the ME & NA conferences into one conference in May 2009.
2. Hold two conferences for Iraqi women refugees in Syria.
3. Train and empower new women in the rural areas.

b. Websites:

1. Raise awareness of young American females on marriage in Islam through interacting dialogue button on AWT English Website.
2. Recruit new volunteers to write for the Arabic and English website.

c. Radio:

1. Develop and refine the drama sketches (writing and acting) of AWT weekly radio program.
2. Produce special episodes on women's International events.

d. Follow up system:

1. Strengthen the women's ministries in churches outside Amman.
2. Develop new strategies to keep our relationships with our contacts and trainees.

f. New project:

1. Launch and distribute an Arabic specialized printed magazine for women.

Development:

1. Strengthen relationship with key people in the community who hold high decision-making positions.
2. Build a local fund raising program.
3. Continue to improve the performance quality of AWT staff in different areas.

AWT Vision:

To reach Arab women by empowering them to change their role in Arab society.

AWT Mission Statement:

Through the medium of media and training, Arab Woman Today gives Arab women the tools they need to develop their life spiritually, socially, economically and domestically.

AWT Values:

Godliness
Equality
Teamwork
Unity
Personal Development

AWT Board Members:

Vera Haddad:

"Partnership Coordinator, Jordanian Evangelical Committee for Relief and Development (JECRaD). Chairwoman for Arab Woman Today (AWT) board of directors."

Eng. Fadi Sharaiha:

"Masters of Biblical Studies, Executive Director of the Royal Marine Conservation Society, Amman, Jordan."

Suzanne Robertson:

"Speaker on Arab culture and family issues in Amman, Jordan. Serves as Corresponding Secretary on the Board of Directors of Arab Woman Today."

Randa Qunsol:

"Teacher at King's Academy, Licensed CPA and owns Accounting Firm, Amman, Jordan."

Nazieh Omeish:

"Director of the Noor Cultural Center, Amman, Jordan."

Stories

Note: The names are pseudonym

(Salam from Egypt):

Salam's story is omitted for security reasons

(Ali from Morocco):

Ali's story is omitted for security reasons



AWT honoring breakfast for its volunteers on Christmas

(Noor from Egypt):

A daughter of a Muslim Egyptian mother and Christian Lebanese father who passed away when she was 14. Her mother forced her to live as a Muslim, but she gave her life to Christ in secret. As she grew up, Noor married a Muslim man who accepted her faith at first, but later forbade her from going to church. AWT connected her with "Sarah" a strong believer from Egypt who encouraged her to walk with Christ and joined her in prayer meetings with a group of believers next to her home where she is enjoying and experiencing the grace of Christ. Noor is now praying for her husband's salvation.

What others say about AWT Ministries

(Jean Cullen, Ministry Consultant/ Women Missionary Union):

"It has been our pleasure to partner with AWT ministries for two years now. When I first met with some of the staff of AWT, I was astounded by the amount of love they have for Arab women. They see needs in women and work diligently to meet those needs."

(Liz Church, Director of Women's Ministries/ Crossroads Bible Church):

"Ruba and her team are dedicated to encouraging, supporting, and teaching Arab women, despite personal risk and hardship, because every woman deserves to hear the life changing news of Jesus Christ."

(Dr. Kristin Beasley, Executive Director/ Greater Reach Ministries):

"I recommend this ministry because it is effectively using Christian women, while training and encouraging them, to impact their world for the Lord. Their passion for the Lord and to see women grow and develop in their Christian lives is inspiring."

(Naheda Qawar, Volunteer):

"It is an important and beneficial ministry to women as it declares God's love and redemption. It also leads to finding out divine facts in the middle of a dark world."

(Laila Qandah, Volunteer):

"This ministry is important as there is no other estimable ministry for women like yours, I think it is the only and the most unique in Jordan. Your ministry had a great influence on my life as it gave me more courage to speak frankly and openly about many topics and discuss them even with men from my family and relatives."



How can you help?

If you have been encouraged by this report and feel the Lord moving you to partner with us, here is what your gift can do:

- █ \$1,212 covers the radio airtime for 1 week.
- █ \$1,000 will send one woman church leader to the annual networking conference.
- █ 30 gifts of \$50 will pay for 1 training seminar.
- █ 50 gifts of \$22 will cover the website updates and maintenance for 2009.
- █ A gift of \$15 will pay for 1 week of postage for follow-up letters.
- █ A gift of \$5 will cover the expense of 1 book sent to 1 radio listener.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

Christar
P.O. Box 14866
Reading, PA 19612-4866

Please make checks payable to Christar and designate Arab Woman Today project.

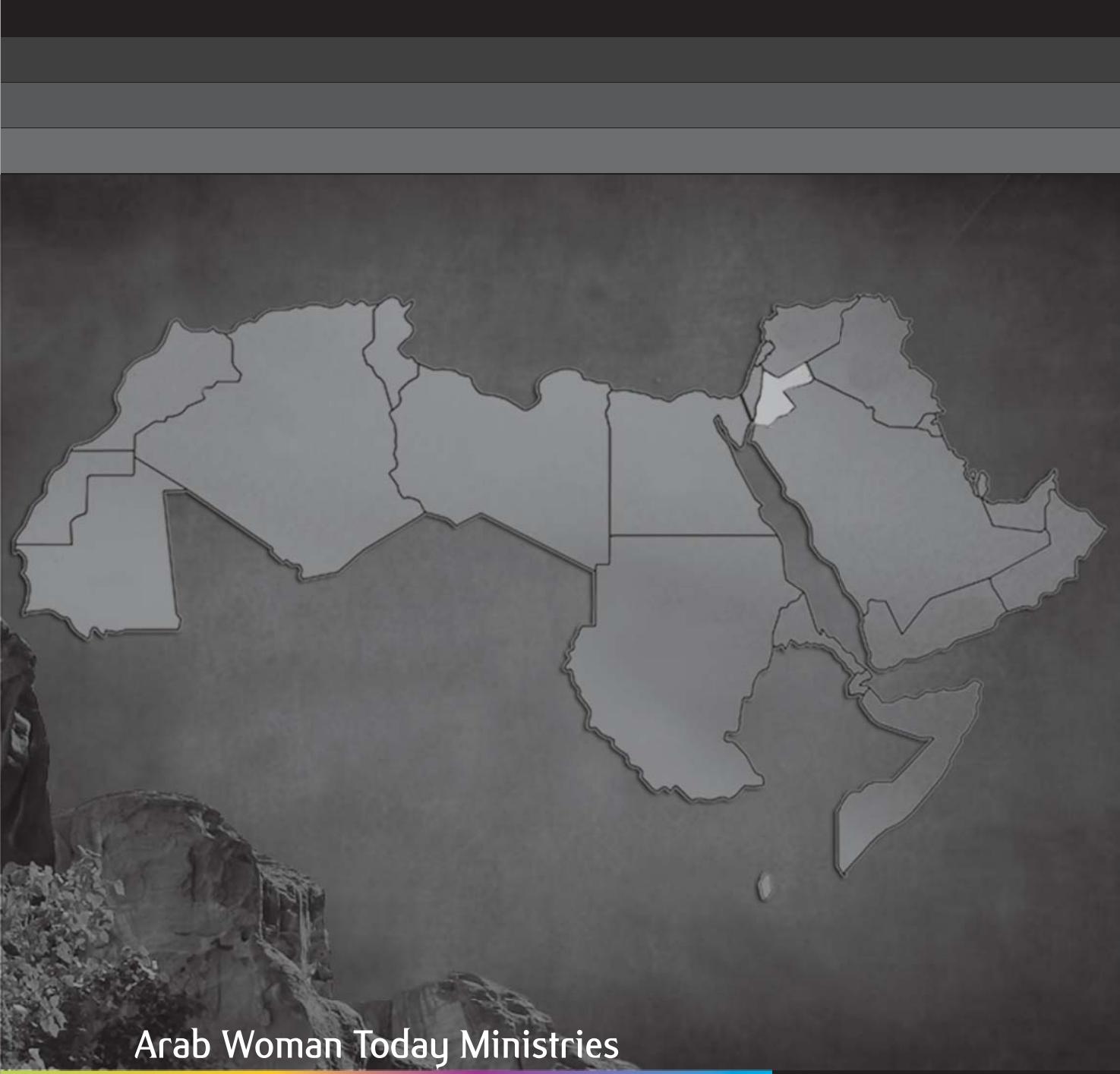
For online giving go to www.christar.org

Non-Tax deductible gifts can be wired to:

JP Morgan Chase Bank, New York
Swift Code:CHASUS33
A/C No. 02100021

For: Bank Audi
Jordan: Main Branch
Swift Code: AUDBJOAM

Credit: Jordan Baptist Convention (AWT)
A/C No.012853-461-002-005-04



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