## Arab Woman Today Ministries

### Annual Report 2010

### Content:

- Page ... 1 When the Door is Open
- Page ... 2 Radio Program
- Page ... 3 Websites & Network Conference
- Page ...4 Local & Regional Training
- Page ...6 Self Defense Training
- Page ....7 Opportuinities for Partnership & Follow-up
- Page ...8 Training the AWT Staff
- Page ...9 Purchase of Office/Training Space
- Page ... 10 Financial Information
- Page ... 11 About AWT
- Page ... 12 Stories
- Page ... 13 What your Donation can do

## "See, I am doing a new thing!"

Isaiah 43:19

# When the Door is Open

Dear Friends and Partners,

Year after year, God's wonderful blessings overwhelm us; His love overflows beyond our imagination. We learned during the past years that taking a chance is like an elevator door, when it is open, it allows you to enter and will take you to any level you want; but when it is closed, you will miss the opportunity.

Well, the first door opened, and a big decision was made. Honestly, we were so scared entering that door, but we did. We bought new office/training space for AWT, three times the size of our current location. The deal worked out well and was according to God's provision for AWT, although the finances are not totally secured yet.

The Arab woman is the center and the core of AWT ministry, she is the passion and the heart beat of our call. We believe in her and understand well her need and situation. We know the areas that need development and the resources that we can use to help her become empowered and overcome hard circumstances.

The Lord opened the second door for us, which is co-operating with officials and authorized organizations in northern Jordan directly, by training women on self defense, health, ESL, and family problems. Working with women in rural areas is a new opportunity for AWT. We

were blessed to be used by God to listen to women and to help their physical and emotional needs. Building their confidence was our main focus and the door that we entered to touch their soul and spirit. They saw Christ's love even when we couldn't use words to talk about him.

In 2010, the country of Iraq was yet another new door opened for AWT to work with the Pastor's wives and other potential women in ministry. It was a great opportunity to touch the hearts of those ladies and train them in their home land. A plan was made to continue working with them for another 3 years, equipping them in social, spiritual and emotional matters. These areas are considered the key to impact and outreach to other women. What a great door to enter and not miss the opportunity.

In this report, you will see in details, more of our activities and ministries throughout the year. We pray that you will really be blessed and touched of God's wonderful work through AWT, and at the end we together sing praises to the Lord and rejoice in our maker and helper. "Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequaled greatness" Psalm 150:2

Ruba Abbassi

to Alban

Ruba Abbassi Founder & Director



## **Radio Program**

### Feedback from listeners:

Our 15-minute radio program titled "Woman Today" has been on air for 11 years. The radio program aims to reach Arab women through the borderless airwaves of radio. Women have an opportunity to hear God's Word in the privacy of their homes while receiving help and encouragement for everyday concerns. By providing programs that are relevant to their daily lives, along with encouragement from a Biblical perspective, seeds of truth are planted. Biblical messages on character and daily problems help to strengthen their lives.

In order to appeal to a wider audience, AWT has developed a format that consists of a drama that addresses a problem that Arab women face in their families and societies. After the drama, a spiritual message is given that offers solutions to the problems from a Biblical perspective. The episodes are written and performed by AWT staff and volunteers. The radio program, recorded and edited at the Trans World Radio (TWR) studio in Jordan, is aired on TWR twice weekly on two different outlets, which cover the Middle East and North Africa.

A translated radio episode can be listened to on our English website **www.awtministries.com** (the online episode has been abbreviated for presentation purposes).

#### Some of the discussed topics:

- Forbidden Professions for Women
- Husband's Opposition to his Wife's Employment
- Easter
- Children with Autism
- The Effect of Fast Food on Children
- Discrimination between Boys and Girls in Education
- Harassment in the Workplace
- Working Woman's Stress
- Self defense
- Obsession with Fashion and the Desire to Change
- Father's Emotional Absence
- Guilt





The Radio program episodes are uploaded on our arabic website

#### (D. from Egypt):

"Greetings to all the group of this ministry!" I am a fan of your radio program. May the lord bless your efforts. Kindly pray for my pregnant sister, and for the persecuted Christians in Egypt, Iraq and the whole world. May the lord have mercy on us and let us desire being with Him in heaven. Thank you again for corresponding with me."

#### (R. from Egypt):

"The "Woman Today" radio program is my only friend these days and I am so happy with the drama which tackles a lot of what we face in our daily lives. I also love the final message. I really liked the episode about the bold woman and the relationship between sisters in law. I would like to listen to an episode about relationships with colleagues in the workplace. Such as, what are the lines which a woman should draw while maintaining good relationships with her coworkers and how to be respected by her bosses and lead them to be the best. Thanks a lot and yes I would love to receive your books."



"Woman Today" radio program team (2 of AWT staff and 10 volunteers)

## Websites

### Feedback from Website users:

The Arabic website magazine was launched in 2003. The website is full of articles of interest to women on topics such as the spiritual life, health, fashion, recipes and family of which many are written by AWT staff and volunteers. Even though our target group is women, we get many letters from male readers sharing how their lives and their family's life's have been affected by the website and radio program. You can visit our Arab website at **www.arabwomantoday.com**.

The English website was created and launched in 2006 to give accurate information to the non-Arab world about Arab women and the Arab culture. There are articles about religions, culture, traditions, language and cooking. You can visit the English website at **www.awtministries.com**.

Arabic website statistics : Number of hits: 596,591

Number of hits: 596,591 Number of unique visitors: 16,168

Engish website statistics : Number of hits: 158,065 Number of unique visitors: 15,933

#### (K. from UAE):

"Thank you for your diligent work in serving the Arab ladies, I am happy to find an electronic service done in Arabic dedicated to the Arabic speaking women."

#### (A. from Algeria):

"Thank you for this great magazine from which I learned a lot of great stuff."

#### (M. from Lebanon):

"I sent your website address to all my friends because I have great confidence that the Word of God shall not return void, and will affect at least one person."

#### (R. from Egypt):

"Your website is more than wonderful; I wish I could follow up daily. I would like to be a friend with the website family."

**Network Conference** 

AWT has established a network of Godly, Christian Arab women in leadership roles throughout the 22 Arab countries. A conference is held once a year for these women in order to offer them much needed training in practical and spiritual areas as well as a time for fellowship, prayer and encouragement. During this conference current issues are discussed and time is taken for developing deeper relationships. Each woman has the opportunity to share her struggles in ministry leadership, her practical needs and stories of praise.

AWT staff members personally follow-up with the network participants in order to keep up with their activities, give them encouragement and pray for them. These women are called upon when AWT makes contact with radio listeners or website users in their respective countries. This gives the contacts face to face interaction with Christians that can answer questions and pray with them.

The conferences began in 2003 and have been held annually through 2009. AWT cancelled the conference in 2010 due to the loss of funding and need for strategic planning. Our passion and dream is to start again in 2011.

# Local & Regional Training

### Feedback from training participants:

AWT holds seminars in Jordan and the region for women of all backgrounds. The desire is to give women the tools they need to equip them to make positive changes in their lives. For the Majority women we teach them practical skills using Christian morals and ethics. It is a slow process building relationships with non-believing women in this region. But as we continue to educate them in practical skills it empowers them to make positive changes in their lives and the lives of their families.

We also focus on leadership training for women in local and regional churches. Many pastor's wives and women in the church are thrust into leading and shepherding with little or no training. AWT has a desire to prepare these women leaders to effectively guide the flock they were given to care for into deeper relationships with Christ.

In 2010, AWT held three regional events for women church leaders. The first was held in Egypt and 24 women attended. The topics included analyzing the current situation, roots of problems, the woman's value in the Trinity and Solving People's Puzzle. The women were able to relax, pray together and share their joys and struggles in ministry.

Next, we visited Northern Iraq and taught 26 pastor's wives about delegation and control, communication/active listening skills and emotional relaxation. We found that many of these women were not delegating and communicating to other women in the church to help carry the load. They were extremely stressed and tired from bearing the burdens alone. The need is so great here that AWT committed to returning for 3 years to help these women grow in their leadership skills.

Last, we crossed the border to Syria and trained 35 women and men in the Iraqi refugee church on how to build small groups in churches and vision/goal setting. The women (and men) in this church are very poor financially, but very rich spiritually. They are like sponges and soak up all the information that is shared with them and are always asking for more teaching.

Locally, AWT held 10 events and taught on topics such as women's health, conflict resolution, self-defense courses, being a woman of influence and having integrity. In the summer a group of women visited from a church in Texas and they taught on how God's love recycles lives and relationships among believers. In the fall, two women from a church in California visited and held a seminar about community and the church.

(A lady who attended the training in Egypt): "When I learned in this conference about my value in God's eyes, it made me think how I look at myself with less value. So I understood then that this was the root of all my problems and issues with people around me."

(A lady who attended the training in Iraq): "This conference helped me to understand many issues in a better way. The unity and love among AWT team touched my heart and I wish we can spend more time with you next time."

(A lady who attended the training in Iraq): "I have learned how I can be influential even if I am not called a leader and I learned a lot on how to control my temper."

(A lady who attended the training in Syria): "The teaching presented has met my expectations, it was excellent! My eyes were opened to the importance of having goals and a vision."

(A lady who attended the training in Syria): "I really learned a lot about how important the small groups in Church are, how they help build individuals and give each a great sense of the personal responsibility."

(A lady who attended the local training): "I learned how important it is to be more involved with the families that the society rejected."

(A lady who attended the local training): "I discovered how important it is for all of us to work together instead of working alone because that will encourage and protect us."

#### Training in Iraq: "So they can be one"





26 women had the oppotunity to get practical and spiritual teaching at the same time.

#### Training in Egypt: "Precious in His eyes"









Women were truly inspired by the new things they learned and by the prayer times we had together.

#### Training in Syria:







The focus was to learn about ministry vision, setting goals and how to establish home group ministries.



A group of six women came from Bent Tree Bible Fellowship in Texas. In 6 short days, they taught at 5 churches & the Deaf Culture Centre.



"Community and the church" Seminar



Training in Turra (located in the northwest of Jordan): "Managing Family Problems" and "Safe Pregnancy"

Number of local church women trained	416
Number of local majority women trained	108
Number of regional church women trained	85

# Self Defense Training

### Feedback from training participants:

In an effort to reach out to the community, AWT saw the need to train young women in how to defend themselves should they be put in a dangerous situation. We discovered that this service was not available to women in our area. We partnered with the local police and a Jordanian woman trained in Tae Kwon Do to teach young women techniques on how to protect themselves. After the training, the AWT staff shared a biblical devotional and encouraged the women to use wisdom when using the new skills they have learned.

The opportunity presented itself to have the training at summer camps and in a local school. Overall, 109 young women were trained in self defense skills. One High School student told us the following story:

"One morning my Dad dropped me off very far from school and I had to walk the rest of the way. I would normally be scared to make this walk alone, but after taking the self-defense course, I was not afraid. I knew how to protect myself should something happen. I am really glad this course was offered in my area."

We also had encouraging words from the Lieutenant of the police department. He complimented the AWT staff by saying that he was amazed at how well we treated each other and the students in the class. He commented that there was something different about us that he did not understand. This provided open doors for us to share what is different about us!



Left & Below: Self Defense training with Tae Kwon Do trainer

(A lady who attended "Self Defense" training): "I think that what you are doing through these courses is a wonderful thing. All girls in Jordan need to be aware about many of the dangers around them and they need to know how to defend themselves."

(A lady who attended "Self Defense" training): "There is a great need among girls for such training and we wish you could continue to train other groups of girls as well."

(A lady who attended "Self Defense" training): "I had so much fun during this course! It was extremely informative. Girls in our country need this kind of awareness and I would love to participate in other courses like this in the future."



Above: Self Defense training with police department



## **Opportunities for Partnership**

In 2010, AWT had many opportunities to partner with local like-minded organizations in the community. One of the organizations is a women's center in a village about one hour North of Amman. The center was started by a Christian woman to help other women in the area learn skills in order to provide for themselves and their families. The center has a program they call "green petrol" where the women gather herbs, dry them and package them for sale. They also have a computer lab, beauty salon and gym. Most recently, they started a violence hotline for abused women to call. There are volunteers trained to help the women that call and they make personal visits to the homes.

The Director of the center contacted AWT to inquire about a partnership. The women at the center were asking for English courses. Teaching English is not AWT's area of expertise, so we found another group in Jordan that was able to provide English software on the computers in the computer lab. They also brought a group from America that taught English at the center. AWT is now working with the center by providing training to the women that volunteer for the violence hotline.



Also, as the Lord as provided for the needs of AWT ministry we are able to help this center with small donations to help them sustain their work.



Through our program of following-up with radio listeners, internet users and trainees, we strive to build deeper relationships in order the help women (and men) make positive changes in their lives. We also want to serve our sisters and brothers in Christ by providing them with resources and encouragement. AWT has two staff members that follow-up with every person to counsel and support them. We also pray for our contacts weekly. From the feedback we have received, AWT is the only women's ministry in the Middle East that has a follow-up program.

Top five countries that correspond with AWT: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Algeria and Iraq

- Number of letters received from Radio & Website users: 284 of which 55 were new contacts
- Number of letters AWT sent to radio and website contacts: 6,894
- Number of letters received from trainees: 647
- Number of correspondence AWT sent to trainees: 12,741

#### (S. from Lebanon):

"I thank God for your big love which encouraged me. I have repented from my sin and asked the Lord to forgive me."

#### (R. from Jordan):

"Dear sisters at AWT, you can't imagine how anxiously I waited for you reply; I checked my email several times a day. I agree with what you said."

#### (A. from USA):

"I read your letter many times. Tears were streaming down my eyes as I read your letter, I felt like you were talking with me even though I can't see you."

# Training the AWT Staff

The AWT staff was blessed to attend several training events this year. We feel it is important to keep the skills of the staff up-to-date so that they can effectively teach and share with others.

#### AWT Staff training (Jordan – January)



In an effort to build our capacity as a ministry, the staff had the opportunity to come together for team building, goal setting, reinforcing the vision, mission,

#### Serving Him through Media (Jordan - April & May)

As a radio ministry AWT believes in the important role that media plays in society. An AWT staff member attended a special media course presented by a media ministry that is located in Egypt. Attendees learned skills in editing, acting, production and filming. They created media projects, and



then presented them to the guests in the final ceremony showing the work and skills learned in the course.

values and goals of AWT and learn more about time management.

#### "Violence against Women and Children" Workshop (Holy Land -May)

Since violence is one of the key challenges women face, one of the AWT staff members and an AWT volunteer attended this workshop. Participants learned more about the current situation of violated women in different areas of the world and they also learned from each others' experiences in order to fight and prevent this crime against women and children. As a result of this workshop, participants set goals and future plans in order to strive to prevent and fight violence as well as raising awareness among women in all countries regarding their rights.

#### Development Communication Part 1 (Egypt - September), Part 2 (Egypt - November)

Two staff members and one AWT volunteer attended this training. Part 1 of the training started with learning how to tell a story, using our voices for others, determining needs in a society and building a project to meet those needs. Part 2 of this training focused on how to communicate to others about problems in the society. The trainees wrote and recorded a public service announcement, held a mock radio debate and learned how to write and present convincing speeches.







#### Lausanne Conference (Cape Town, South Africa – October)

Two AWT staff members joined local pastors and church leaders for the Cape Town 2010 Lausanne Conference. Lausanne is a worldwide movemnet that mobilizes evangelical leaders to collaborate for world evangelization. They came back full of enthusiasm to continue to share the Good News in the Middle East and North Africa.

### Purchase of Office/Training Space







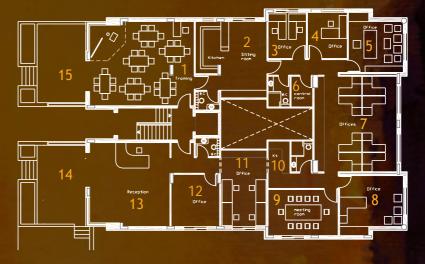
In 2010, AWT in partnership with the ministry Arab Consulting and Training Services (ACTS), purchased office and training space. Over the past 3 years, AWT and ACTS have been praying and searching for a building to purchase in order to have dedicated training space and increased office space. All the properties viewed were older buildings for the same price as the new units but they needed thousands more dollars of renovation to make the space usable.

In January 2010, we noticed that a building was demolished and a new building was going up on our street. Through a series of events, which we believe were "God incidences", in August 2010 we were offered the 2 ground floor units at a price of JD 185,000 each for a total of JD 370,000 or \$522,599. These 2 units will provide 380 meters or a little over 4,000 square feet of space for ministry activities.

Funds for a large portion of the purchase price were donated by a church in the USA that had designated funds from their building campaign in order to help overseas ministries they support purchase or build space for training. We know that "buildings" are not the ministry, but they do help in a culture such as ours where we cannot hold events in just any location. After applying funds AWT had on hand and a donation from a second church, AWT needs \$270,0000 to complete the purchase. An additional \$50,000 is needed to set-up the training room and offices.

We are in the process of raising the remaining funds to complete the purchase and set up the training room and offices. The anticipated move in date is August 2011.

We praise God's name and glorify him with thanksgiving!



Floor Plan:

(1) Training Center (2) Kitchen & Sitting room (6) Control room (3)&(4) Offices

(5) ACTS Manager Office (7) Offices/ operation room (10) Kitchenette

(8) AWT Manager Office (9) Meeting room

(11)&(12) Offices (13) Reception & Show area (14)&(15) Main Entrances

# **Financial Information**

### **Financial Charts:**

2010 Budget vs Actual Expenses

As a faith based ministry, AWT is trusting God with the fulfillment of his mission. In 2010, AWT had a decrease in donations of 31.49% from 2009. In response to this decrease and an effort to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us, AWT cancelled the Annual Network Conference in order to keep the radio program on the air.

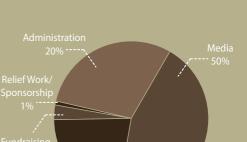
#### Financial Accountability:

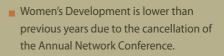
Arab Woman Today is accountable to the following:

1. CHRISTAR is a mission organization that receives funds for AWT projects and provides donors with receipts. To maintain the highest standard of financial accountability, Christar is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, CrossGlobal Link, The Mission Exchange and the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. They also have a yearly audit conducted by an independent accounting firm. The results of the audit are open and available to all who request them.

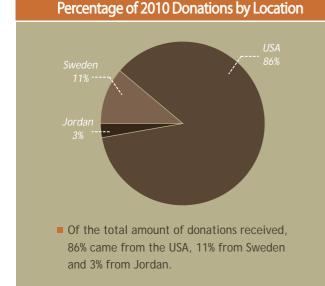
2. Arab Woman Today has a third party, certified auditor examine the financial reports annually. The auditor insures that the bookkeeping, accounting system and internal controls are accurate. Copies of the certified report are available upon request.

3. We feel it is very important to be transparent with our donors. All financial information is available upon request.

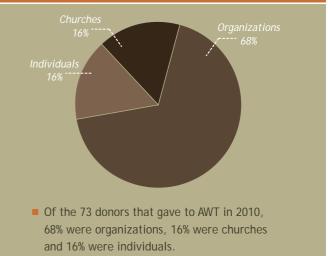




Expenses were 3% under budget.



#### Percentage by Type of Giver



# **About AWT**

#### **AWT Vision**

To see the Arab woman reconciled with God, herself and her society.

#### **AWT Mission Statement**

AWT exists to equip and empower the Arab woman to pursue change in her personal, spiritual and social life.

#### **AWT Values**

Godliness, Teamwork, Personal Growth, Openness, Quality, Creativity, Selflessness

#### Goals

- 1. Reveal God's true nature and purpose in the woman's life.
- 2. Motivate the woman to believe in herself and embrace her abilities to improve her life.
- 3. Strengthen the woman to positively influence her society.

#### AWT Plans for 2011:

#### 1. Media:

a. Websites: In 2011, AWT will be redesigning the Arabic and English websites. The technology platform in which these websites were originally built is outdated. AWT is designing and developing interactive and dynamic websites that will be interconnected with the major social community portals. The new Arabic website will be launched in May.
b. Radio: The AWT radio drama team will be receiving training in script writing, acting and producing. There will be 52 episodes of "Woman Today" produced and broadcast.

#### 2. Book:

Translating Hope for the Heart Biblical Counseling Keys in to Arabic and publishing as a series of gift books for women.

#### 3. Conferences:

- a. N. Iraq "Jesus is the Balm for the Soul"/Iraqi Pastor's Wives April
- b. Annual Network Conference November

4. Local Training & Outreach:

- a. Teaching in local Churches Monthly
- b. A group will be coming from Texas to teach in women's meetings at churches May

c. Training from Hope for the Heart Ministries in Biblical Counseling - June

### **AWT Board Members:**

At the end of 2010, three of the board members will have completed their terms and will rotate off the board. These members will be replaced in 2011.



## **Stories**

\* Names were changed to protect identity

### A Cry for Help

Imagine your daughter is becoming a beautiful young woman and she is beginning to get attention from boys. Now, imagine that you live in a culture where it is taboo to discuss dating and physical intimacy with your daughter. Where does she go to get her questions answered? How will she handle the attention that she is receiving from the opposite sex? Who does she go to talk to about what is happening to her? Is she going to go to the internet for information? If so, will she find the information she needs from a Christian, biblical view?

In July 2010, AWT began receiving emails from Zahra\* through the Arab Woman Today website. Zahra is a university student in Jordan. She was asking questions like "why did God make me a girl?", "why should I cover my whole body when I go out so that no man will have sinful thoughts?", "why does my professor focus on my body when I speak to him?", "why does God allow guys to go too far in touching girls when girls don't want to be touched" and "why are guys not held accountable for their actions, while girls have to pay the price for everything"?

After months of corresponding with Zahra, answering her questions and giving her biblical counsel as well as telling her how much she is valued by God, AWT learned two facts that assisted us in helping her further. First, she was sexually abused by her boyfriend of 3 years. Second, her sister had passed away and she felt guilty for not grieving because she was so engaged in her problems with her boyfriend. AWT continued to counsel her on grieving, both her sister and her relationship. We provided her teaching on her value in Christ and God's mercy and forgiveness.

Zahra's recent letters show positive change. She is doing better emotionally and in her relationship with God. She met a girl at the University who had recently become a believer. Zahra learned that her new friend had a terrible experience of sexual abuse by a boyfriend. Zahra and her friend are meeting on Saturdays for spiritual follow-up. She also referred her friend to the AWT website to share her story with us. We are currently following-up with Zahra's friend. Zahra has a strong desire to minister to other young women that have had the same experiences.

We are thankful for people like you that have provided prayer and financial support so that we can keep the AWT Arabic website full of up-to-date relevant information and have a staff that can minister to these women in need.

#### "Woman Today" Radio Program - A Mother's Helper

Farrah\* is a member of a local church in Jordan and has been listening to the Woman Today radio program for many years. She enjoys the drama and learning how to solve many problems she faces in her daily life, particularly parenting. Farrah has a teenage daughter who is at the age where she does not want to listen to her mom. It has been hard for Farrah to give her daughter direct instructions on issues such as peer pressure, appropriate behavior and dress. Her daughter always says, "Mom, you are overprotective and demanding"!

It occurred to Farrah that many of the topics discussed on the Woman Today radio program addressed the issues that she wanted to discuss with her daughter from a Christian perspective with good morals and values. The program also shares from the Bible and biblical ways to handle the problem, which Farrah knew, would be beneficial for her daughter. She began downloading the program and saving it on the desktop of their home computer. Her daughter began to listen to the program and the dramas really grabbed her attention. This has opened doors for the two to discuss issues more openly. Sometimes teenagers relate better to someone other than their parents and Farrah is so grateful that there is a positive option that is in their heart language and culture. Farrah told AWT "thank you and keep on"!

## What your donation can do

Do you ever think, "I can only give a small amount, how will that help?" We would like to share with you how your donation can be used.



\$5 per month covers the cost of 1 book sent to radio listeners.
\$125 per month covers the cost of the website and maintenance for 1 year.
\$185 per month for 1 year covers the cost of production and airtime for 1 radio episode.
\$1,200 will send 1 woman church leader to the annual networking conference.
\$2,225 will cover the cost of production and airtime of 1 radio episode.

#### lf...

100 people gave \$100 per month it would cover the cost of local training seminars, the annual network conference and the conference in Iraq.

100 people gave \$45 per month it would cover the cost of radio airtime for 1 year.

50 people gave \$50 per month it would cover the cost of the annual networking conference.

30 people gave \$10 per month it would cover the cost of internet service for 1 year for our website/radio program.

20 people gave \$12 per month it would cover the cost of literature and postage to send to radio listeners for 1 year.

10 people gave \$20 per month it would cover the cost office supplies for 1 year.



### For more information: awt.ministries@gmail.com

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

Christar P.O.Box 850357 Richardson, TX 75085

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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