



SAT-7

INTERIM MINISTRY REPORT

January – June 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear SAT-7 friends,

I am delighted to share this report on developments in the ministry of SAT-7 from the first half of 2024. I pray that you will be encouraged by how God is using your generous support to share His love in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Every day SAT-7's dedicated Viewer Support teams receive messages from viewers whose lives have been changed as they have watched our programs and series. We have collected some of the most powerful recent testimonies on pages 7–10. They illustrate many ways that our programs help people on their faith journey.

Among SAT-7's exciting initiatives in 2024 has been the release into cinemas across Türkiye of a full-length feature film by SAT-7 TÜRK. *Yakamoz* focuses on the experiences of two fictional families involved in the population exchange between Türkiye and Greece a century ago this year. Meanwhile SAT-7 ARABIC's feature film *Toxic*, about the power of forgiveness, has been taken onto the playlists of five major airlines in the region. Please see pages 4–6 for these and other updates.

The channel news on pages 11–18 reports on many new and continuing programs. For example, our children's channel, SAT-7 KIDS, has produced a short drama about a group of young people who encounter Jesus in a very special way. And our Persian-language channel, SAT-7 PARS, is helping viewers to apply their faith to every aspect of their lives through its new program *Salt and Light*.

On pages 19 and 20 we report on our *Youth for an Enabling Society* and Gender Equality and FoRB projects, which are both making a powerful impact through social media content and participation at public events. You can also

read here about the flagship program *Today Not Tomorrow* and its various connections with Arab women.

SAT-7 broadcasts into many contexts of conflict, displacement, and economic or environmental crisis, and some Christian viewers are at constant risk because of their faith (see page 3). Our programs offer hope and encouragement to those who are suffering across the region, pointing them to Christ as the source of comfort and strength and offering them advice and practical support.

SAT-7 is deeply grateful for all the supporters who stand with us and with the churches of the MENA as we bring God's message of life and peace to its peoples. May you too know His rich blessing as you read this report.

With warm Christian greetings,



Rita El-Mounayer
Chief Executive Officer



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The first half of 2024 brought no relief to those caught up in the MENA's major conflicts. By the end of June the war in the Holy Land had been in progress for nearly nine months and had claimed the lives of many thousands of people, while the possibility of regional escalation was growing.¹ The ongoing humanitarian crisis generated by the civil war in Sudan left unrecorded numbers of people dying of starvation every day and approximately 12 million children out of school.² Typical of the destructive violence was an attack on a small village in Gezira state on 5 June that left up to 100 people dead.³

Refugees and other displaced people fleeing from conflict, poverty, or persecution face other forms of suffering. Even in countries that welcome large numbers of refugees, such as Türkiye and Lebanon, they may struggle to cope with difficult economic and social conditions.⁴ The infamous al-Hol camp in Syria, which houses around 40,000 people, has poor sanitation and no health care and witnesses widespread sexual violence; parts of it are even run by former ISIS fighters.⁵ In North Africa, traffickers have begun using TikTok to promote journeys to Europe and bypass the monitoring of their activities.⁶

Economic and environmental crises are also afflicting various parts of the region. In Lebanon, poverty has now increased from 12% to 44% of the population over the past ten years, partly as a result of rampant corruption.⁷ In February 2024 Turkish annual consumer price inflation climbed to 67.07% in response to recent tax increases and the weakness of the lira.⁸ In April, a year and a half's quantity of rain fell in Dubai (UAE) in 24 hours, causing chaos in the city.⁹ Heavy rainfall and flash floods have also affected north-east Afghanistan, leaving 180 people dead and causing extensive damage to infrastructure.¹⁰

Repression of Christians in Iran continues unabated. In March an Iranian Christian from a different religious background was summoned to court accused of "propaganda against the regime", and he is currently waiting for a second and final hearing.¹¹ Believers in Egypt suffer sporadic acts of violence: in the week before Easter several Christian homes were burned in Fawakher village in the Minya governorate, and another community was attacked in al-Kom al-Ahmar village.¹² And while such incidents are rare in Türkiye, in late January two gunmen killed one person and injured several others during a church service in Istanbul.¹³

¹ Netanyahu: Israeli forces will move to Lebanon border as Rafah winds down

² UN accuses Sudan's RSF of rape, ethnic killings as Hemedti courts region

³ Outrage in Sudan as more than 100 feared dead in RSF attack

⁴ Echo factsheets - Türkiye, Lebanon

⁵ Life after al-Hol: Iraqi women's uneasy return from ranks of ISIS

⁶ In Libya, human traffickers turn to TikTok to promote services

⁷ Poverty in Lebanon tripled to 44%, as high as 62% in rural areas: World Bank; Mideast corruption rankings: UAE least corrupt, Lebanon close to bottom

⁸ Turkish inflation rises to 61.53% in September, near forecast | Reuters

⁹ Dubai's record rainfall spotlights Gulf's troubled relation with water

¹⁰ Afghanistan Floods: 180 people confirmed killed, 8975 homes destroyed or damaged

¹¹ Iran: Christian convert accused of propaganda against the regime

¹² Egypt's Copts warn of surging violence as houses torched

¹³ Istanbul church attack: Gunmen kill one person during Sunday morning mass

NEWS

UPDATES

HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN

In the face of an acute education crisis in Afghanistan, SAT-7 PARS is producing a Dari-language program to help children learn to read and write and give them hope for the future.



An estimated 3.7 million Afghan children are out of school, and severely limited internet access means that most cannot learn online either. Girls are even banned from attending secondary school. According to the World Population Review, adult

literacy rates are very low across the country at 38.2%.

SAT-7's new program, *Sun of Hope*, will be presented by a schoolteacher in Dari, the variety of Persian most widely spoken in Afghanistan, and will focus primarily on basic literacy skills, beginning with the alphabet. Each episode will contain practical lessons and homework, with accompanying graphics and photos.

The episodes are aimed at 5-7-year-olds, but they could also benefit older children and adults who were unable to attend school. The channel hopes that the literacy skills acquired through the program will also help viewers eventually to engage with the Gospel.

Sun of Hope is part of a growing suite of Dari-language resources provided or in production by SAT-7 PARS.

THE CHOSEN COMES TO SAT-7

In April SAT-7 was delighted to announce that the hugely popular international series *The Chosen* would soon be broadcast on our platforms. SAT-7 has secured the rights to broadcast the first three series on our satellite channels and on the online streaming platform SAT-7 PLUS for the next three years. The episodes will be fully dubbed into Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish.

The Chosen offers a powerful, dramatic re-telling of the life of Jesus, focusing especially on the lives of His inner circle. George Makeen, SAT-7's Ministry Content Advisor, said:

"Drama is an attractive genre for viewers all around the world, especially in the MENA, where our verbal culture learns more through listening and watching than reading. As SAT-7 presents this series in the MENA languages, we believe many viewers will be introduced and re-introduced to the Good News in a way that touches their hearts and minds."

The Chosen has attracted 200 million unique viewers around the world and is already available in 26 languages.



SAT-7 PRODUCTION IN TURKISH CINEMAS

SAT-7 TÜRK's first feature-length film premiered in June following a gala event with church leaders and journalists. *Yakamoz* marks the centenary of the momentous population exchange between Türkiye and Greece, told through the moving stories of two fictional families caught up in the event. It is being shown in cinemas all over Türkiye, and the team hope also to screen it at several film festivals, including one in France on 14 September.



SAT-7 TÜRK collaborated with a renowned Turkish screenwriter, famous actors, and Greek and Turkish academics on this project. A powerful folk song, *A Storm Took Us*, was written and performed in Greek for the film's soundtrack by a successful Turkish artist.

Yakamoz director Ali Kerem Gülermen said, "The film tells about this great migration that took place exactly a century ago, at this time when the themes of the 'other', 'identity', and 'foreign' continue to stab into people's hearts. *Yakamoz* will touch the contemporary audience with its relevant themes of equality and humanity."

[CLICK HERE ►](#) TO WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT THE FILM



YOUNG PEOPLE SHARE HOPE IN SONG

As part of SAT-7's *Youth for an Enabling Society* (YES) project, SAT-7 filmed a beautiful music video, *This is Our Land*, with young people in Syria. The lyrics share the singers' hope for the future of the planet and call on people to "be the change" in caring for the environment, its creatures, and all of humanity. The powerful refrain says, "Don't think that what you are doing is little and it has no importance. The impact of the small butterfly is huge."

The video is one of 41 youth-led initiatives that have been filmed as part of the YES project's "caring for the environment" activity. The project is designed to equip and encourage young people in the MENA to invest themselves in their local communities and wider society. To read more about it, please see page 19.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH THE VIDEO



TOXIC SHOWING ON MAJOR AIRLINES

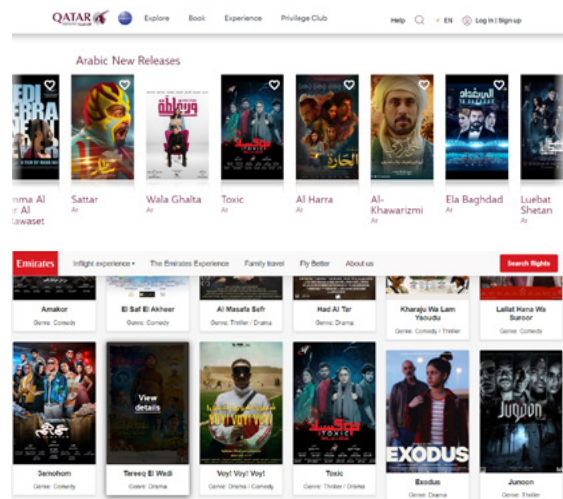
SAT-7 ARABIC's first feature-length film, *Toxic*, is now available to travellers flying with five major airlines in the MENA: Emirates, Qatar Airways, Saudia, Kuwait Airways, and Turkish Airlines. The movie's inclusion on the in-flight playlists means that tens of millions of travellers are now only a click away from encountering Christ's message of forgiveness.

Toxic is a powerful portrayal of human relationships, with a strong focus on violence and forgiveness. It represents the true stories of people from different cultures who go through traumatic experiences but refuse to give in to bitterness and revenge.

Maged Mounir, Executive Director of SAT-7's Egypt office, said:

"We are delighted that *Toxic* is now available to millions of travellers on these busy airlines, meaning that many more people will be introduced to the film's message about the power of forgiveness. It also potentially acts as an introduction to the wider ministry of SAT-7, opening up the opportunity for people to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ through our other programs."

Toxic was funded in partnership with the Norwegian Mission Society as part of SAT-7's Current Affairs Project.



IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

For SAT-7, what happens off screen is just as important as what happens on screen. A core part of our ministry to viewers across the MENA is a commitment to supporting them in their lives and faith through dedicated teams who offer prayer, advice, and counselling.

Each of our satellite TV channels has a Viewer Support team made up of Persian, Turkish, or Arab believers, who are ready to receive our viewers' comments, concerns, questions, prayer requests, and testimonies. There are a variety of ways to contact our teams, including phone calls during live programs, comments on our social media pages, and direct messages through apps like Instagram, WhatsApp, and Telegram.

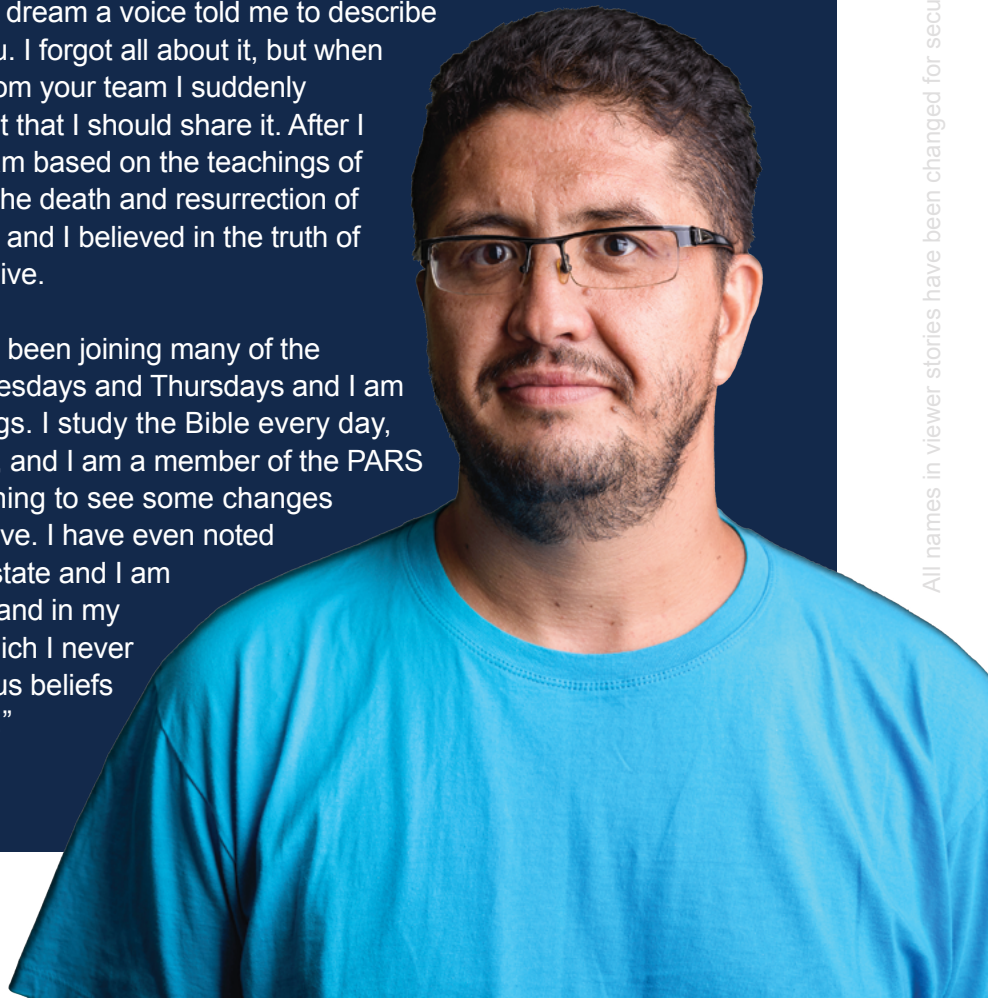
Here is a selection of impactful testimonies we received in the first half of 2024!

"Greetings. I would like to share a testimony about how I came to faith and the impact this has had on me and my life. Even until about a month ago I was not fully confident of my new faith and, despite feeling very much drawn to Christianity, I still had my doubts.

"I kept asking questions and someone at your channel provided some very helpful answers. Then I had a dream, and in the dream a voice told me to describe it when I was speaking with you. I forgot all about it, but when I was chatting with someone from your team I suddenly remembered the dream and felt that I should share it. After I did so, she interpreted my dream based on the teachings of the Bible and explained about the death and resurrection of Jesus. My doubts melted away and I believed in the truth of Christianity and that Jesus is alive.

"For the last two months I have been joining many of the Zoom teaching sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays and I am being blessed by your teachings. I study the Bible every day, I follow SAT-7 PARS programs, and I am a member of the PARS Telegram channel. I am beginning to see some changes in my life and in the way I behave. I have even noted a change in my psychological state and I am sensing a deep peace at work and in my interactions with colleagues which I never had when I followed my previous beliefs and prayed those set prayers."

– Hovan, Iran



“

I'm not a Christian, but I love to follow your programs. They are great. Levent, Türkiye

“My Life Journey is an excellent program, and Marianne [the presenter] has no idea how much I love her. I pray God gives success to SAT-7. Yours is a special channel. I believe that every testimony of God's blessed sons and daughters impacts all the viewers, especially those who believe in the name of the Lord Jesus. Such testimonies are deeply encouraging for us and they shed light in the midst of every darkness we face. They help us as believers to cling more to the Lord and His Word.” – Liliane, Lebanon



“I am grateful. I like SAT-7 and I follow your Christian programs. Before I contacted you, I was weary and felt no peace, but now that I have connected with you, I feel much better because someone is talking to me about the Lord. I feel more reassured and I am always eager to hear you speak to me about the Lord Jesus. You bring joy to my heart. Thank you.” – Bilal, Algeria

“

Thank you very much for your prayers. I receive blessings and encouragement from your prayers. May the Lord bless you.
Gam, Türkiye



"I am so grateful for everything you do; you have really blessed me and helped me to grow. As a result of watching *Golpand* I became more confident and better able to relate to other people. It is a real joy to take part in this program.

"I must say that *Golpand* was the environment which helped my mind and thinking ability to develop, and I know this is true for the other children too.

"I have really benefited, and [I want] the other children to benefit as I have done. I want to thank the producer and all the program-makers. Your program is excellent and teaches so much about the Bible to me and the other children. I am so glad that I heard about you and your program because it has enabled me to come to know the Lord better.

"I want to also thank my 'aunties' in audience relations who serve us like loving mothers and show us kindness. I have been watching *Golpand* since 2017.

"Again I want to say how grateful I am to you for all you have done." – Atoosa, Iran



“

I love watching you and I recommend you to people around me. Thank you SAT-7 TÜRK family. God bless you.
Ulvi, Türkiye



"After Jesus spoke to me, I did not obey his words for 10 years. Then, by chance, I set out on a journey of discovery and ended up finding Him. I am now studying and would like to learn every word He said through parables and the actions He took. For that reason I read, and this is how you showed up on my radar. I am confident Jesus is the one who caused me to find you. I want to learn everything so that if someone asks me or I have a conversation with someone, I am able to respond." – Sultan, Iraq

The Viewer Support team explained to Sultan what had happened to him and shared the Gospel. They prayed with him, and he professed Jesus as the Lord and Saviour of his life. They sent him a link to read the Bible and continued to be in touch with him.



**Watch-time hours
on SAT-7 PLUS
35,353***



**SAT-7's Viewer Support
teams held 44,908
conversations with
viewers***



**SAT-7's Facebook pages
had 8,454,733
engagements***

*All statistics cover the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024

"My name is Yvonne, and I am from Egypt. I really want to thank the SAT-7 KIDS channel for all its great programs. I have been watching since I was a little girl and I still do. I love your channel. Currently, I have a little son; he is two and a half years old and we watch the channel together.

"My son loves it and has memorised all of its programs. We run it 24/7 because of how much he loves it. God bless you as you raise up generation after generation of people who love the Lord and His Word. Thank you very much!" – Yvonne, Egypt



CHANNEL UPDATE

SAT-7 PARS

Children's shows sharing timeless Bible lessons, talk shows tackling vital discipleship issues, and discipleship programs exploring how the Christian message affects our daily lives: this is just some of the thought-provoking content that our Persian viewers enjoyed on SAT-7 PARS in the first half of 2024.

CHANGING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



SAT-7 PARS live social media program **Church4Kids** continues to go from strength to strength. Currently streamed weekly on Instagram, **Church4Kids** is presented by popular channel presenter Maryam and exists to gather isolated Christian children through worship and Bible teaching.



Maryam presenting Church4Kids

"I am personally blessed by [your teaching segments]," said Farzaneh, a parent from Iran. "They give me hope, encourage me, and help me to grow in my faith. Dear Maryam, I can really see the kindness in your heart as you bring God's word, listen to the children, and encourage them. This is incredibly valuable."



Young viewers have been giving thanks for **Hashtag**, another of SAT-7 PARS' children's programs, which is coming to an end after the current series – its fifth – finishes this summer.

Parastoo, the show's well-loved presenter, has been showcasing various Bible characters and covering topics such as "Creation and Fall", "The Kingdom of God", and "Women of the Bible".

"*Hashtag* helped me to know the Lord better," said Ariana, a viewer from Iran. "I learnt a lot of things, for example crafts, general knowledge, worship songs, Bible verses... thanks to the great presenters of the show. I love you very much and may the Lord bless *Hashtag*."

Enthusiastic viewer feedback like this over many years suggests that *Hashtag* is very popular and will be greatly missed. But it will be replaced by another dynamic youth program, *Youth Light*. Aimed at a slightly older audience, this will help young Persian viewers who have grown up watching *Hashtag* to mature further in their faith. As well as including fun and entertaining segments, *Youth Light* will feature stories and testimonies and help viewers to integrate Christian values into daily life.

CHRIST IN THE EVERYDAY



New program ***Salt and Light***, which is being produced in collaboration with IRRTV Finland, will help viewers understand what it means to live as a Christian outside of a church context. The show is hosted by Afshar Alizadeh, who directs a discussion between Persian-speaking pastors based in Austria, Germany, and the UK.



Salt and Light applies faith to the whole of life



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Director Nader Taghizadeh wants people to witness the life-transforming nature of the Christian faith. “Through this program we want to encourage our viewers not to settle into being a ‘Sunday Christian’ but to ensure that their faith and walk with God is applied to every aspect of their lives.”



Ashraf, presenter of *Sanctuary of the Heart*

Throughout its first series, *Sanctuary of the Heart* has been helping its viewers to understand what prayer is and be encouraged to walk the journey of faith with new passion. As prayer requests and testimonies of answered prayer flood in, viewers across the region – regardless of background – can catch a glimpse of the goodness of God and see how He is changing lives.

“I have experienced freedom in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and His Word,” said Makan, a *Sanctuary of the Heart* viewer from Iran. “The freedom He has brought to me has enabled me, through the power of His Spirit and Word, to speak to my fellow Iranians about Jesus... so that their hearts and minds may be opened by the Holy Spirit.”

SAT-7 PARS program *Insiders*, which is currently halfway through a two-year project funded by CKU – the Centre for Church-Based Development, supported by the Danish government – connects with people across the breadth of Persian culture by discussing human rights and Freedom of Religion or Belief, with a special focus on the interaction with gender. These topics are of vital importance to people of all religious, social, and ethnic backgrounds, especially ethnic and religious minorities.

Insiders started off as a women’s program but now addresses a wider range of issues affecting everyone. Co-presenter Hengameh Borji explains, “We are always excited and passionate about the program... we are

continually learning as we grow in our understanding of Freedom of Religion or Belief and how it impacts our society.”

HELPING MEN AND WOMEN GROW



In its second series, SAT-7 PARS discipleship program *Hidden Revolution* – previously known as *Inner Revolution* – continues to explore the challenges faced by different generations in Iran. Lessons learned during the program’s honest discussions will help younger viewers handle their own transition to adulthood with Christlike maturity.



Hidden Revolution explores the challenges of young people in Iran

“This season focuses on the transitional phase of teenagers moving towards being adults,” says director Nader Taghizadeh. “As young people navigate the transition to adulthood, they are exposed to new challenges in the family, at school, and at work, and their identity is impacted.”



New Identity, meanwhile, is helping to raise up a new generation of strong, believing Persian women. At heart, the program exists to remind its female viewers that even if they are not valued in their societies, they are valued by a God who calls each of us to produce fruit and impact this world. Presenters dissect important topics with profound psychological and biblical insight, and each episode dedicates time for prayer and testimonies.

A viewer of *New Identity* recently wrote in to say, “Your programs are really helping my faith to grow. I am being built up and strengthened, cleansed inside, and I am enabled to find peace.”

[CLICK HERE](#)

FOR A VIDEO ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS



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CHANNEL UPDATE

SAT-7 TÜRK

Much of SAT-7 TÜRK's recent programming has been geared towards encouraging under-resourced Christian families in Türkiye and Azerbaijan.

The channel has been broadcasting quality Bible-based entertainment for children, plenty of insightful parenting advice, memorable stories to be enjoyed by mothers and their children, and uplifting programs for Azerbaijani women. In addition to our family programming, there have also been some great conversations about Christ and culture on our discipleship and current affairs programs.

Across its entire output the channel continues to serve the whole Church in these two countries.

STORIES FOR ALL AGES



Mini City, SAT-7 TÜRK's fun and multi-faceted children's show, takes its viewers through practical challenges, animated English songs, and educational segments, before finishing with a Bible story and a song sung by the host.



Nergis on the set of *Mini City*

Nergis Günay, who replaced Nora Yazırlioğlu as presenter in the latter part of 2023, is adept at explaining and modelling a daily craft activity, such as painting, drawing, or arranging flowers. Young viewers are encouraged to engage with the people around them and the natural world in a healthy way, while a Bible story – expounded by Nergis – grounds them in the faith. *Mini City* is an entertaining and character-building program, which is helping a new generation of Turkish children grow into the likeness of Jesus.

CLICK HERE

FOR A VIDEO ON SAT-7 TÜRK'S CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Stories for Grown Ups, meanwhile, is an inspirational program that appeals to parents as well as children. Delving into timeless stories, the show highlights the importance of reading and challenges viewers to see God's fingerprints in classic works of literature.

Deep messages about humanity, goodness, and society are baked into stories such as La Fontaine and Aesop's fables, with which many Turks are familiar from childhood. By reading and talking about these stories, the presenters reveal all sorts of wisdom for how to live today and introduce the message of the Gospel to those who watch.

EMPOWERING MOTHERS

SAT-7 TÜRK broadcasts various programs for women and others for families. Mothers tuning in recently will have found much encouraging content aimed directly at them.



The first episode of the most recent series of **Parents Are Asking**, a program offering psychological insights and wholesome advice to parents of children of all ages, was titled "Motherhood". In this episode, co-hosts Nora Yazırlioğlu and Dença Demir discussed what it means to be a mother, including the challenges and fears that mothers face and



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Parents Are Asking offers psychological insights and spiritual advice

the inherent beauty of motherhood. At one point, Dença suggested that the vocation of motherhood is a “means by which [a woman] can discover herself... and reach her potential as a human being, too.”



SAT-7 TÜRK's longest-running women's program, *Homemade*, also recently featured a segment for mothers, dealing with the topic of guilt. The show's guest wanted to relieve unnecessary pressure on mothers and remind them of the basics. “First of all, you need to understand that there is no such thing as a perfect mother,” she commented. “You should try your best for both your child and yourself. You may feel too tired to play with your child; you can explain that to [them]. Above all is your unconditional love for your child.”



For Christian Azerbaijani mothers, brand new program *Taste and See* offers up plenty of helpful advice as well as encouraging testimonies to spur them on in their faith.

Taking inspiration from *Homemade*, the program centres on what happens in the kitchen. Simple, tasty meals are cooked in the context of a wholesome conversation in Azeri. Topics such as “Children Entering Puberty”, “Raising Children”, and “Life with a Difficult Spouse” will help women navigate daily family life with a Christlike attitude.

NEWS AND VIEWS ON TOUGH TOPICS

SAT-7 TÜRK is well-versed in producing light-hearted and uplifting content, but the channel does not shy away from the more difficult parts of the human experience.



In late January this year, SAT-7 TÜRK was one of the first national networks to report on the Istanbul church attack when a congregant was killed. Through its flagship program *SAT-7 TÜRK News*, presenters brought news of the tragedy to all of Türkiye. In a country with very

little Christian presence in the media, the show's presenters were uniquely positioned to offer a Christian perspective on the tragic events.

[CLICK HERE](#)

FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH A CHURCH LEADER

For Annamaria Cedolin from SAT-7 TÜRK, the event strengthened her belief that SAT-7 *Türk News* offers something truly unique and valuable to Turks:

“We have made it our mission to report on the lives of Christians and of the wider Church in this land. So often, [Christian] voices can go unheard. But we are trusted to make the lives of Christians visible across Türkiye. They trust the information we share and trust us to tell the world.”



Presenting a news item on SAT-7 TÜRK News



Practising Discipleship wrestles with many tough topics, too, only from the Bible rather than the world. This year's content has included a focus on the inspiring and challenging example of Paul's lifestyle that we read about in the New Testament.

“We know that God works with people who need an example to see/follow and learn from. One person whom the Lord nourished was Paul. He worked in him in a special way to shape Christianity,” said the program's co-host, Cem Ercin, who has a tireless enthusiasm to make strong disciples.



Pastor Cem Ercin and Serli Balık, presenters of Practising Discipleship



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CHANNEL UPDATE

SAT-7 KIDS

ADONAI



SAT-7 KIDS' powerful short film *Adonai* ("Lord") has been produced to introduce the channel's young viewers to the love of God. Its story features a group of children in a rural village, who go on an adventure in the forest. Firstly they find an ancient book, and then they meet Jesus Himself, who teaches them about love, forgiveness, and miracles. He displays his compassion by rescuing one of the children from danger.



The children meet Jesus in the forest

The film was screened first on *Behind the Door*, a live show on SAT-7 KIDS (see below), and its focus on God's love for each child received some very positive feedback from young viewers. One teenage girl said, "I was so touched... I felt that I wanted to meet Jesus." Another added, "I learned that God will always be with us, every time and everywhere."

[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH THE FILM

MY JESUS



My Jesus is a new discipleship program that reveals the true character of Jesus through worship music. It is a program for children presented by children, featuring young guests from churches across Egypt.

In each episode the program hosts a praise and worship team from a different church, who present hymns and reflections relating to a certain characteristic of Jesus, such as His compassion, humanity, or courage.

The program's beautiful set resembles a large wooden boat and serves as a great visual reminder of the Gospel accounts of Jesus teaching the people from a boat.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO WATCH THE TRAILER

The producer, Andrew Gamal, said, "It is normal for children to go through emotions, but they must learn to be like Christ and choose not to sin. In this program, children will be taught how they are loved by Jesus and how to have a relationship with Jesus."

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



SAT-7 KIDS' popular gameshow *Challenge Accepted* is about to go into its fourth season. It features groups of young teenagers, who team up against each other in quizzes and games and act as role models for young viewers. The competitions relate to the history and stories of the Bible, so providing a Christian education for viewers, while the activities emphasise teamwork, accepting differences, and good communication.

Some previous contestants from the show have moved on from it to appear on SAT-7 KIDS in other roles. For example, Hagar, who is a Kurdish refugee with a talent for acting, has subsequently appeared as the lead character in a short film about her own journey to peace and redemption. The latest season will feature more Kurdish young people.



The teams prepare for action on *Challenge Accepted*



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BEHIND THE DOOR



The third season of another children's gameshow, *Behind the Door*, has been airing throughout the first half of 2024.



On the set of *Behind the Door*

It uses games, music, and drama to introduce stories from the Bible and highlight Christian values in an attractive way.

Many episodes this year have focused on various attributes of God, such as His holiness, faithfulness, and justice, and the difference that these should make to how we live. The young viewers are encouraged to call into the show with their comments; these reveal how deeply they engage with the content.

During an episode on God's love, one viewer said, "Jesus changed many things in my life. Although I wasn't a good person, He showed me His love regardless of what I did, which changed my life. We love Him because He loves us."

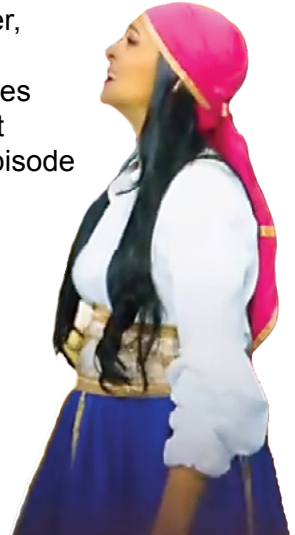
And in an episode devoted to the cross of Christ, another commented, "The Lord Jesus came for me because He loves me deeply, and He showed His love on the cross. This encourages me to live a life full of joy. He came to give me life, joy, and peace."

LA FIESTA



A third season of SAT-7 KIDS' popular worship program *La Fiesta* is now in production. Designed for 5-10-year-olds, it uses music to help children enjoy themselves and express their feelings, while also learning how much their heavenly Father loves and values them.

Nathalie, the main presenter, teaches worship songs to viewers and tells them stories of how their composers first became musicians. Each episode features a young musician who talks about his or her instrument and passion for the music. The children even learn musical theory to encourage them to start writing for themselves. All this points them towards free-time activities that will nurture their wellbeing.



The worship songs convey important truths about the love of God, encourage viewers to trust in Jesus, and give them solid hope for a better future.



La Fiesta is a worship program for children



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CHANNEL UPDATE

SAT-7 ARABIC

EASTER IN THE HOLY LAND



Since the outbreak of war in the Holy Land, SAT-7 ARABIC has been supporting its viewers in this troubled area and amplifying the voices of its inhabitants. The channel's weekly live program *You are Not Alone* filmed a special episode for Easter featuring survivors who sought refuge in a church after their homes were struck.



Interviewing a studio guest on *You are Not Alone*

"This year there's no joy or celebration, just as there wasn't any at Christmas and New Year. We are sad over losing our loved ones in the war. But the church continues to pray," said one survivor.

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH A CHRISTIAN GIRL



SAT-7 ARABIC also broadcast a special Easter program, *Hope of Resurrection*, in which church leaders from the Holy Land spoke to some of the pastoral issues raised by the conflict.

"Here in the Holy Land, we have always had difficulties. But there are challenges and wars in other countries in the Middle East. This message of hope and resurrection is not just for us but for all," said Rev. Dr Jack Sara, President of Bethlehem Bible College.

SUDAN PROGRAMS FOR WARTIME

The current war in Sudan started so suddenly last year that many Christians left their homes with just the clothes they were wearing, seeking safety elsewhere. Yet Sudanese church leaders continue to support their congregations. *You are Not Alone* has also featured interviews with Sudanese survivors who shared their stories and the effects of the war on their lives.

"It is very sad for churches to be destroyed and attacked. But the church is continuing, and our service continues. Our prayers are ongoing, and congregations have hosted other denominations in their churches," said Raafat Samir, Secretary General of the Sudan Evangelical Alliance.

AMPLIFYING THE CHURCH'S VOICE



SAT-7 ARABIC's weekly live program *Voice of the Church* has begun its second season. The program was launched in 2023 to support those affected by the wars in the Holy Land and Sudan. The two-hour show broadcasts every week, alternating between the Beirut and Cairo studios.



Worshipping together on *Voice of the Church*

The program has proved very popular, and many church leaders and viewers call in to share their prayers for believers in the region. Maha, a woman from the Holy Land, said, "How comforting it is to see that everyone is standing together and asking and praying as if we are one person. Praying for God to stop this destruction happening against humanity, because every human is precious to the Lord."

JOURNEYS OF LIFE



SAT-7 ARABIC has launched a special program called *My Life Journey* to give a platform for Christian influencers, many of them worship leaders, to be vulnerable about their struggles and share how God's grace has helped them to overcome trials. It has quickly built up a strong following, with thousands of views on social media and positive viewer engagement.

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Women across MENA

My Life Journey is intended to be a community in which viewers can participate and engage. People are invited to share their prayer requests, seek spiritual guidance from the show's guests, and connect with other viewers. A WhatsApp group has been set up to provide connection and encouragement.

The stories shared on *My Life Journey* are clearly making an impact. One episode, featuring a Kurdish pastor who experienced the powerful grace of God while in jail as a political prisoner, attracted 26,000 views and over 900 comments on Facebook alone.

One viewer, Hadi, commented, "This is a really great program with lots of inspiring stories and powerful testimonies. I appreciate this program very much. I suggest that everyone watch!"



Christian leaders and influencers share their stories on *My Life Journey*



Following two successful seasons, the current affairs program ***Different Angle*** is back on air. Broadcasting live weekly, the program not only covers news and crises in the MENA but also supports viewers as they navigate the circumstances of their respective countries; it guides them to make good life choices and coexist peacefully with others. Recent topics include the plight of refugees, the rights of older people, divorce, and domestic violence.

POPULAR TEACHING PROGRAM CONCLUDES



It is Important to be Christian is wrapping up its eighth and last season. The Christian teaching program, filmed in Lebanon and presented by Father Ramzi Jreij, was launched in 2017 to provide spiritual guidance for believers in the MENA. The program has

strengthened the foundation of believers' faith and guided them with practical advice on their personal spiritual journeys. It has also featured studio audiences.



Father Ramzi speaks with guests on *It is Important to be Christian*

One viewer from Jordan explained how the program had helped him. "I loved your deep explanation and thorough dissection of our Christian faith. I would like to thank you for your excellent way of conveying new concepts in teaching us how to practise our faith."

WORSHIP EVENT AFFIRMS CHURCH UNITY

As division and violence continued to convulse parts of the MENA, churches in Lebanon came together in January for a special worship event to affirm their unity in Christ. One speaker declared that their praise was "louder than the blast of bombs".

The event was aired by SAT-7 ARABIC and featured Christian leaders and thousands of believers. A choir of 300 singers and musicians from different churches led the congregation in songs and prayers from various traditions to highlight Christian unity through music.

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FOR A SONG FROM THE EVENT



Lebanese churches gather in worship and unity



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PROJECT

UPDATES

YOUTH FOR AN ENABLING SOCIETY (YES) PROJECT

SAT-7's *Youth for an Enabling Society (YES)* project is making a huge impact with its social media content. In June, the total followers of its Facebook page passed 100,000, and one of its videos attracted 3.6 million views.

The *YES* team launched its Our Generation Plus Facebook and Instagram pages in March and post regular video content including short programs, songs, drama, and films of youth-led initiatives in their communities. Written posts by Bernadette Sami, a young woman with serious health issues, are also making an impact. Although bed-ridden for 15 years due to muscular atrophy and breathing problems, Bernadette, aged 24, is a talented writer and has been putting these skills to great effect with powerful posts about human value and having respect for others. "Bernadette is a positive and inspiring role model for young people," says *YES* project lead Rafik George.

The *YES* project, now in its second year, has also been making an impact through collaborations with influential people in the Arab World and by having a presence at significant events. They have made 30 episodes of a program called *Star Zone*, which features interviews with Arab celebrities, some of whom have more than seven million followers on social media. The famous guests share the challenges and struggles they have faced in their careers, encouraging young viewers to overcome their own difficulties and make a positive impact in their societies.

[CLICK HERE ►►](#) FOR ENDORSEMENTS OF *STAR ZONE*

In April, the *YES* project held a workshop with the well-known Egyptian businessman Naguib Sawiris. The billionaire, who is one of the wealthiest men in the Middle East, inspired the 200 young people attending the workshop by sharing the story of how he became a successful entrepreneur.



The *YES* team are garnering respect in wider society, opening up further opportunities for connections and influence. They were invited to run a workshop at Cairo University on 15 May about caring for the environment and how media can be used to heighten awareness of important issues among young people. And in June they took part in the

Music and Environment Festival organised by the European Union, the French and German embassies, and the Egyptian Ministry of Environment. The team filmed interviews with the French and German ambassadors and also recorded an Egyptian-Algerian band who play musical instruments made from recycled materials.

The *YES* project has three main goals: to help young people in the MENA live well together despite their differences; to encourage and equip them to take responsibility for shaping their societies; and to support them in working towards the common good and building a better future for everyone.



GENDER EQUALITY AND FoRB PROJECT

Today Not Tomorrow, the flagship program at the centre of the Gender Equality and FoRB project, completed its second season on SAT-7 ARABIC at the end of June. The 27-episode series covered topics including discrimination, addiction, friendship, and the roles of husbands, fathers, and mothers.

A standout episode of the second season, called “The Waiting Room”, was about unmarried women; it clearly resonated with many female viewers, attracting the most comments of the series. The episode explored the stigma of being unmarried women in the Arab world, the restrictions they face, and the additional burden they often carry for caring for elderly relatives.

This episode also helped to strengthen the project’s collaboration with a local counselling service, which set up a support group specifically for single women who responded to the program.

This theme is clearly connecting with Arab women. A short film called *Life on Hold*, made as part of the Gender Equality and FoRB project for social media, attracted almost half a million views on Facebook in April. The film shows how women tend to put their life on hold while waiting to get married and encourages them instead to pursue other dreams and aspirations.

[CLICK HERE »](#) TO WATCH THE FILM

The production of the third season of *Today Not Tomorrow* is now underway with material for three episodes being filmed in Tunisia. These will explore the greater freedom and rights that women there enjoy compared to other parts of the Arab world, giving women hope for what could be possible.

The success of one of the program’s presenters, Youstina Samir, is also raising the aspirations of Arab women. A powerful documentary made by other local film-makers, starring Youstina and the street theatre troupe she founded, won the Golden Eye Award at the Cannes Film Festival’s Critic’s Week in May. Vivian Mitry, Youstina’s co-presenter on *Today Not Tomorrow*, said they “hope to see more examples of women and girls who work together to achieve their dreams”.

As well as broadcasting on SAT-7 ARABIC and social media platforms, the Gender Equality and FoRB team show their powerful content at local public events. In May, they held a cinema screening in Cairo of three short films: one about toxic masculinity called *Private*; *No Dancing* about early marriage; and *Life on Hold*.

Gender Equality and FoRB is a five-year project that comprises television and social media programs, online messaging campaigns, and follow-up activities including support groups and counselling referrals. It aims to help women and girls in the Arab world identify and explore how their lives are restricted by cultural and religious practices, and to promote their freedom and dignity as people made equally with men by God.

Both these projects are implemented by SAT-7’s Cairo studio and are run in partnership with the Norwegian Mission Society supported by Digni.

Youstina Samir, one of the *Today Not Tomorrow* presenters





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