

News from SAT-7
August 2017

INSIGHT

EQUIPPING PEOPLE WITH LIFELONG LEARNING

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MAKING
GOD'S LOVE
VISIBLE



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HOPE FOR A TROUBLED REGION

There are many great challenges facing the Middle East and North Africa today. It is a region notorious for its lack of human rights and for its poor treatment of women. Access to a good education, and to information generally, is severely limited. This is a region with up to 50 percent functional illiteracy in some countries. Millions of refugees and displaced people are now living in terrible conditions in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and Turkey. Thirteen million are children, innocent victims, who seek safety, security, good role models, better opportunities, and a brighter future. But what kind of future will they have without the chance to go to school, learn, grow, or earn a living?

Education in the region is generally poor, with rote learning creating a generation that lacks critical thinking. As a result, societies suffer from a lack of leadership, widespread fanaticism, tribalism, and frequent clashes. Intolerance is rife between different religions or ethnicities, and some people do not accept as equals those who are poor, displaced, disabled, or weak.

Since its beginnings in 1996, SAT-7 has tried to bring light where there is hopelessness and injustice. Recognising the increasing educational needs of the region today, we have decided to launch a new channel: SAT-7 ACADEMY.

SAT-7 ACADEMY will equip children, parents, and teachers with a holistic education, learning to challenge ideas and look for new and creative solutions to old problems. With its specially-designed programs, the channel will help viewers understand that no society can be free and prosperous while it does not treat all its citizens equally. Inequality will always provide opportunities for abuse of power. With this channel, we will empower people to be discerning and make their own choices, encouraging an appreciation for the diversity of the region, helping viewers embrace and celebrate their differences.

My excitement today reminds me of the excitement I felt nearly 10 years ago when SAT-7 launched the children’s channel SAT-7 KIDS. Today, with SAT-7 ACADEMY, we are investing not only in children’s lives but in society as a whole, and in a future that can be shaped through education.



Rita Elmounayer
Chief Channels Officer
and Deputy CEO

MOTIVATING YOUTH TOWARDS SUCCESS

SAT-7 TÜRK's brand-new *Careers* program inspires teenagers to aim for a bright future. At a challenging time for Turkey, the show is helping viewers to thrive, not only in their spiritual lives but also in the workplace.

Unemployment in Turkey has risen by 1.6 percent in the past year, marking a seven-year high. Turkey is also home to three million refugees. The UN has praised the country's efforts to host refugees and help them integrate into society. However, this endeavour throws up practical challenges, particularly in the workforce. With more people willing to work for less money, lower job availability is ultimately increasing unemployment.

Many young people in Turkey, on the brink of finishing education and beginning their careers, are wondering what options are open to them. *Careers* supports them by preparing them for what to expect from working life.

Passionate Presenter

Inspiring the young viewers is Presenter Mehmet Ahif Kum, a well-known businessman. "Christians should not only be successful in their walks of faith, but also in their careers," he says. Kum has vast business experience as a member of the UN's Chamber of Commerce, author of two books on

personal development and management, and a columnist for Bloomberg magazine.

After becoming aware of SAT-7 TÜRK, Kum pitched the idea of the program to the production team. "The channel has not approached working life from this angle before," he says. "With my background and experience, I want to encourage youth and prepare them for what to expect at the beginning of their careers."

Practicalities of production

Twenty episodes have been planned, but it has been a challenge to find successful Turkish Christians willing to speak openly on television. Nevertheless, production has been in full swing since early May. Kum recently filmed an episode with Nükhet Everi, a professional in the tourism industry who enjoys educating both locals and tourists about Christian sites in Turkey. "Featuring a variety of successful guests inspires our young audience to dream big, and to stand firm in their faith while pursuing their careers," says Programming Manager Cuneyt Arkan. "God will provide the right guests to speak into our viewers' lives." ■

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Christian businesspeople are not usually public about their faith. They fear being discriminated against, both professionally and in their private lives.
Mehmet Ahif Kum





BIBLE STORIES FOR THE ILLITERATE

John the Damascene said, “An icon is a book for those unable to read. It reminds us of the history of salvation, of God’s work and the secrets of His divine arrangement.”

SAT-7 ARABIC’s program *Coptic Icons* explains the history of these icons and the important role they have played over the centuries for Christians in the Middle East.

“An icon represents the social and cultural development of Christianity in the Middle East. Wherever Christians went, they painted icons – even during times of persecution,” says the program’s Producer Rafik George.

Each icon tells a complete story from the Bible, revealing it to the viewer, much like a SAT-7 teaching program. For example, an icon of the birth of Jesus Christ shows all the characters who participated in the event. ■

GETTING TECHY WITH SAT-7 TÜRK

As part of an initiative to better engage its younger audience, SAT-7 TÜRK will launch two technology-themed programs this September. Recognising that many young people prefer to view content and socialise online, the new program *Social Media* will explore the power of online platforms and provide an open discussion space for viewers’ questions.

SAT-7 TÜRK also aims to be a positive influence in the increasingly popular gaming world, launching the new program *Technology*. Technology is now an integral part of growing up, and some children are using mobile phones or tablets even before they start school. These devices are portals to a plethora of games, both age-appropriate and inappropriate. Programming Manager Cuneyt Arkan says, “We want to help youth choose the right games that will have a positive impact and help them develop.”



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My mother and I became believers eight years ago, but after a while, I drifted. Your programs have helped revive my faith, and I’ve been growing spiritually ever since.

A female viewer from Iran



BY CHILDREN, FOR CHILDREN

A very special new program gets young children involved in teaching SAT-7 KIDS viewers through stories and drama segments. Children from churches in various remote areas of Egypt come together to present *Tomorrow is Better*. The youngsters are provided with biblical teaching to help them participate in writing the show’s scripts and to act out Bible stories in a drama segment.

The new approach, developed by Producer Andrea Zaki, aims to enhance the young presenters’ social development and teach them the joys of making a positive impact in other children’s lives. ■



UNCOVERING CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

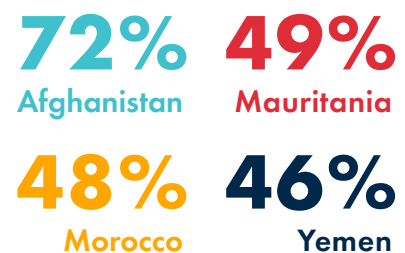
The current conflicts in the Arab region have taken a toll on Middle Eastern Christianity and how its history is perceived. Many people ignore Christians' historical contributions to the arts, history, philosophy, and architecture, as well as to medicine and other sciences. A new program called *House of Wisdom* is set to air on SAT-7 ARABIC in the second half of 2017. The program will discuss the Middle East's rich Christian heritage and explain the historical influence of Christians in the region.

"The aim of the program is to emphasise the pivotal role played by Arab Christians in building Arab culture," says Producer Sherif Wahba.

House of Wisdom, or in Arabic, *Beit El Hekma*, was the name of a cultural centre established by the Abbasid Caliphate in Baghdad. It was an intellectual and cultural hub where many Christian scholars translated books from Greek and other languages to Arabic. ■



ILLITERACY RATES IN THE MENA



FIRST ORIGINAL PROGRAM IN TAJIK

SAT-7 PARS has broadcast hundreds of Farsi-language programs into thousands of homes over the past 10 years, as well as many programs in Dari and Azeri. In May 2017, the channel recorded its first ever Tajik-language program, *Our Salvation is in Him*.

The Presenter, renowned Christian singer Mahin Banu Gasanova, begins each episode with two worship songs and then shares a powerful testimony of how God has made a significant impact in her life. SAT-7 PARS hopes that *Our Salvation is in Him* will encourage viewers in their walks of faith, as well as open doors to dialogue and relationship with the channel's Tajik audience. ■

FROM VISION TO “ACTION!”

This is an exciting time for our ministry, as our leaders and staff prepare to launch the new SAT-7 ACADEMY channel. SAT-7 invites you behind the scenes to take a closer look at what it takes to turn a vision into reality.

In the Bible, vision is described as necessary for the survival of mankind. Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” As the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faces devastating challenges, a vision for how SAT-7 should respond is vital to its work.

When Chief Channels Officer and Deputy CEO Rita Elmounayer shared her vision for a new educational channel, her passion for equipping the MENA with quality learning was very clear. The importance of this new initiative and the value it would bring to the region, had everyone at SAT-7

excited and, truthfully, slightly apprehensive.

But vision alone would not bring to life a whole new channel. As famous author Warren Bennis once said, “Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.” Against difficult odds, and “bit by bit” as Rita always says, every department has been inspired to think creatively and work together to get the channel off the ground.

We hope the result will be a channel that will help equip people in the MENA with lifelong learning, positive values, a love for their culture, and a passion to make a difference in the region. ■

Top left: SAT-7 Arabic Channels Programming Director, George Makeen, SAT-7 ACADEMY Channel Manager Juliana Sfeir, SAT-7 KIDS Channel Manager Andrea Elmounayer, Production and SAT-7 Arabic Supervisor Samar Faysal, meeting in SAT-7’s Lebanon office to discuss the different programs that will be featured on the new channel.

Top right: Chief Channels Officer and Deputy CEO, Rita Elmounayer visiting a refugee camp in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, assessing the situation of the children and youth, looking at how SAT-7 can meet their needs through its programming.

Centre left: A cameraman preparing to film an episode of the educational program *My School* at the SAT-7 Lebanon Studios.

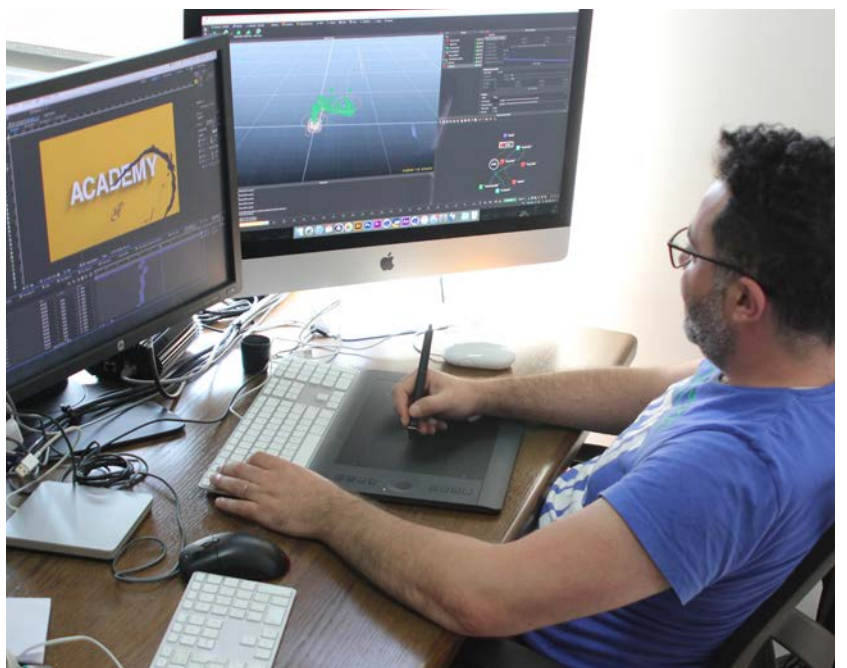
Centre right: Presenters Georges Eid (Billy), Lara-Maria (Fany), Yara Basbous (Trixy), and main host Joëlle Choueini Youssef (Joëlle) of the program *Fun Farm* are preparing for the day’s filming of the various interesting segments of this educational program.

Bottom left: SAT-7 ACADEMY Channel Manager Juliana Sfeir visits a refugee camp in Lebanon and shows the children how to access different SAT-7 programs online and through their mobile devices.

Bottom right: Senior Graphic Designer Bob Barhoum working on graphics and logos of the new channel SAT-7 ACADEMY.

Young Middle Eastern refugee boys in Lebanon.





THE HEARTS AND MINDS BEHIND SAT-7 ACADEMY

Juliana Sfeir and George Makeen are two of SAT-7's most innovative and dedicated leaders. They have witnessed first-hand the urgency of educating the next generation. Here they share their motivations and explain the exciting aims of SAT-7 ACADEMY.

Sfeir has recently been appointed, from social impact Programming Manager to Manager for the new channel, which aims to help fill the gap in quality, holistic education in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Having been born and raised in Lebanon, she is acutely aware of the pitfalls of the region's educational approach, which often relies on poorly-equipped teachers and rote learning.

"Too often our education system fails us," Sfeir comments sadly. "Students become leaders but lack the

values of good leadership. They become active citizens, but perhaps lack the moral understanding to make a positive contribution. Those who become part of the elite know nothing about how to include others." She explains that curriculums are also inherently divisive, not reflecting ethnically and religiously diverse societies

The displacement of millions of refugee children has made the need for quality education even more urgent. Schools, in countries hosting refugees, are overwhelmed with the increase in students and are finding it difficult to cope. Many displaced children are going without schooling altogether.

The right to an education

Sfeir, who received a Human Rights Journalism Award in 2013, is strongly driven by her Christian values and belief in a universal right to education.

"I would like to see SAT-7 ACADEMY educate minds and hearts, bringing a holistic approach to learning for children, their parents, and teachers," she says passionately. "I would like to reach all people, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or socio-economic background. SAT-7 has proven it can do this.

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Too often our education system fails us. Students become leaders but lack the values of good leadership.

Juliana Sfeir



Witnessing the need first-hand

Along with veteran SAT-7 colleague George Makeen, Sfeir has visited refugee camps in Lebanon and other parts of the MENA to assess the needs of refugees and how SAT-7 can meet them through its programs. There, they witnessed first-hand the struggles of refugee children, who are often dealing with the fallout of trauma including depression, anxiety, nightmares, behavioural problems, and domestic violence.

“I see God in the faces of these children,” says Egyptian-born Makeen, Programming Director for SAT-7’s ARABIC channels. “It pushes me to pray, asking God for justice and to be a Father to them. I pray He will protect these innocent ones from all the horror their eyes have witnessed. May we be part of God’s plan to protect them.”

Education through television

SAT-7 believes education can play a key role in providing this suffering generation with a better future. Makeen adds, “Everyone, especially underprivileged and displaced people, can shape their own destinies when given the chance. Everyone deserves the freedom to develop critical thinking, and to express their hopes and dreams outside of rote learning.

Makeen recalls a recent SAT-7 ACADEMY production: *Storytelling Club*, in which refugee children were invited to participate in a story-sharing workshop together. “These shy children were all too aware that they are less fortunate and often not accepted by others. But once they were given the tools to express themselves, and to see themselves not as victims but as creative, powerful people, they excelled!”

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Everyone deserves the freedom to develop critical thinking, and to express their hopes and dreams outside of rote learning.
George Makeen

As the region’s most popular and trusted source of information, satellite television is a perfect medium for delivering education to all communities, not only refugees. As Sfeir says, “There is an opportunity and a need. The time is ripe for change, and SAT-7 is in an ideal position to see immediate results on the ground.

A sense of urgency for the whole of humanity

Sfeir believes that not only do we have a moral imperative to help educate refugee children in the MENA, the consequences of allowing their generation to become “lost” could have a global impact.

“It would be utterly naive to bury our heads in the sand, thinking ‘This does not concern me’ or ‘It will never reach me’. I believe we will start to see a reaction surfacing everywhere as a result of their trauma and suffering,” she says.

“These children need attention; they need a compassionate friend; someone to talk to. They also need knowledge, and they are so open and hungry for it,” Sfeir continues. “I pray that SAT-7 ACADEMY will be all this, not only for refugees, but for every person dealing with misfortune.” ■



TEACHING LESSONS TO LAST A LIFETIME

SAT-7's new channel, SAT-7 ACADEMY will provide programs that challenge children, inform adults, and improve lives for good. Here we take a look at some of the shows that will feature on the channel and the holistic education they provide.

SAT-7 ACADEMY is set to launch on 1 September 2017. Addressing the needs of Arabic-speaking children, parents, and teachers in the Middle East and North Africa, the programs will equip viewers with the tools, knowledge, and skills they need to build a better life. The shows' varied content will fall within the programming areas of education, health, and social development.



MY SCHOOL

Since its launch in March 2015, SAT-7 KIDS' *My School* has been providing displaced and underprivileged children with the education they desperately need. In addition to the core subjects of Maths, Arabic, English, and Science, four new segments have been introduced for the third season of this impactful program:

- An interactive figure-drawing segment called *I Can Draw*
- A lifestyle segment titled *Nour's Diary*
- A therapeutic storytelling segment called *My Story*
- An entertaining five-minute science experiment segment named *Oops*

"Watching a few episodes has taught my son a lot. When he took his placement test, his schoolteachers were astonished by his intelligence at his young age. They were even more amazed when I told them that this success is due to the wonderful *My School* program on SAT-7 KIDS!"
- a mother from Egypt ■

FUN FARM

Through storytelling, *Fun Farm* introduces children to the daily working routines on a farm. Presenter Joëlle, in the role of the farmer, helps children learn about animals and plants, while numbers and letters are introduced in special segments. The interactive program also encourages children to take part in sports activities and teaches them about healthy nutrition and cooking. The *Go Green* segment creates awareness of current environmental issues, and a handicraft segment teaches creative arts. Children are encouraged to email their artwork to the program and are invited to the studio to showcase their talents.

Four-year-old Philopateer is a passionate viewer of the program. He says, "I love watching *Fun Farm* and I copy all your characters and discussions, just like on TV!" ■





WITH SMYRNA

Written and presented by family counsellor Smyrna Khalaf, this three-minute program provides practical parenting advice and helps parents gain a better emotional understanding of their children. *With Smyrna* also deals with issues of trauma, helping parents to identify and deal with troubling behaviours.

“In our region, there are a lot of parenting styles that are not helpful for children,” explains Khalaf. “Parents sometimes do not give children a voice to say, ‘I need to be respected; I need to be cared for; I need to be spoken to in a positive manner, and I will listen.’ One thing I repeat in every episode is that mothers and fathers need to model the behaviour they want to see in their children.” ■

YOUR DOCTOR

Presented by Dr Hany Keylada, *Your Doctor* helps refugees find healing for physical and mental health problems. The short medical education segments provide a range of self-care information on first aid and emergency healthcare, trauma, mental health, and lifestyle matters.

The program particularly focuses on disease prevention, equipping refugees and community leaders to take action themselves when no other medical help is available. The episodes are designed to be easily downloaded to smartphones.

Having served on the medical frontline in war-torn Syria and Iraq, Dr Keylada has seen the effectiveness of empowering people to help themselves. He shares, “On two occasions I was injured in the field and had no physician to help me. I trusted my life to the people I had trained and told them, ‘You can do this; I trust you’, and they did a great job managing the situation.” ■



STORYTELLING CLUB

This program is a social impact workshop for children dealing with trauma. The young viewers are taught how to express themselves and share their stories. They are encouraged to write out or draw their experiences of overcoming problems, helping them feel empowered to deal with other situations.

One such personal story was turned into a mini movie. *The Day I Became Strong* is about a young Syrian refugee girl who witnessed her brother being bullied and beaten by a bad-tempered teacher. “I felt the power to stand up, go to this teacher who everybody was afraid of, and say, ‘Why did you beat my brother? You shouldn’t do that!’” she shared on *Storytelling Club*. “When I did that, I felt strong!” ■



A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO CHANGING LIVES

As SAT-7’s educational shows provide more than a million children with a brighter future, a hands-on new project is planned to make the impact even greater. The new Social and Cultural Centre in Lebanon will offer a life-changing curriculum for refugee children, based around SAT-7 programming.

For the first time SAT-7, as a media ministry, has decided to take a new approach to helping its viewers, by setting up the SAT-7 Social and Cultural Centre, in Lebanon. The objective is to provide refugee children and families a place to receive alternative education and support for their educational and personal needs. Through this approach, SAT-7 hopes to learn first-hand about the needs of refugee families and to be able to improve on its programming as a result.

The stakes could not be higher

As Nicoletta Michael, SAT-7’s Projects Manager, explains, “The ultimate aim of a humanitarian

response should be to empower people to return and restore their country.” Educational, psychological, and cultural support for families play a vital part in making this possible. This kind of response also helps protect refugees and their children from falling victim to sexual violence, recruitment into fighting forces, prostitution, and other life-destroying threats.

SAT-7’s new Social and Cultural Centre will open in the mountain town of Ehden, Lebanon, which is home to both Syrian and Iraqi refugee families. Using SAT-7 shows, including the on-air school program *My School*, the centre will provide year-round alternative education

Using SAT-7 shows, including the on-air school program *My School*, the centre will provide year-round alternative education to

75

refugee and underprivileged children and their parents.



Left: Pictures of the Social and Cultural Centre before renovations. Right: Nicoletta Michael, SAT-7’s Projects Manager.

for 75 refugee and underprivileged children aged 5–8. It will also offer emotional support and informal lessons in hygiene, cooking, and gardening, as well as fun activities. Parents and caregivers will benefit from education, support, and family activities, and the centre will also provide teacher training.

Reaching those who are left out

The centre's support is aimed at vulnerable children who are missing out on other educational opportunities, or who may be struggling with illiteracy, learning difficulties, or psychological trauma. The isolated location, where residents are often trapped by snowy winter conditions, also contributes to families missing out on support.

“We chose this area because we saw there was a need in the community,” Nicoletta explains. “Other NGOs had come and left, but the need was still there. SAT-7 has always strived to reach people who are left out. Those behind closed doors, those who are forgotten, or those who do not have access.”

The facilitators will be trained to deal with challenging behaviour and to recognise and address underlying trauma. Spending time with the youngsters during a healthy breakfast and lunch will help staff identify children's needs, so they may benefit fully from the educational programs.

An ethos of respect and dignity

Nicoletta explains that 5–6 years ago, these families could not have imagined that they would be in such a situation. “They deserve this help, and we are currently the fortunate ones who are able to offer it. We want to believe that if this was us someday, and the roles were reversed, they would help us too.”

Operated in partnership with cultural organisation Biladi, the centre will also give children the chance to develop pride for their cultures through taking part in music, theatre, and storytelling. For some displaced children, this may be their first chance to learn about own culture.

“We do not want children to be ashamed to say where they are from” Nicoletta explains. “When you say that you are from a certain place, people tend to associate you with a specific image. We want children to feel proud of their heritage and not be stuck on the image of the past six years of conflict, but to remember the image that their countries have had for hundreds of years.”

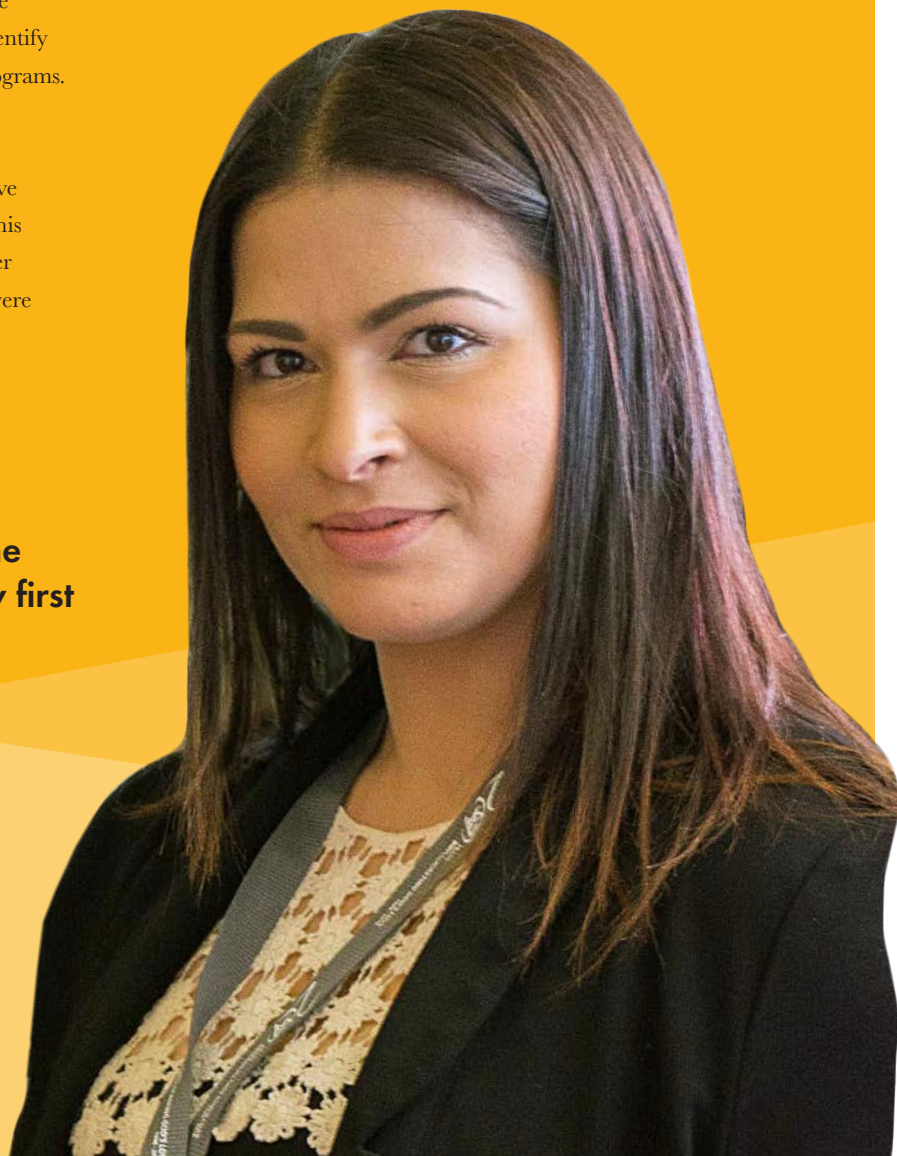
While there is a need for similar centres all over the Middle East and North Africa, SAT-7 does not plan to operate multiple facilities. Instead, Nicoletta's vision is that other organisations will be inspired to replicate the idea in other locations.

“The excitement I feel for this centre is like the excitement I felt on my first day of school,” she says. “I am imagining the first day that these children will come to the centre and see their lives begin to change.” ■

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The excitement I feel for this centre is like the excitement I felt on my first day of school.

Nicoletta Michael



I AM SAT-7

TAMER WILLIAM

IT Officer, SAT-7 Egypt

What does your role with SAT-7 involve?

I work in the IT Department, particularly with the live broadcast. I also design and publish Bible verses on social media, arrange live YouTube broadcasts, and upload recorded programs on YouTube.

Why do you like working with SAT-7?

SAT-7 is the most important Christian television network in the Middle East. SAT-7 has given me a great opportunity; my work allows me to be creative and use the talents that God has given me to serve His people. I am grateful to be a part of the SAT-7 team.

Tell us a little about your spiritual journey so far.

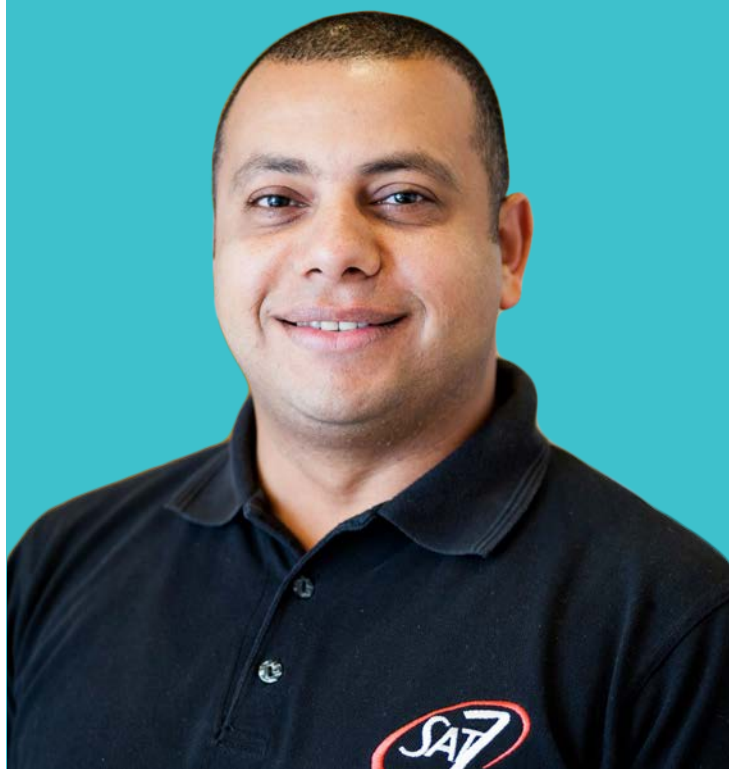
I was born into a Christian family, but it wasn't until I was a teenager that I made my faith my own. My father is a preacher and my mother is very spiritual. As a child, I used to go to Sunday School. As I grew older, I went to spiritual retreats and youth groups. In high school, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour.

If you could sit down with Jesus today what would you like to ask Him?

I would like to ask him about the Middle East: He is in so much pain over what is happening across the region, and we don't know how to make it right. However, we want to serve Him, and carry out His will for our country and people.

What is your passion outside SAT-7?

I love travelling and fishing. ■



FROM A DAY TO A WEEK OF PRAYER

This year, SAT-7 invites you to a whole Week of Prayer, from 5-12 November, with the theme "Equipping the next generation". Unite with us in prayer and help raise up the next generation.

More information and material:
www.sat7.org/week-of-prayer.com



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 ACADEMY (ARABIC)

SATELLITE: Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 10.727 GHz Horizontal;

Covering Middle East & North Africa.

(Broadcasting begins 1 September 2017)

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 (FARSI)

SATELLITE: Eutelsat Hot Bird 13B at 13° East, 10.949 GHz

Vertical; Covering Middle East, North Africa & Europe.

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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SAT-7 PARS ON A NEW SATELLITE

As of the beginning of June 2017, SAT-7 PARS is now live on Yahsat – one of the most-viewed satellite platforms in Iran, attracting an estimated 10 million viewing households. Yahsat focuses a high-power beam specifically on Iran and Afghanistan, and so requires a much smaller, cheaper, and less conspicuous dish than those typically required for other satellites.

“This has been our dream for several years, as Yahsat is increasingly popular and will enable us to interact with a whole new audience in Iran and other parts of Central Asia,” says SAT-7 PARS Senior Manager Panayiotis Keenan.

SAT-7 PARS’ Audience Relations department receives at least 15 messages per week from new viewers expressing excitement that they are finally able to watch the channel on Yahsat. ■



SUPPORT FROM HONG KONG

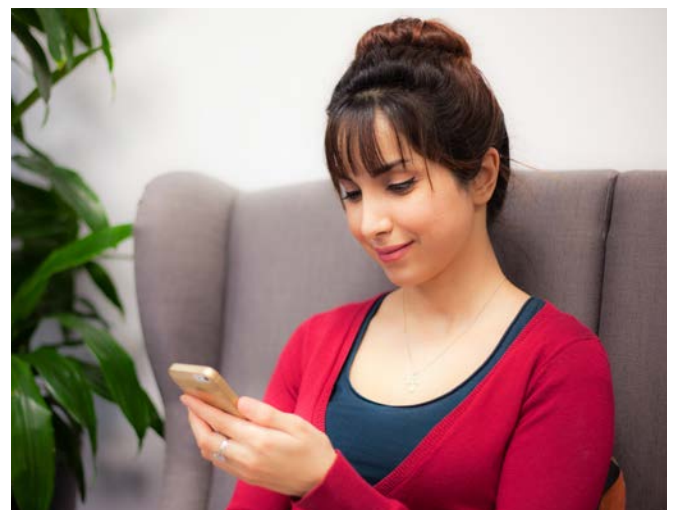
A new committee of volunteers has been formed in Hong Kong to promote SAT-7’s ministry. The volunteers come from several Chinese churches. One of the group’s first objectives will be to set up a local, Chinese-language website to facilitate donor contributions. One of SAT-7’s Hong Kong Partners, Goodnews Communications, has already set up a fundraising account for receiving donations.

The Chinese language is spoken by over 1.2 billion people, and there is great potential for support for SAT-7’s work among the growing church there. There are many millions of Christians in the Chinese-speaking world. We very much hope to see an increase in the support of SAT-7’s unique ministry from this part of the global church. ■

A NEW WAY FOR VIEWERS TO CONTACT SAT-7

A new telephone system for viewers to contact SAT-7 has been introduced, beginning with the SAT-7 PARS channel. This new system comes with several advantages: it gives callers the option to call in to a cheaper, local Iranian number, which was not previously possible. It also simplifies the process for incoming calls to live shows, making it easier for SAT-7 Audience Relations to keep track of viewers and their needs.

SAT-7 hopes to implement this new system in other channels, to help manage calls from key locations such as Egypt and Turkey. Please have this new system in your prayers as we seek to improve the ways that we reach out and meet the needs of our growing audience. ■



NEW HOPE FOR ILLITERATE REFUGEES

Hunted down by militants in Syria, Yaldiz and her family fled to Lebanon. SAT-7 KIDS program *My School*, has helped them end a cycle of poor-quality education, changing their lives forever.

Yaldiz and her husband Adnan, come from a humble Kurdish family in Aleppo with a very poor educational background. When their children were registered in a public school, they soon dropped out, unable to adapt to the curriculum without additional learning support.

“My kids stayed at home for two months, until God guided us to a learning centre that gave us hope for the future,” says Yaldiz. “I don’t want my children to suffer from poor education like my husband and I did.” The centre, located in the mountainous region of Lebanon, offered the children remedial classes, customising the curriculum to their needs and accelerating their learning.

Discovering SAT-7 KIDS

The children first encountered SAT-7 KIDS in 2015 when they met Grace Najjar, *My School*’s English-language segment Presenter and an English teacher at their learning centre. Najjar made a positive impact on them through her

constructive teaching methods. Then, Yaldiz and Adnan were also introduced to Najjar through *My School*. Yaldiz explains, “I came home one day to see my kids jumping for joy and enthusiastically waiting for *My School* to start. My daughter turned to me and said, ‘Mom, look! Our English teacher is on television!’ I was very interested to see what the show was about.” Since that day, the whole family watches the program regularly, and they also keep in touch with SAT-7 KIDS on social media.

An engaging family experience

My School’s complementary teaching has offered Yaldiz and Adnan the resources to learn along with their children and engage with them. Yaldiz says: “Watching *My School* not only became a family gathering time but also the turning point towards literacy and numeracy for us. Now, as parents we help our children with their homework every day.” Yaldiz and her family now have hope and feel equipped for the future. ■

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Watching *My School* not only became a family gathering time but also the turning point towards literacy and numeracy for us.

From left to right: Adnan (45), Rita (16), Abdo (9), Yaldiz (35) and Habib (14).



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