

News from SAT-7
June 2020

INSIGHT

DARE TO BELIEVE
NETWORK 2020
EDITION
Pages 3-13

**MAKING
GOD'S LOVE
VISIBLE**



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Front cover | Sun rising over mountains (iStock.com)

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

This digital edition of INSIGHT comes to you with so many blessings, at a time when here in Cyprus we are slowly starting to emerge into life after lockdown.

What extraordinary times! When COVID-19 reached Europe back in March, the first thing we had to do as a ministry was cancel our annual NETWORK conference, as a precaution for everyone's health and safety. Back then, we could never have known the scale of the impact of the virus on the whole world. Yet at a time when most of the world was seemingly shutting down, SAT-7 got busier – prioritising live programs and focusing on COVID-19 programming across all four channels.

We went full speed into an emergency response – delivering the hope of the Gospel, health information, and support to children and their families across the region. Letting them know that they were not alone, that God is with them, and that their SAT-7 family is with them and available for them.

Now, here we are in June – continuing this marathon with all of you, who are faithfully travelling on this incredible journey with us.

Amid all this, we want to ensure we provide you with the inspiring, equipping material usually shared during NETWORK, through this digital edition of INSIGHT.

The planned theme of this year's NETWORK was 'Dare to Believe', and it could not be more relevant. Now more than ever, despite the fears and struggles, and through the gifts and kindness of our community of believers; in our isolation we have been asked to dare to believe once again. We must dare to believe in Personal Faith, in Church Life, in Church Voice for Social Change, and in the Next Generation. This magazine describes how SAT-7 helps our viewers do the same.

Personally, I am so grateful for the conversations and for the prayerful ways in which we have all worked together over these unprecedented last few weeks. May this connectedness continue until we meet again in person.



Rita El-Mounayer
SAT-7 CEO

A VIRTUAL NETWORK DARE TO BELIEVE 2020

Over the following ten pages, you will find some highlights from what would have been shared during the three days in Turkey at NETWORK 2020.

SAT-7 2019 Overview video

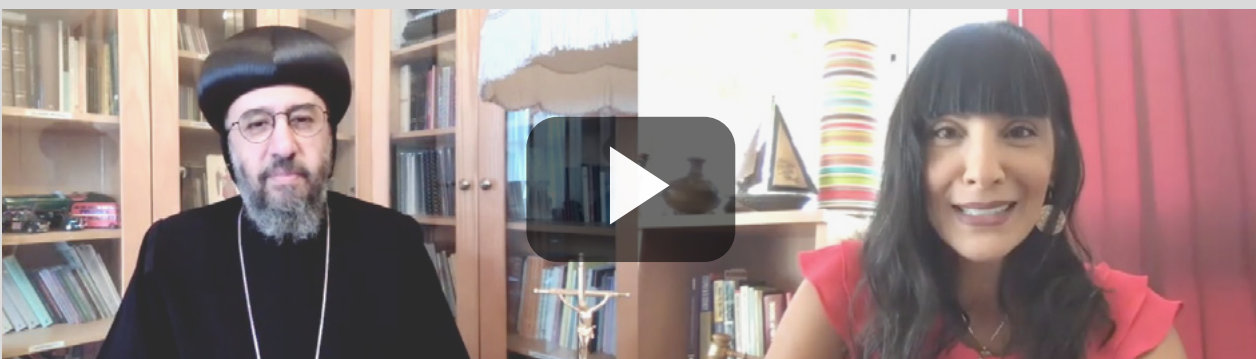


Ms Rita El-Mounayer, Opening Address

“It was a prophetic decision perhaps to call this year’s cancelled NETWORK conference “Dare to Believe”, in a year when not only Christians around the world would be given this challenge but also that our ministry would serve to share this invitation with so many more who are living without faith or knowledge of the Gospel,” shares SAT-7 CEO Rita El-Mounayer in a virtual opening address.



Interview between SAT-7 International Council Chair, His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos and SAT-7 CEO Rita El-Mounayer





INNER HOME – SAT-7 ARABIC

Dealing with a range of mental health and psychological issues, the program *Inner Home* helps viewers identify and address mental health concerns while helping them build healthy relationships with others and God.

FAMILY OF JESUS – SAT-7 KIDS

Through worship, prayer, and drama, *Family of Jesus* shows children that they have a relationship with a loving Heavenly Father and fellowship with believers around the world.



SIGNAL – SAT-7 PARS

Set up as a radio-style TV talk show, *Signal* shares testimonies with its viewers in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, encouraging and supporting isolated believers who have to keep their faith a secret.

POWER OF PRAYER – SAT-7 TÜRK

Power of Prayer is a program dedicated to praying for viewers. By discussing their concerns from a biblical perspective, Presenter Ayda Danacıoğlu supports and encourages viewers in the toughest of times.



DARE TO BELIEVE PERSONAL FAITH

“We have seen viewers who argued with our presenters gradually develop into house-church leaders,” says Panayiotis Keenan, Executive Director of SAT-7 PARS. “We have witnessed children calling to ask about faith and the Bible, and six months later, they call again, and quote Scripture better than I could. We are overjoyed to be part of God’s plan in opening the door to such testimonies,” adds Keenan.

In Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, daring to believe in Jesus means facing various challenges, from being isolated and unable to attend a church, to a lack of Christian resources, as well as the threat of up to 15 years in prison in Iran. During the COVID-19 pandemic, even house churches in the region have been unable to meet. Distressingly, it has been too dangerous for Iranian Christians to meet, via Zoom or Skype, to pray and worship together. SAT-7 PARS therefore, is often the only accessible resource that can support and disciple them in these difficult times.

A powerful faith

Despite the challenges believers in the region face, many SAT-7 PARS viewers share how they came to know and accept Christ because of what they learned about the Christian faith on the channel. In fact, according to researchers, Iran has the fastest growing evangelical church in the world. “In my opinion, the Apostle Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 12:10 describe Christians in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan very well,” says Keenan. Paul says, ‘For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.’

SAT-7 PARS programs such as *Principles of Faith* and *Question Mark*, as well as the children’s shows *Hashtag* and *Golpand (Golden Advice)*, play a vital role in answering seekers’ questions. However, witnessing viewers accept God’s love in their lives is just the beginning, especially as many have no other contact with mature Christian leaders to disciple them. “It is our responsibility to continue walking with these viewers in their faith,” explains Keenan. “To support them through our programs and our Audience Relations (AR) teams, which under current circumstances have become the viewers’ house church.” The AR teams are available 24/7, counselling viewers when needed, sharing Bible verses

and encouraging messages, and sending digital Bibles and other Christian resources via secure platforms such as Telegram.

Looking to the future

In response to the needs of viewers, SAT-7 PARS has recently begun producing programs explaining freedom of religion and belief, informing them of their rights. The channel also intends to make more programs in Dari and Tajik, Persian varieties spoken in Afghanistan and Tajikistan respectively, and to produce more Armenian and Catholic programming to support the ethnic Christian minorities recognised in Iran. Children’s and youth programs also remain a priority as the channel develops new and dynamic ways to engage young viewers and meet their unique needs through social media and television.

“My prayer for the personal faith of people in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan is that the Lord will give them the strength and the resources to continue to grow in their faith, and that they will not lose courage. I pray that through their faith, they will be witnesses of what God can offer us in our lives,” concludes Keenan.



[CLICK HERE »](#)

PERSONAL FAITH VIDEO PLAYLIST

DARE TO BELIEVE NEXT GENERATION

In a region rife with poverty, poor education, and political instability, children in the Middle East face many challenges. But SAT-7 KIDS dares to believe in them. We dare to believe that with support for their mental, spiritual, and physical health, they can grow up thriving, filled with faith, and ready to take their place in their societies.

“We want to empower youth to discover their identity in the Lord and to be confident in Him: in His guidance, provision, and protection,” shares Andrea El-Mounayer, SAT-7 KIDS Channel Manager.

As the leaders of tomorrow, the youth of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) need to feel safe, secure, and empowered as they grow up. However, across the region, children’s stability has been disrupted by riots, economic instability, violence, and now the COVID-19 pandemic. Although children are resilient, they are negatively impacted when unable to attend school, by their parents’ stress, and negative messages on TV.

Children need to know they are not alone and that they have a family – the body of Christ – who are looking out for them. “This is where SAT-7 comes in,” says El-Mounayer. “We counter these negative surroundings with positive messages of hope, faith, and tangible opportunities for a better future.” During the pandemic, the channel’s first responsibility was to open an honest conversation with children about what was happening. Through informative segments addressing health and safety, and spiritually supportive live programs such as *Hello Marianne*, SAT-7 KIDS helped children understand the situation. “We have to offer children a solution and help them focus their minds on positive activities they can do during these times,” adds El-Mounayer. The response to SAT-7 KIDS during the pandemic has been overwhelming; “We have seen our social media numbers skyrocket recently, especially during the lockdown months.”

Planting the seeds of tomorrow

SAT-7’s children’s programming plants healthy seeds for the future by supporting children’s mental, physical, and spiritual health today. As El-Mounayer explains, it is easier to plant these seeds early on in children’s lives, when hopeful thoughts are readily received. In 12 years of broadcasting as a 24/7 channel, SAT-7 KIDS

has seen growth and developments in young viewers’ lives as these seeds bloom. “Many viewers who are now teenagers message the channel saying, ‘I’ve been watching your programs since I was little. Now I am 16, and I still like to watch them,’” explains El-Mounayer. “Even those who are not Christians are influenced by our messages of hope in their adulthood.”

Equipped for the future

Creating a better future also means equipping children to succeed. By partnering with the SAT-7 ACADEMY brand, SAT-7 KIDS offers programming that equips children socially, emotionally, and educationally. These include the primary education program *My School*, and the children’s rights gameshow *Puzzle*, which help young viewers grow in resilience and compassion.

El-Mounayer also shares that the channel’s strategy is continually adapting to children’s changing media habits. “Whether spiritual or educational, we have seen the benefit of engaging with kids through live shows on social media, and we have witnessed Facebook engagement double during the COVID-19 lockdown. We will continue to build our strategy for more social media engagement this year.”

“My prayer for our viewers is that they will always have hope. That they will always be eager to seek God’s face and His ways, and that He will bless them and help them become changemakers in the MENA,” El-Mounayer concludes.


[CLICK HERE »](#)
[NEXT GENERATION VIDEO PLAYLIST](#)



THE COACH – SAT-7 ARABIC

A SAT-7 ACADEMY program that coaches parents and teachers through various child development struggles and situations, *The Coach* helps adults cultivate healthy supportive environments in which children can grow.

MY SCHOOL – SAT-7 KIDS

An educational program that covers the syllabus of KG3 to Grade 3 in Arabic, English, French, maths, and science *My School* goes live on Facebook three times a week for children to connect with the teacher for further support.



HASHTAG – SAT-7 PARS

Both fun and educational, *Hashtag* is a program for teens, which engages with viewers through a variety of entertaining segments, games, and prayers, teaching them about the Bible, relationships, and the world.

SAT-7 TÜRK KIDS – SAT-7 TÜRK

Through stories, songs, games and educational facts, *SAT-7 TÜRK Kids* encourages viewers to develop their skills and talents, to be curious about the world, and to be kind and helpful to those around them.





MY CHURCH IN ALGERIA – SAT-7 ARABIC

My Church in Algeria is a program broadcasting church services live to viewers, providing spiritual support to isolated Christians who have no access to Church or Christian resources.

BIBLE HEROES – SAT-7 KIDS

Bible Heroes is a popular and exciting gameshow that reinforces children's knowledge of the Bible, encouraging them to grow in understanding and faith.



HEAVENLY WORSHIP – SAT-7 PARS

Heavenly Worship is dedicated to praying for viewers and singing worship songs, supporting and encouraging isolated viewers in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

LET'S TALK – SAT-7 TÜRK

Let's Talk is designed to create a relaxed and intimate atmosphere and is presented by two pastors, whose sincere and honest conversation about faith, the Bible and various challenging topics draws viewers into the live discussion via phone calls and messages.



DARE TO BELIEVE

CHURCH LIFE

“The Church in Turkey is growing, it is alive, and it is serving the Lord,” shares Melih Ekener, Executive Director of SAT-7 TÜRK. “But as an isolated minority facing discrimination, Christians need support to truly grow together – to be built up and flourish as one Body of Christ.”

Broadcasting via satellite, SAT-7 TÜRK reaches viewers across Turkey, acting as a bridge between believers of all denominations and Christian ethnic minorities. Through its programs, the channel enables unity between isolated churches and helps Christians feel part of a family with a legitimate place in Turkey. “If they are to dare to create a connected, thriving Church, despite the challenges,” says Melih Ekener, “it is vital that Christians have a platform to make their voices heard and resources to support them in their faith.”

A unifying platform for the Church

By informing viewers of churches, their traditions and the meaning behind traditions, SAT-7 TÜRK builds understanding and acceptance, and the impact of these programs is clear. “There is more unity and engagement,” explains Deputy Executive Director Gülsüm I. “Viewers have started to show interest in programs from other denominations and are communicating with one another.” With churches closed due to COVID-19 this Easter, SAT-7 TÜRK broadcast special messages of encouragement from the Archbishop of the Armenian Church and the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in Turkey, as well as last years’ Easter celebrations from Orthodox churches. These were widely appreciated by both Christian and non-Christian viewers, with many saying, “We can’t go to church, but you have brought church to us.”

SAT-7 TÜRK’s Audience Relations (AR) team also plays a vital role in supporting churches in Turkey. “Due to misconceptions such as ‘being a Christian means betraying Turkey’, non-Christians are reluctant or afraid to approach a church directly,” explains Ekener. The AR team therefore is often a first point of contact, and they answer questions, connect viewers with a local church, and direct them to the Bible Society if they request a Bible. Meanwhile, SAT-7 TÜRK programs work to counter these common misconceptions.

Equipped for the future

“We always try to share a message of hope with our viewers”, says Gülsüm I., and as COVID-19 spread, this message became even more vital. “When the pandemic hit Turkey, many people began asking questions about God and faith,” says Ekener. In response, the channel created *Answers of Hope*, in which Christian leaders from across Turkey and the world, including church leaders from the United States and Germany, provide responses. During the pandemic, the channel has also emphasised hygiene, support for children, and domestic violence prevention on programs such as *Homemade*, *Self Defence*, *Turning Point*, and *SAT-7 TÜRK Kids*.

“We want to continue responding to viewers’ needs, to support and encourage them, and to be a platform for churches,” shares Ekener. “In the future, we especially want to create more children’s programs, educational documentaries that explore Turkey’s Christian history, and develop our Christian news department,” he adds.

“Our prayer for church life in Turkey is that we may become more unified as a church family and grow in how we support and encourage one another. We pray that SAT-7 TÜRK will continue to be a platform for all churches, and a source of support and encouragement to our viewers,” Gülsüm I. concludes.



[CLICK HERE »](#)

CHURCH LIFE VIDEO PLAYLIST

DARE TO BELIEVE

SOCIAL CHANGE

It is part of SAT-7's calling to empower Christians in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and to be a voice for social change in the region through satellite and online platforms. SAT-7 Arabic Programming Director George Makeen describes the issues that challenge MENA societies, the Church's role in addressing them, and how for Middle Eastern Christians, working for change can truly mean "daring to believe".

"When Jesus was on earth, He did not only talk about good values and morals. He demonstrated these values in practical ways to people; healing, feeding, and showing concern for their everyday lives," shares Makeen. "So, we too seek to do the same and seek better societies as stewards of Christ in this world. We believe Christians are called to do our part to bring God's Kingdom 'on earth as it is in Heaven.'"

Changing harmful attitudes

SAT-7 ARABIC works to better the lives of people across the MENA by changing harmful attitudes within society, one viewer at a time. "Lack of freedoms is a problem in MENA societies for anyone who is 'other' – including religious and ethnic minorities, women who lack opportunities for growth, and people with disabilities," explains Makeen. In response, carefully curated and produced programs promote human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, and freedom of expression. "We communicate the importance of allowing diversity and how it benefits the whole of society, not only minorities, when we allow Christians, for example, to worship freely," he continues. Unfortunately, some progress that has been made, has been lost during the COVID-19 lockdown, and the growing rates of domestic violence at this time is one indicator that there is still work to be done.

SAT-7 also works to address an issue that underlies low levels of tolerance and acceptance: a lack of quality education that encourages critical thinking. A lack of education is at the root of problems such as fundamentalism, poor health regulations, and illiteracy. In fact, illiteracy has been described by the UNDP* as the most dangerous of the "three evils" that plague the MENA, the others being poverty and a lack of women's rights. SAT-7 ACADEMY's education and social development programming help to provide education to millions of children and youth

unable to go to school. Additional programs help raise awareness of human rights and promote critical thinking, acceptance, and embracing the differences of the "other".

From victims to changemakers

Makeen explains that while the Church has cared about people holistically from its very beginnings, for many Christians in the MENA, seeing themselves as agents of positive change means overcoming the trauma of having been marginalised themselves. "We want to help the Christian community shift from feeling helpless to feeling empowered and capable," he says. "To believe they can be part of creating the changes they want to see in society." SAT-7 programs have helped to shift this mindset over time, Makeen says, as viewers engage with trust-building programs such as the current affairs program *Bridges*, women's program *Needle and New Thread*, and *Is it Important to be Christian?*, which tackles controversial topics about the Christian faith, including issues that hold Christians back from seeking change.

"Our prayer for social change in the MENA is that we will continue to support the Church in embracing its full identity, and for Middle Eastern Christians to go from being victims to changemakers," concludes Makeen.



[CLICK HERE »](#)

SOCIAL CHANGE VIDEO PLAYLIST



THE WALL – SAT-7 ARABIC

The Wall is a drama series starring two psychologists – a married couple – as they journey through life at their practice. Through interactions with their family, mentor, and clients, this couple demonstrate relational and social issues such as Freedom of Religion and Belief (FORB), minority rights, and gender equality.

PUZZLE – SAT-7 KIDS

Puzzle is game show inviting children from different backgrounds to learn about their rights through play, and encouraging tolerance, acceptance and respect for the “other”.



INSIDERS – SAT-7 PARS

A program for Persian-speaking women, *Insiders* encourages and empowers viewers by offering a platform for women, on which they can have their voices heard and discuss challenging issues.

OBSTACLE OVERCOMERS – SAT-7 TÜRK

A program that challenges cultural perspectives on disability, *Obstacle Overcomers* seeks to inspire positive change in communities by addressing controversial and taboo issues concerning genetic disorders, physical impairments and mental illnesses.



DARING TO BELIEVE IN SAT-7

Daring to believe has always been a part of the SAT-7 DNA. Indeed, one of the main early obstacles to overcome was disbelief in the feasibility of launching a satellite television channel such as SAT-7.

In the early 1990s I was the International Director for Middle East Media (MEM), the lead agency behind the studies and consultations that led to the launch of SAT-7. I approached several people with a television background, with a view to them leading this new project. I remember speaking to one person who seemed shocked and, looking me in the eye, asked, “You mean you’re really going to do this?” For him, while it had been interesting and challenging to work on the plans, this proposed satellite television service still seemed like “mission impossible”.

Eventually, I realised I had to choose to step down from MEM and move into this new ministry. It was a difficult choice to make at the time. There was both the sense of guilt I had at leaving a ministry I had helped found and develop over the previous 20 years and, of course, the uncertainty of success for SAT-7. Ultimately, the vision, mission, and enormous potential of SAT-7 made it impossible for me to not give it all I could. Fortunately, I was not alone.

InterAct (Sweden) was one of the first Partners who dared to believe. Even before the name “SAT-7” was conceived, InterAct sent our first full-time worker, Erling Wennemyr. He believed in the vision and was passionate to see it achieved in the best possible way, with different churches of the Middle East working in equal partnership with Western churches and agencies.

These were pioneering days, and by November 1995, some 20 mission agencies, churches, and individuals had become our founding Partners. The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), LifeAgape, The Norwegian Mission Society (NMS), TV Inter (now IBRA Media), The United Bible Societies (UBS), The National Evangelical Church in Kuwait, InterAct, and Transworld Radio (TWR) all dared to believe in this ministry and committed startup funding or people to work with the project. Others committed to help with audience relations work or to help source, produce, or co-produce

programs. One individual Partner, John Douglas OBE, took on the responsibility of setting up SAT-7 in the United Kingdom.

Our first productions were done in rented, secular studios, with rented equipment and a few part-time staff. We did not even own our own camera for the first two years, but still people dared to join us.

Over the past two decades, there have been many other opportunities for SAT-7 staff, its Boards, and its Partners to dare to believe. First, the expansion of broadcasts from a few hours per week in 1996 to a few hours per day, and then to the first 24/7 Arabic channel in 2001. The expansion of our Persian-language service and the launch of SAT-7 PARS in 2006, followed by the launch of SAT-7 KIDS, the region’s first-ever Christian TV channel for Arab children. Then, the start of Turkish broadcasts and the eventual launch of SAT-7 TÜRK in 2015.

These were all daring acts of faith. When commitments to move forward were made, there was no funding to undertake these steps and we were unsure of our technical and human capacity to execute the ambitious goals. But we dared to believe that God was leading us – and miracles followed these steps of faith. We found that we could produce more and better programming and we could get our channels onto satellites that others considered impossible to access.

God provided the talent and the leadership to expand the work. God touched our Partners, our supporters, and even our viewers to provide the finances needed year by year. There are many more stories of God’s provision for the ministry that should be told one day – the stories of people and Partners who dared to believe!



Dr Terence Ascott, Founder and President of SAT-7, in his MEM office in Cyprus in 1989

**Dr Terence Ascott
SAT-7 Founder and President**

SUPPORTER AND PARTNER TESTIMONIES

We asked some of our Partners what their relationship with SAT-7 means to them. Do watch the videos below to hear their unique stories. All our Partners continue to make SAT-7's vision and mission of making God's love visible in the Middle East and North Africa an extraordinary reality. Our heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you.

“

Through these years, I have watched SAT-7 grow and become an effective, powerful broadcasting ministry. Many have come to know the love of God, putting their hope and trust in Jesus. And I've found that you don't have to be on staff to be a part of the SAT-7 family... I am proud to say, along with many others, I am SAT-7.

Dr Ron Harris, President of MEDIAAlliance International



[CLICK TO WATCH](#)



[CLICK TO WATCH](#)

“

I started to feel that God was leading me to use my gifts and my love for the Afghan people within SAT-7. By working for SAT-7 PARS I've been able, through the programs, to reach millions of Persian-speakers who were searching for the truth about God.

Mikael Tunér, TV director and producer, seconded to SAT-7 PARS by Media Mission the Messengers from Finland

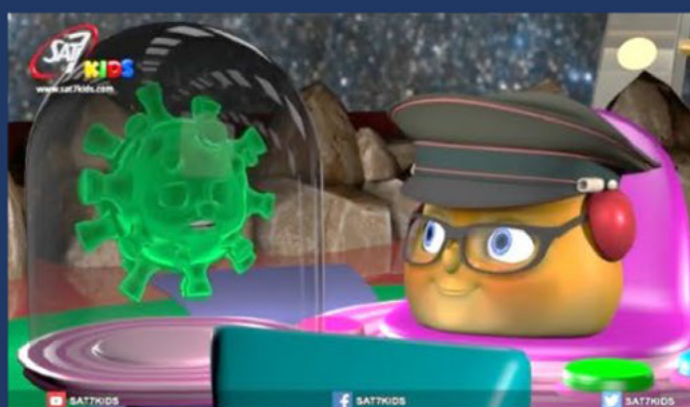
“

As I continued to participate in all the NETWORKs, one after the other, I discovered that I was fairly comfortable to be a member of the new and large family, the family of SAT-7. It was a place, good for me to be.

John Steinar Dale, Norwegian Lutheran Church in Norway



[CLICK TO WATCH](#)



RECORD AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT DURING PANDEMIC

As the coronavirus pandemic kept the world in lockdown, SAT-7's research in April 2020 revealed audience engagement numbers hit an all-time high across all channels. 42,000 engagements from phone calls, social media, and a positive response as high as 96 percent was recorded from a recent opinion poll survey.

In the days of COVID-19, daring to believe and hope in the future present an even greater challenge. "These encouraging results are fresh proof that SAT-7 is well-placed to provide support," says SAT-7 CEO Rita El-Mounayer. "Our viewers' words show that high-quality, Christ-centred programming has continued power in making God's love visible, connecting Christians, and breaking down walls of misunderstanding between neighbours," she added.

Further evidence of the positive impact of SAT-7 programs was revealed in a recent opinion poll survey, which was performed on SAT-7's social media platforms. The program *Ask Dr Maher* showed that 94 percent of viewers believed that the program helped them to cope with the pandemic. *The Coach* revealed a striking 96 percent of viewers were helped by the program.

SAT-7 meets a variety of needs

Viewer surveys carried out before the pandemic across all the channels already indicated high levels of appreciation for all SAT-7 channels, with a particularly strong satisfaction rate of 86 percent for Arabic channels. The feedback viewers gave show why: "SAT-7 ARABIC transformed our house into a small church." "SAT-7 TÜRK showed me I am not alone." "SAT-7 KIDS helped my children in their education." A SAT-7 PARS viewer adds, "My faith has been strengthened." The surveys were conducted through an online survey late 2019/early 2020.

The majority of all viewers preferred their local SAT-7 channel to other Christian or secular outlets. The quality of programming, including picture and sound quality, was particularly praised,

representation of multiple denominations and dialects on the channels was also highly valued. Viewers appreciated that programs help them grow spiritually, socially, and emotionally, that they are non-political, and can be watched by the whole family. The survey also showed that most Arabic-speaking viewers continue to watch regularly, and via satellite; of the 13 percent who watch online, 90 percent rated programs highly.

Transforming lives and societies

Other responses to the survey, which was advertised by email and social media, show progress in promoting tolerance along with an increase in non-Christian viewers in some geographical areas. 17 percent of SAT-7 ARABIC Muslim viewers said that they felt connected to Christians, and 17 percent grew in their understanding of the Christian faith. One viewer says, "I learned about Christianity and changed my opinion of it." And a respondent to SAT-7 TÜRK's survey shares, "I am a Muslim, but I watch your channel. I learned good things about Christianity. Discrimination will decrease as more people watch."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SAT-7 continued to respond to the needs of the people in the Middle East and North Africa through programming, providing vital educational resources, counselling, prayer support, and encouragement. [Click here](#) to find out more about SAT-7's response to COVID-19.

**Jan – Apr 2020
SAT-7 had
130,000
audience
engagements,
10,000 more
than the same
period in 2019**

SUPPORTING VIEWERS THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

LIVING BY FAITH

Lale, a female SAT-7 PARS viewer sent the following message to a prayer shared on the live program *Signal*;

"We are grateful for the prayer you sent – truly these days we are in need of prayer so we can be strengthened. Really, what would we do if we didn't have Jesus Christ? We are watching people who are in so much pain, fear, anxiety, and anger. Truly we can see what God meant when He said whoever puts the blood of the lamb on the door of his house will be safe.

That is what we have done and we are being protected by the blood of Christ. We are praying for the people and asking that they will meet the Lord and be released from their anger. As you know, my husband is a street vendor and is currently without work, and we don't even have loose change.

But we are living in faith and we have never been left in need, and we are praying for everyone else. Thank you for praying for me - I too will pray for you my dear brother and sister, that the Lord's strength and blessing will be with you. Thank you."

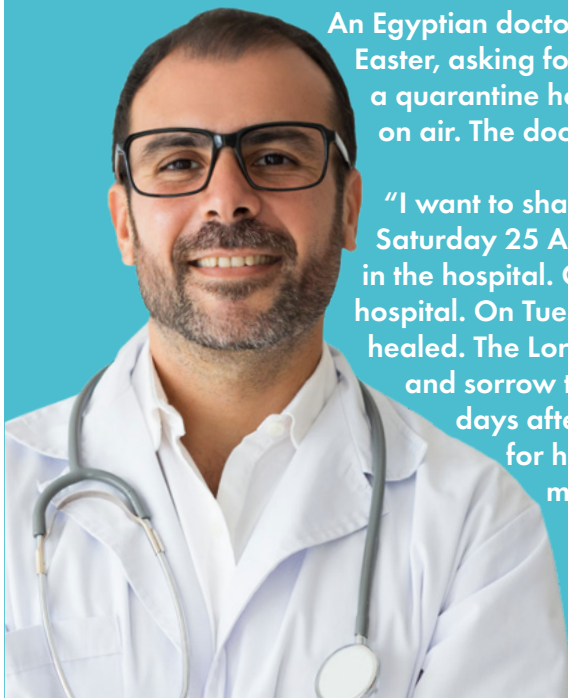


MIRACLES DURING PANDEMIC

An Egyptian doctor called the SAT-7 KIDS program *Family of Jesus* during Easter, asking for prayers as he was attending to COVID-19 patients in a quarantine hospital. The *Family of Jesus* team prayed with him live on air. The doctor later contacted the program to share what happened.

"I want to share with you some good news. After you prayed for us on Saturday 25 April, there was a sudden divine response to your prayers in the hospital. On Monday, 14 cases were healed of the virus and left the hospital. On Tuesday, 9 cases were healed. On Wednesday, 12 cases were healed. The Lord made a shift in the hospital mood from one of depression and sorrow to one of joy and happiness. All this happened in three days after *Family of Jesus* prayed. In my prayer request I asked for healing for the patients as well as God's protection over the medical crew as we were required to work in the hospital for 15 days and couldn't go home.

On the last day of our shift, the medical crew – 85 people including myself – were tested and not one of us was infected with the virus."



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Sonia, a Lebanese taxi driver and mother of two sons, both sick – one with cancer and the other with epilepsy – called the SAT-7 ARABIC program *You are Not Alone* to share her struggles during the pandemic lockdown. Sonia's husband is unfit to work because of heart problems and an accident that left him with a permanent injury in his right leg. She is the main bread winner of her family and needed to sell all her furniture to pay for her son's cancer treatment. Since Sonia is the only one in her family working, she put her health at risk during the pandemic so she could provide for her family. She does not have internet at home, so she used her neighbour's computer and Skype to call and share her story on the program. After seeing Sonia's interview on *You are Not Alone*, Father Magdy Alawy, founder of Heavenly Joy Association in Lebanon, sent Sonia and her family supplies.

"Thank you program *You are Not Alone*. A special thanks to Father Magdy who surprised us with his wonderful visit on Saturday morning. I'm very grateful to you. We will never forget your help. You are wonderful people."
– Sonia (on the right)



A LIFELINE IN A TIME OF NEED

Bahar, a female SAT-7 TÜRK viewer shares how the program *Homemade* became a lifeline in her time of need.



"I was divorced three years ago, I can't see my two children because of financial reasons, and I've been depressed for two years. A month ago, I was alone on my birthday. I felt so lonely and I had the desire to end my life, but I thought to myself that I should watch *Homemade* one last time. I had been watching SAT-7 TÜRK for a while and I thought the Presenter Şemsa was very sincere and natural. That day, she was talking about God's love and patience. She talked about delivering ourselves to Him and giving Him our pain. I began wondering what the Bible had to say about suicide and reached out to the SAT-7 TÜRK team to request a Bible.

Now, I have hope. I am reading the Bible and praying every day and I believe that one day I will see my children again. Jesus Christ is with me; He is taking care of me. I thank you all – you have been tools for God to do this in my life."

She later contacted the team once more, to share that her daughter was now living with her.

FROM HEART TO HEART TACKLES VITAL ISSUES

“The WhatsApp messages never stop, people need our support during this fearful time,” – Rawad Daou, Presenter of *From Heart to Heart*.

During the pandemic, SAT-7 ARABIC’s program *From Heart to Heart* continued to go live and address vital issues such as the growing rate of domestic violence during lockdown.

Presenters Marianne and Rawad Daou remained faithful to their ministry throughout this period, praying for and encouraging viewers to feel the peace of Christ in the midst of fear and uncertainty. With the help of

a counsellor, the couple guided viewers on managing difficult and dangerous situations at home.



“One viewer contacted us asking for prayer, since not even her parents want to help her in the abusive marriage that she is in. Her parents would rather she stay in the situation than bring shame to the family by leaving,” shares Marianne. “The counsellor advised her, and we directed her to our Audience Relations staff for further support.”

“We want to do our best to draw people closer to Jesus and to make them feel His security and His peace during this very difficult time,” concludes Marianne. ■

HELPING FAMILIES INTERACT AND LEARN TOGETHER

From the producers of *Stories of Jesus*, BTS Productions, a special live program has been created on social media to help support young SAT-7 KIDS viewers during lockdown. *Our Story from Home* is presented by children’s presenter Essam Nagy and his wife Magdolene – using dolls named Smiley and Miley. It includes engaging activities for parents and kids, to help build interaction between them. “We want viewers to discuss the values they see on the program,” shares Magdolene, “and we want to build a relationship with our viewers so they can share with us what they are learning and how it applies to them.”

The program teaches biblical values by tackling topics such as pride, fear, and frustration. In one episode the character Smiley stands on a high pedestal, looking down at Miley, judging her for not being as knowledgeable as he is. Essam and Magdolene use the skit to talk about pride, appreciation, and acceptance of peoples’ differences.

Although created for children, Essam and Magdolene’s message is reaching adults as well, since children use their parents’ social media accounts to watch the program. “During an episode discussing trusting oneself,” shares Essam, “we received a very touching comment from a mother who said ‘as a female I want to trust myself more, I want to be free and what I saw in this program helped me feel trust and have confidence.’”

In its first two weeks on air the show reached remarkable numbers on social media with the promo video viewed 7000 times, and the second episode reaching 121,000 viewers. ■



NEW MY STORY EPISODES FROM SAT-7 ACADEMY

During the COVID-19 lockdown a great number of SAT-7 ACADEMY followers requested more stories from the *My School* segment *My Story*. The short segment features Dr Nada Kastoun, family counsellor and psychologist, who writes and narrates stories for children. In previous episodes, Dr Nada told stories in a natural park setting, sharing messages that help create awareness of modern-day issues, guiding children and parents on how to deal with sensitive or dangerous situations.

“Both parents and kids are sending me messages asking for more *My Story* episodes, so I am writing new stories now and we will be filming them with SAT-7 ACADEMY in a new setting,” shares Dr Nada. ■



MANY MORE VIEWERS TURN TO SAT-7 TÜRK DURING COVID-19

“SAT-7 TÜRK is a source of joy to us during these times when we have to stay at home,” a viewer writes. As Turkey battles the pandemic, more viewers are reaching out to SAT-7 TÜRK for prayer and encouragement. From January to April 2020, SAT-7 TÜRK’s audience engagement stood at 7,600 cases, whereas in the same period in 2019, the audience engagement rose by 64 percent, to 12,500. This explosion in audience numbers comes on top of a steady growth over the past four years; in 2019, SAT-7 TÜRK’s viewer engagement increased by 105 percent.

The channel is also witnessing spiritual growth among its viewers. As they find themselves with more time on their hands, a new and exciting development is occurring: seekers are asking more challenging questions. “We used to get common questions such as ‘Has the Bible been changed?’, but now viewers are researching the Bible and comparing verses, and their questions are becoming more in-depth,” explains Pastor Cem Ercin, Presenter of *Essence of the Gospel* and co-host of *Let’s Talk*. ■



SAT-7 PARS DEVELOPS NEW APP

To better meet the needs of its viewers, SAT-7 PARS is developing a new mobile app to be released in the summer of 2020. The new app will allow people in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan to follow SAT-7 PARS’ live stream 24/7 and will place Persian Christian resources and audio files at their fingertips.

Excitingly, the app will also serve as a direct link between viewers and the Audience Relations team, giving viewers instant access

to a team of trained people who can pray with them and counsel them through problems around the clock.

“This advanced, sophisticated app has many useful features,” says Panayiotis Keenan, Executive Director of SAT-7 PARS. “We hope that this app will help us continue to support our viewers and that it will strengthen the relationship between the channel and our audience.” ■



NETWORK 2021 SAVE THE DATE!

In 2021, SAT-7 will be celebrating 25 years of making God's love visible in the Middle East and North Africa!

We invite you to celebrate with us and join us at SAT-7's annual NETWORK conference, scheduled to take place 24-26 March 2021.

Find out how God has led SAT-7 to change lives through the power of satellite television in the past 25 years.



SAT-7 COMMUNICATIONS MATERIAL GOING DIGITAL

In recent years, as a ministry, SAT-7 has taken steps towards becoming more environmentally friendly, especially in how we communicate our news and distribute material to our supporters and Partners. The current pandemic has accelerated our efforts in continuing to be environmentally conscious regarding this INSIGHT magazine.

Today's digital age and new technologies make it possible for SAT-7 to share news and resources in a more creative and engaging way by including videos, articles, and vlogs.

As of June 2020, printed copies of SAT-7's INSIGHT magazine will be available through paid subscription. For more information please contact info@sat7.org. INSIGHT will continue to be available online in digital format. You can download a PDF version of INSIGHT and other SAT-7 publications from our website [here](#).



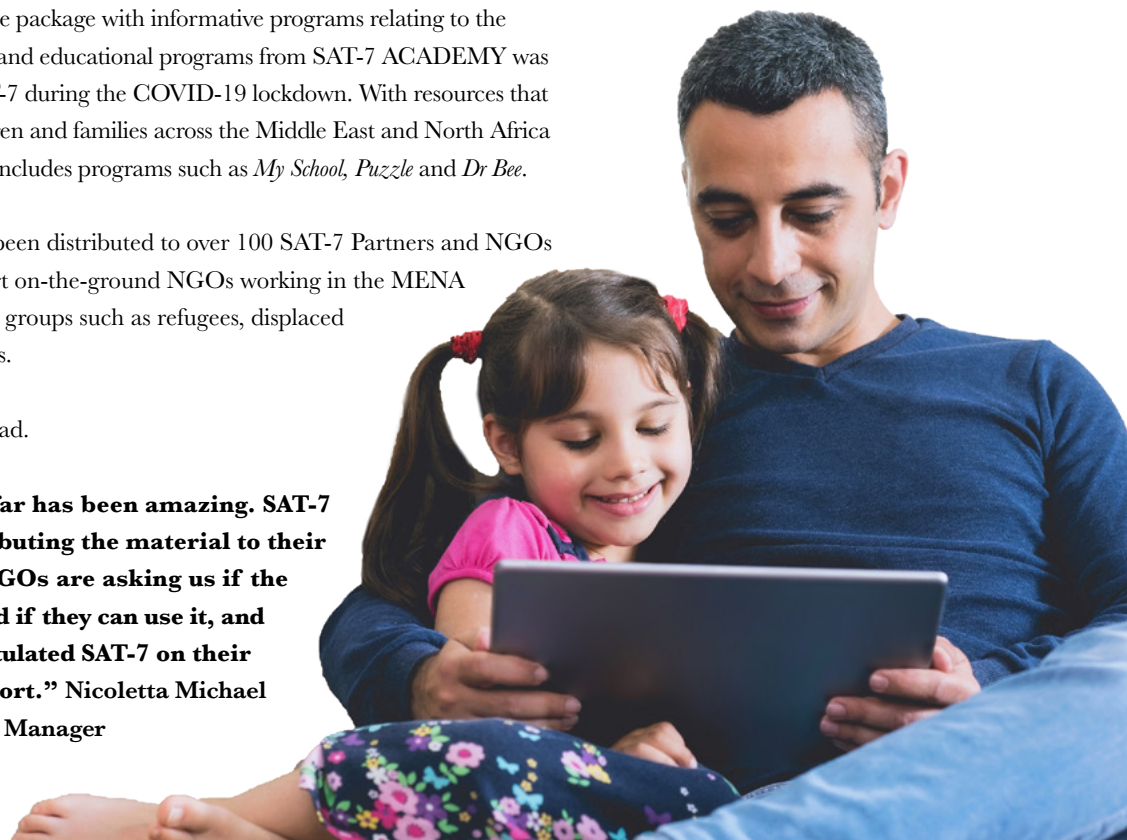
SAT-7 SHARES ACADEMY RESOURCES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A comprehensive online package with informative programs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and educational programs from SAT-7 ACADEMY was made available by SAT-7 during the COVID-19 lockdown. With resources that can help support children and families across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the package includes programs such as *My School*, *Puzzle* and *Dr Bee*.

These resources have been distributed to over 100 SAT-7 Partners and NGOs with the aim to support on-the-ground NGOs working in the MENA region with vulnerable groups such as refugees, displaced persons, and minorities.

[Click here](#) to download.

“The response so far has been amazing. SAT-7 partners are distributing the material to their MENA partners, NGOs are asking us if the material is free and if they can use it, and others have congratulated SAT-7 on their response and support.” Nicoletta Michael
SAT-7 Development Manager



How to find SAT-7

SAT-7 ARABIC

SATELLITE: Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.353 GHz Vertical;
Covering Middle East & North Africa.

ONLINE: www.sat7.com / www.facebook.com/sat7ar
www.youtube.com/user/SAT7ARABIC
Smartphone App: SAT-7

SAT-7 KIDS (ARABIC)

SATELLITE: Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.353 GHz Vertical;
Covering Middle East & North Africa.

ONLINE: www.sat7kids.com / www.facebook.com/sat7kids
www.youtube.com/user/SAT7KIDS
Smartphone App: SAT-7 KIDS

SAT-7 TÜRK (TURKISH)

SATELLITE: Türksat 4A at 42° East, 11.824 GHz Vertical;
Covering Turkey, Europe & Central Asia.

ONLINE: www.sat7turk.com / www.facebook.com/sat7turk
www.youtube.com/user/SAT7TURK
Smartphone App: SAT-7 TÜRK

SAT-7 PARS (PERSIAN)

SATELLITE: Yahsat 13 at 52.5° East, 11.958 GHz Vertical;
Covering Middle East

ONLINE: www.sat7pars.com / www.facebook.com/sat7pars
www.youtube.com/user/SAT7PARS
Smartphone App: SAT-7 PARS

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DARE TO BELIEVE WITH US

Christians in the Middle East and North Africa face numerous challenges, including discrimination, persecution, isolation, and now the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, they turn their hearts and minds to Jesus, believing His promises, and placing their hope and trust in Him.

SAT-7 continues to be a voice of God's love and hope in the region, a vital platform for churches, a bridge that connects Christians, a family for the isolated, an advocate for those in need, and a safe resource for the next generation.

Your donation helps us continue to support and encourage Christians in the Middle East and North Africa as they "dare to believe".

Please donate to support the Christians of the Middle East and North Africa today.

YES, I want to make a life-changing gift!



Credit card / PayPal:

www.sat7.org/get-involved/donate



Bank transfer:

US DOLLAR ACCOUNT

Account number: 57319020

Account name: SAT-7 International Trust

Bank: Pax-Bank eG

IBAN: DE19 3706 0193 0057 3190 20

BIC (SWIFT-address): GENODED1PAX



EURO ACCOUNT

Account number: 57319011

Account name: SAT-7 International Trust

Bank: Pax-Bank eG

IBAN: DE68 3706 0193 0057 3190 11

BIC (SWIFT-address): GENODED1PAX

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