

News from SAT-7
December 2016

INSIGHT



THE POWER OF PRAYER

CHANGING LIVES
CHANGING NATIONS

Pages 6-13

MAKING
GOD'S LOVE
VISIBLE



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WHY DO WE PRAY?

I recently read about Maryam Naghash, a 36-year-old believer in Iran who was refused an extension to her medical leave from prison, where she is serving a 4-year sentence for witnessing to her faith. I was moved to pray for her. Then I thought - surely God loves her infinitely more than I or anyone could? Surely God knows her needs and what is the best for this sister. So why should I pray for Maryam? What difference would it or could it make?

Reflecting on the subject it became obvious that, in praying, we are clearly following God’s commands and the example He gave us through the life of Jesus. God intends prayer to be the means of obtaining His solutions in many situations. At SAT-7 we pray in preparation for major decisions (Luke 6:12–13); to overcome Satan’s opposition (Matthew 17:14-21); to gather workers for the spiritual harvest (Luke 10:2); to overcome temptation (Matthew 26:41); and to obtain the means of spiritually strengthening others, including our many viewers (Ephesians 6:18–19).

God promises that our prayers are not in vain (Matthew 6:6; Romans 8:26–27). He has promised that when we ask for things that are in accordance with His will, He will give us what we ask for (1 John 5:14–15). But, even then, He sometimes delays His answers for our benefit, urging us to be diligent and persistent in prayer (Matthew 7:7; Luke 18:1–8). Prayer should not be seen as our means of getting God to do our will on earth, but rather as a means of getting God’s will done on earth because, of course, God’s wisdom far exceeds our own.

Of course, we also pray because we have personally witnessed answers to prayer - sometimes dramatic answers! But, none of this really explains **why** God chooses to work with and in us through prayer. In the end, prayer is a mystery, an act of faith and obedience.

So, whilst reading this magazine’s articles, thank God for all He is doing. And, as the Lord leads you, pray for different SAT-7 viewers, personnel, channels and opportunities you read about! Because, mystery that it is, prayer is the greatest contribution that you can make to this ministry - and the main reason we send out this publication!

Front cover|Young Middle Eastern woman attending a prayer event in Egypt.
Editor|Mette Swartz
Writers|Alice Stout, Mary Joseph, Corine Ghafary, Becky Lucas, Katerina Parpa
Graphic Design|Christiana Polyviou
Print run|2000



Terence
Dr Terence Ascott
Founder and CEO

BREAKING THE BONDS OF ADDICTION

Drug addiction is a huge problem in the Farsi-speaking world. Opium produced in Afghanistan accounts for more than 90 percent of heroin worldwide.¹

In Iran, just across Afghanistan's western border, the interior minister has stated that six million Iranians are affected by problems related to drug addiction.

SAT-7 PARS is addressing this issue head-on in its new show, *The Sound of Hope*, which began airing at the end of September. Rev Milton Danil, an Iranian Pastor who is a recovered drug addict, presents the live program and says it is a great asset to the channel.

"In the program we present facts and research about drug abuse, and hear from experts. Having *The Sound of Hope* in live format gives us direct communication with our viewers. We want to hear from them, to know what they are experiencing today."

Discussion is key

Producer Hani Washian says, "We want to give people the freedom to speak on air. It is essential that our audience be involved and hear from one another. This makes the program impactful."

"In my experience, challenging discussion draws listeners out and makes them willing to participate. If you only present issues in a teaching format, viewers become more passive and just focus on listening," Pastor Danil adds.

A source of hope

It was Pastor Danil's wife who suggested that the program be named *The Sound of Hope*.

"We cannot live without hope," says the pastor. "If we lose what we depend on to give us hope, we look to find another source of comfort wherever we can. My passion is to help those who have experienced addiction find, real hope."

"We need to make a sound: be a voice for the voiceless, help the hopeless find hope. I want to see people who are bound by addiction put their hope in Jesus, to see them healed and set free." ■



Rev Milton Danil recording *The Sound of Hope* in the SAT-7 PARS London studio.

“

I lift up my eyes to the mountains.
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
(Psalm 121:1-2, NIV)



¹ "Afghan Governor Wants Government To Control Poppy Crop": Radio broadcast, 6 July 2016 (<http://n.pr/2eeGr2N>).



TACKLING SEXISM IN THE FARSI-SPEAKING WORLD

Gender discrimination is rife in Iran, severely limiting opportunities for girls and women, who are perceived as second-class citizens. The majority are brought up accepting that decisions will be made for them by their families and, later, by their husbands. Many women are subject to domestic violence and abuse.

A new SAT-7 PARS program *Christian Marriage* helps alleviate the suffering of women in their marital relationships. Viewers gain a better understanding of who they are in Christ and what the Bible teaches about a good marriage that glorifies the Lord. *Christian Marriage* gives viewers advice on how to overcome marital problems. It also provides a window of opportunity for both men and women to contact the channel, ask questions and obtain effective Christian counselling. ■

BREAKING TABOOS

Genetic disorders, physical disabilities, and mental illness remain controversial and taboo subjects in Turkey. By equipping people with a platform to counter stereotypes and discrimination, the SAT-7 TÜRK program *Obstacle Overcomers* will inform, educate, and change negative perceptions of disability.

“Viewers have to see the world through others’ eyes,” says Presenter Merve Alışır. “We want to help people understand disability and create positive awareness. Change begins in the family and spreads to the community.” ■

WE WILL SING KEEPS ON SINGING

SAT-7 ARABIC’s popular worship program *We Will Sing* makes a comeback with an updated format and name, *Keep On Singing*. Simplifying the program with a cosy casual setting, and revamped content, Producer Andrew Gamal aims to bring the viewers closer.

“I want to break down the barrier between the screen and the viewer. I want to say to those watching, ‘We are with you. You are here, sitting with us,’” Gamal says.

Keep On Singing aims to introduce new bands, musical talents, a variety of singers and different types of music. “We want to introduce praise and worship from different churches to the viewers,” says Gamal.

The program provides a behind-the-scenes prayer room, where five volunteers pray for viewers. The prayer team, along with the Producer, also fast together before some episodes. ■



INCREASED FEEDBACK TO SAT-7 TÜRK

With the beginning of *Morning Joy*, a children’s show that airs every weekday morning, and the live prayer program *Prayer Season*, feedback to SAT-7 TÜRK from women and children has significantly increased over the past few months.

“Since July, we received more emails and phone calls just for our prayer program!” says Audience Relations Manager Ümit Teymur. “Our viewers have told us that these new programs are a great blessing to their lives. With the increase in calls and emails, the gender and age ratio of our feedback has become more balanced.” ■

NEW TEACHING PROGRAM QUENCHES THIRSTY SOULS

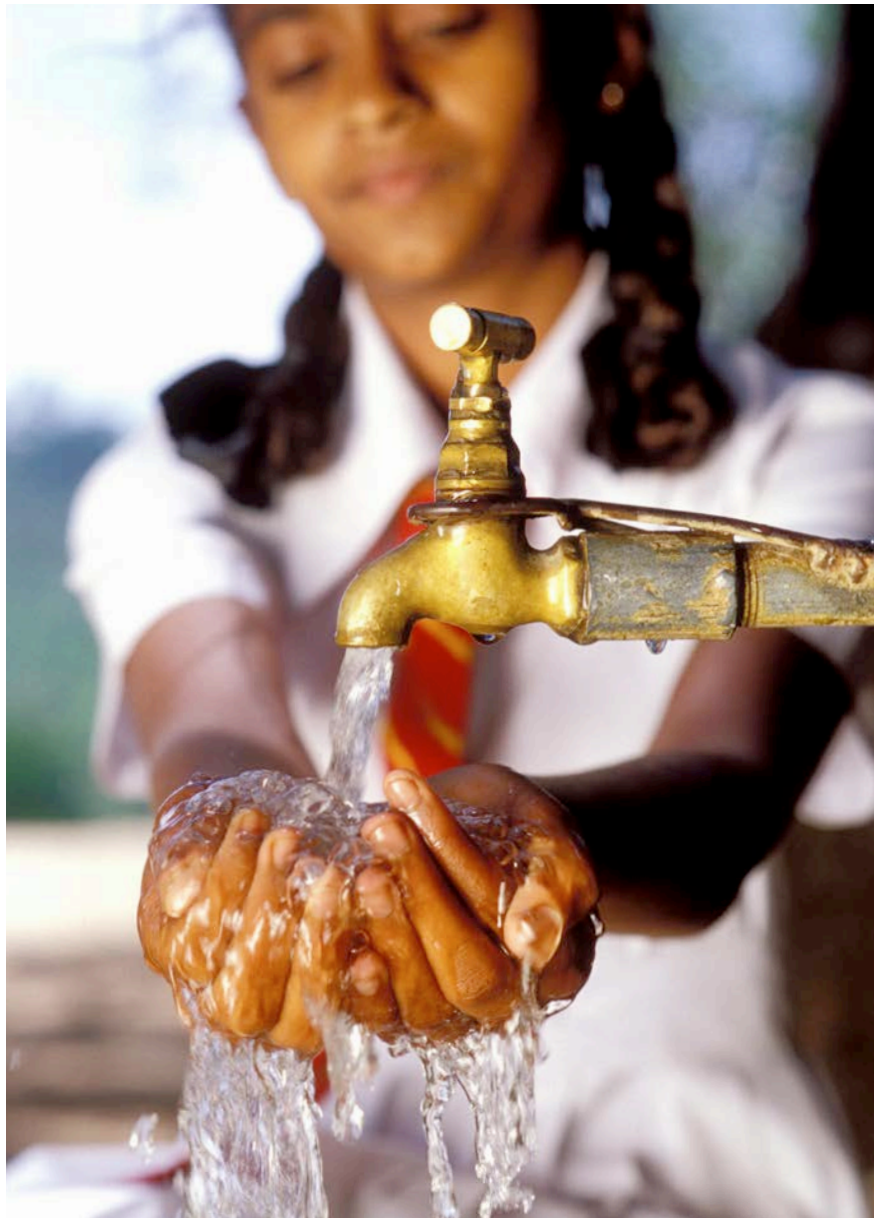
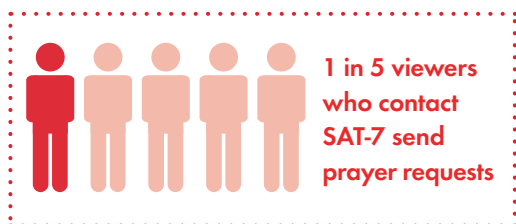
A new series of teaching programs called *H₂O* is scheduled to air on SAT-7 ARABIC. The show will be based on a theological curriculum, with six different themes:

- Building a christian family
- Effective Christian leadership
- Church planting
- God and my relationship with Him
- Following Jesus and growing with God
- The life and teachings of Jesus Christ

Producer John Adly believes that, just as water is essential for our physical life, so is theological teaching necessary for spiritual growth. The show's objective is to present Christian teaching in a simple and creative way, to be better understood by viewers of all backgrounds.

"During production, I bore in mind that the program would also be presented on social media, for younger viewers who mainly use tablets and phones, so it would need to be short and engaging," explains Adly.

H₂O is a part of the channel's TEACH (Theological Education for Arab Christians at Home) programs. ■



NEW BEDTIME STORIES WITH RITA

After a five-year break, Rita Elmounayer returned to the screen this November with a new series of *Bedtime Stories with Rita* for SAT-7 KIDS. This is one of the most popular programs on SAT-7 KIDS since SAT-7 first began broadcasting 20 years ago.

Thirteen new storybooks have also been written and printed, and 1,000 copies of each storybook, a total of 13,000 books, will be sent out to viewers who call in to the channel. This series of books is based on Christian values, with stories that teach principles such as being truthful, not stealing, and being kind to others. ■

THE POWER OF PRAYER

SAT-7's programs receive numerous requests for prayer from viewers every day. People are longing for God to hear their cries. They long for transformation in their lives, and they believe in their hearts that God can bring forth these changes.

As SAT-7 moves forward with new projects, new programs, and an educational channel, we are reminded that part of being ambassadors of God's

love is also being ambassadors of prayer. By including prayer in the foundation of every program, we encourage our viewers by showing them the power of prayer and the change it can bring them.

The amazing transformation that prayer brings to our viewers' lives – help to accomplish daily tasks, healing of both mind and body, and the resolution of struggles – is what will ultimately bring change to the Middle East and North Africa. ■

“

**All my relatives were surprised by this miracle of God. I know whatever we have right now is because of your prayers. I pray God blesses you beyond imagination in your lives for all you have done for us.
A man from Iran**



WHEN THE CHURCH PRAYS, GOD ANSWERS

The Resurrection Church of Beirut is helping refugees and other newcomers take part in its activities and prayer life, witnessing to all that unity can prevail. In late 2016, SAT-7 ARABIC started to broadcast live from the church every Sunday.

Despite being located in a conflict zone, the Resurrection Church has managed to establish a culture of spiritual belonging among new arrivals and members of different cultures as well as local believers. The result is lasting change in its members' hearts. Violence and intolerance are being transformed into peace, love, and community integration.

Praying in unity, not uniformity

"We have challenged cultural uniformity by founding a powerful ministry that is based on diversity and is resilient to the conflicts around us. We pray that we will witness the power of God and see His love among His children. Despite our differences, the members of the church often express a spontaneous desire to unite in prayer," says Hikmat Kashouh, the Senior Pastor of the church.

The Resurrection Church also serves marginalised families, taking a holistic approach that reaches out to all, regardless of ethnicity and cultural differences. The ministry provides counselling support and spiritual activities in addition to food and other supplies. Pastor Kashouh explains, "Thanks to the devoted leaders and experts running these activities,

our ministry is encouraging refugees to attend our services and secure real spiritual results."

God answers prayers through people

The fact is that when the Church prays, God answers. Pastor Kashouh agrees: "Through the church's activities and prayers, desperate souls have found salvation and people have been healed from the effects of traumatic memories. We believe in a living God who answers our prayers and heals His children's bodies and minds. It is people's love for God and for one another that makes prayers heard."

SAT-7 conveys the church's prayer life

By broadcasting the Resurrection Church's services, SAT-7 ARABIC aims to witness to the power of a praying church and to show viewers an authentic image of a diverse community united in prayer.

Pastor Kashouh confirms the impact of SAT-7's work. He says, "Our collaboration with SAT-7 is a most blessed initiative, because we share the same objective. Through this powerful platform, we aim to bring the message of the Bible to each and every home in the Middle East!" ■



Praise and worship at the Sunday service of the Resurrection Church of Beirut.

“

Through the church's activities and prayers, desperate souls have found salvation and people have been healed from the effects of traumatic memories.

BLESSINGS AND BONDING THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer is vital to the work of SAT-7 KIDS, both behind the scenes and as part of its Christian programs. Three SAT-7 KIDS presenters share with us the vital role that prayer plays in the life of their shows.

ESSAM NAGY – WHY IS THAT?

Prayer is a wonderful way for young viewers to bond and to show that they care about each other, even though they may never meet in person. When children ask for prayer on the show, *Why is That?*, Essam encourages the other viewers to lift them up to God, which helps them all feel that they are part of a family of believers.

God used the show's prayer ministry to change one family's life in an amazing way. Essam told the story

of a 20-year-old young woman from Tunisia, who was a regular viewer of *Why is That?*. When her parents found out she was watching the show, they banned her from watching it or interacting with it in any way.

This caused the young woman great distress. But when her brother was hospitalised after an accident, her mother asked her to contact the show and ask Essam to pray for him. Her brother was healed, and afterwards he became a regular viewer of the show, which transformed the family's life together. ■





KAMAL KHAIRALLAH – THE GREATEST FRIEND AND LET’S SING TOGETHER

Groups of SAT-7 workers can often be seen praying together before a program is produced, and Kamal’s team is no different. He says, “We always pray before our show goes live, because we believe in the power of prayer. We want God’s Word to change lives, so we pray that everything we do during the show will be blessed and will have an impact on everybody watching us. I have seen countless answers to prayer and also great feedback from viewers.”

Kamal’s program often receives prayer requests from viewers, who frequently ask for prayer for their exams or because they are having a hard time at school.

“We either pray for these children over the phone, or we give their names at the end of the episode and pray for them then,” Kamal explains. “Often, they contact us again later to thank us for praying and to tell us that they did well in their exams. That is why I believe our prayers are always answered.” ■

MARIANNE AWARAJI – LET’S SING TOGETHER

The *Let’s Sing Together* team ask children to call the show with their prayer requests, and at the end of each episode they pray for them and for the Arab World.

“The kids love this!” says Marianne. “They are really encouraged and keen to share their prayer requests every time.” The team also receive many stories of answered prayer, and Marianne recalls one example: “A Syrian girl called Rihanna, who is currently living in Lebanon, asked for prayer for her friend, who was very sick. We all prayed, and two weeks later she called again and said that her friend was well and that it was all thanks to our prayers. It makes me so happy to see how many kids are encouraged to believe in the power of prayer and to ask their fellow viewers to pray for them.”

Marianne also helps the young viewers understand that God still performs miracles today. “Whenever two or more believers pray together, we are sure that miracles happen,” she says. “I hope that this message is being conveyed to children clearly.” ■



SHINING CHRIST'S LIGHT AMID POLITICAL TURMOIL

As the political upheaval in Turkey creates uncertainty for many, SAT-7 TÜRK is on hand to encourage and strengthen its viewers of all backgrounds.

Christians in Turkey are requesting fervent prayer for their country amid the ongoing tense political climate. The state of emergency declared following the failed coup of 15 July has been extended until mid-January 2017. Following the attempted coup, 80,000 civil servants, more than 2,000 of them judges or prosecutors, were suspended from their jobs. More than 20,000 people were arrested.

Christian communities affected

Although the initial impact on Christians was minor, the Association of Protestant Churches (TEK) has said that Turkey's Christian communities are now being increasingly affected. Several expatriate Christians are facing deportation or have been refused entry to the country.

These developments are worrying for local Christian communities who are often regarded with suspicion by their neighbours. Tamar Karasu, Executive Secretary of the Bible Society in Turkey, comments,

"The need for prayer never lessens in countries where Christians are in a minority and prejudices remain more influential than true understanding."

A message of life and hope

SAT-7 TÜRK aims to help viewers gain a true understanding of the Christian faith. Broadcasting Manager Gökhan Talas explains:

"An important part of our work is to show Turkish people that Christianity is not a threat to the country; it has been here for 2,000 years. Our message is one of life and hope."

Another SAT-7 TÜRK spokesperson adds, "The beauty and mystery of God give us hope and joy. Many other channels dramatise the tension and violence, which spreads fear. SAT-7 TÜRK speaks of Christian hope. We are an alternative." ■

“

An important part of our work is to show Turkish people that Christianity is not a threat to the country; it has been here for

2,000

years. Our message is of life and hope.



A PRAYER SANCTUARY ON SCREEN

The newest SAT-7 TÜRK program to shine Christ’s light to viewers is *Prayer Season*, a live show that has been broadcast three times per week since mid-July.

Presenter at *Prayer Season* Ayda Danacıoğlu discusses challenging issues raised by its Turkish viewers, then encourages and supports the audience through the ministry of prayer.

“God helps us overcome the problems we face in our daily lives,” says Ayda. “Despite the suffering we experience in the world, the most effective way to heal is to unite in prayer together.”

Increased viewer response

In its first months on air, *Prayer Season* received a positive response from its audience, who shared their thoughts through phone calls and e-mails.

These messages included both prayer requests and words of special thanks to SAT-7 TÜRK for adding the program to the channel.

“Our audience have become a lot more vocal, contacting and thanking us after each episode. Many have expressed what a great blessing this program is in their lives,” says Audience Relations Manager Ümit Teymur. “In spite of all the current problems in our country, we broadcast messages of the power and love of Jesus Christ to give the hopeless hope. We serve them as one body in Christ, remembering John 1:5, ‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’” ■



“

Today I woke up filled with joy. I believe in Jesus Christ. He came as a peace ambassador and He is the only one who will save us. I constantly see Him in my dreams: He shows me how to walk in the light. Turkey really needs this channel.
Murat* via phone call



“

Dear Ayda, I really enjoy watching *Prayer Season*. You help us see how to apply God’s Word in our lives. His love relieves our burdens and changes the attitude of our hearts. We can pray for our enemies and triumph over evil.
Güzin* through email



“

Thank you so much for your prayers. My soul feels like a free bird. Praise the Lord! You are a great reflection of Christ in the way you serve Him. Thank you for helping me strengthen my faith.
Derya* via phone call

* Names have been changed. Images are for illustrative purposes only.

SAT-7 RELIEVES THE PLIGHT OF IRANIAN BELIEVERS

Despotic. Repressive. This is how the situation in Iran is often perceived. For those not born into a Christian family, being a believer can be challenging. Yet, the underground and often persecuted Church is thriving – with help from SAT-7.

Ethnic Assyrian and Armenian Christians can freely worship but cannot hold services in Farsi, the language spoken by most Iranians. Networks of underground churches are the only places where other Iranians can meet with Christian believers. Even so, this house-church movement is experiencing astonishing growth, with 100,000 to 370,000 members at conservative estimates.

“Anti-state activities”

Many Iranians long to know more about Christ but are discouraged by hard-line clerics and the constant surveillance of religious police.

Attending an underground church can come at a high cost. Some 90 or so new believers are currently in jail, most sentenced on charges such as “anti-state activities and propaganda”.

It is not surprising, therefore, that an estimated 10–15,000 Iranian believers flee the country every

year. Others worship in underground churches or as isolated followers of Christ.

SAT-7 PARS Programing Manager, Nikoo Ordadary explains: “Being a Christian inside Iran can be very lonely as you often cannot speak of your faith to another for fear of domestic, social and in many cases, political persecution. Many new believers continue to grow in their faith through SAT-7 PARS which is their only uncensored source of Christian information today. The new believers in Christ, those thirsty men and women who risk their livelihoods and freedom to defy the theocracy, and find a way to know Jesus more and reflect Him in their actions of perseverance and kindness, are our daily encouragers and the subject of our prayers. Today, more than ever, the fast-growing number of believers inside Iran need trained Bible teachers and leaders. Our prayer is that those who have been called to lead the churches inside Iran come to watch our programs and gain the knowledge and encouragement that they need.” ■

“

SAT-7 helped me find the truth about my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. I have introduced many thirsty people to your channel. Masood*, a young man from Iran



LIFELINE FOR CHRISTIANS

For many people in Iran — those seeking to know more about Christ, lone Christians and believers attending or learning to lead the fast-multiplying house churches — SAT-7's programs are a lifeline.

The social media app Telegram is the most important platform for SAT-7 PARS' correspondence with viewers. Telegram is the only uncensored, legal, social media platform in Iran, with more than 20 million Iranian users.

SAT-7 PARS receives thousands of messages weekly from Telegram users asking questions, and requesting prayers and teaching. One of SAT-7 PARS' Audience Relations counsellors spoke about praying with the underground, isolated Christian community inside Iran: "We receive all sorts of prayer requests about life's daily issues: broken marriages, family relationships, sickness and disease, and drug addiction, to mention a few," she says.

Unity through technology

With God's help, the team is overcoming the challenge of being physically separated from those they are interceding for, whether over the phone or through the Telegram chatroom. Our counsellor explains: "I believe that social media is an anointed gift from God, it works very well. The benefit of using the phone or Telegram is that it is time-efficient, which ensures we can pray with more people in our limited time. We can chat, give counsel, or pray with people 24/7 through Telegram. Although we are not physically present with viewers who ask for prayer, we can sense the real presence of God. The work of the Holy Spirit is manifest in each viewer who contacts us, even though it is through technology! They recognise our authenticity and the level of care we have for them. It speaks to their hearts." ■

2,138
Prayer requests
received by SAT-7
PARS channel over
the past 12 months.

THE NEED FOR MORE WORKERS

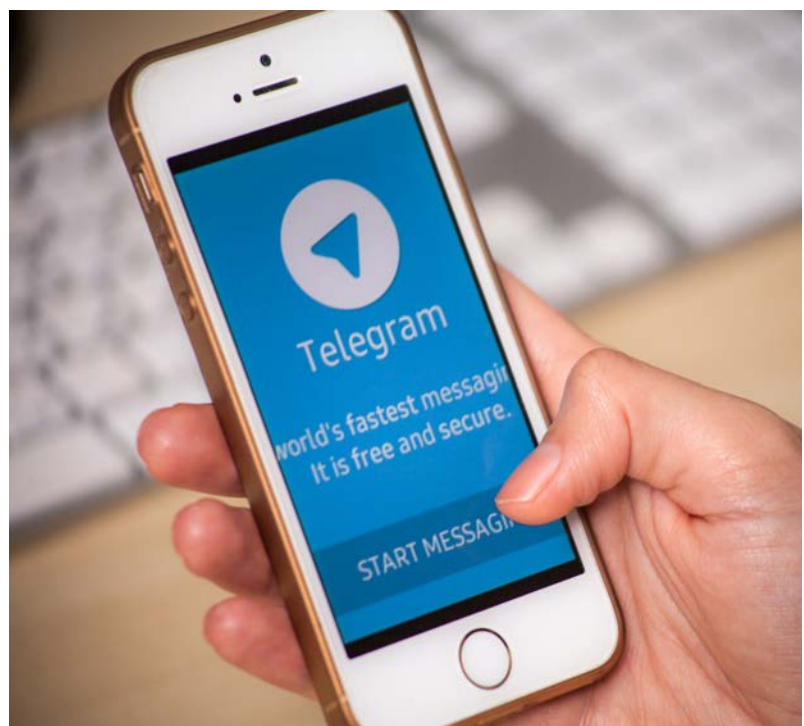
In Matthew 9, Jesus says to His disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (v. 37–38).

The SAT-7 PARS Audience Relations team on Telegram consists of ten part-time counsellors and moderators. With thousands of viewers contacting the channel every month, there is a huge need for more team members to serve the many viewers with the prayer and counselling they need.

Do you have what it takes to volunteer? We need:

- **Translators, fluent in both Farsi and English.**
- **Farsi-speaking Christian mentors over 18 years of age.**

Applicants must have a good understanding of Persian culture. Volunteers can work from any location. Please email hr@sat7.org ■



I AM SAT-7

DENİZ ÇOLAK

SAT-7 TÜRK Production Assistant

What does your role with SAT-7 involve?

I do many things as the Production Assistant: from buying props needed for different sets to going through scenes and set directions with the program director and producer. I also coordinate the production crew when the producer is unavailable.

Why do you like working with SAT-7?

I studied film, so working on production sets is a dream come true! SAT-7 TÜRK is the best place to learn new skills: you get involved in projects you never thought you would, with a team that are like a family.

SAT-7 is unlike any other TV channel. We don't just produce a program for the sake of the program. One day, in a meeting planning different productions, we started feeling overwhelmed by all the projects we needed to complete. Suddenly the phone rang. A lady living in an isolated part of Turkey, an area with no churches, was on the other end. She was crying, pouring out her heartfelt thanks. She said we are her only source to God's Word. She blessed us and said that of all the television channels in Turkey, we were the ones broadcasting hope and truth. I immediately began crying. We are still in contact with her today: She calls after every live prayer program to thank us.

That's the reason I love working at SAT-7. Even if we touch one person's heart, it is enough to be proud to be part of His work.

Tell us a little about your spiritual journey so far.

I love our team prayer meetings. It is so exciting to be surrounded by spiritual people: whenever I have questions they are more than happy to answer and help me grow.



SAT-7 PLUS UPDATE

SAT-7 has taken the difficult, but forward-thinking, decision to close the SAT-7 PLUS channel. As of 1 January 2017, the SAT-7 PLUS channel that has served our Arabic-speaking audience throughout Europe and the Middle East, will stop broadcasting. This channel has served our viewers well for the last 6 years, however, viewer habits have changed. Our Arabic-speaking viewers in Europe will need to access SAT-7 programs through our various online and mobile platforms listed below.



How to find SAT-7

SAT-7 ARABIC

ON 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)

ON 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 PARS (FARSI)

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

Vertical; Covering Middle East, North Africa & Europe.

ONLINE: www.sat7pars.com / www.facebook.com/sat7pars

www.youtube.com/user/SAT7PARS

Smartphone App: SAT-7 PARS

SAT-7 TÜRK (TURKISH)

ON 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

Contact details

Europe	europa@sat7.org	Canada	canada@sat7.org
UK	uk@sat7.org	South America	southamerica@sat7.org
USA	usa@sat7.org	South Africa	southafrica@sat7.org

NEW CYPRUS STUDIO

SAT-7 PARS are preparing to move into a much-anticipated new studio in Limassol, Cyprus. The studio has undergone interior re-modelling throughout September–December 2016.

The production team have long awaited a new studio space having spent several years filming in a converted town house. SAT-7 PARS hopes to begin live broadcasting and pre-recorded production in the new facility from the end of December 2016. ■



NETWORK 2017

Please note that SAT-7's annual NETWORK conference will be held from 29–31 March 2017 in Beirut, Lebanon.

We will share with you how God is continuing to use satellite television to bring hope and love into the homes of millions across the Middle East and North Africa.

We look forward to seeing you there! Registration and more info at: www.sat7.org/network

NEW WEBSITE

We are very excited to announce our brand new international website! After many months of creating and developing, the site went live on 28 October 2016, featuring our new branding style and the most recent news updates. ■

We hope you enjoy an online visit at: www.sat7.org



SAT-7 ACADEMY

Work continues on the plans for our new educational channel, which we have named SAT-7 ACADEMY. With inspirational content for children, teachers and parents, the programs will meet a desperate educational need and help bring about positive social change in the Middle East and North Africa.

Please pray for the SAT-7 team as they work towards the launch of this exciting new channel which will be launching mid-2017. ■

HOW IMAN REGAINED HER FAITH

Iman, a Christian refugee from Iraq, had a crisis of faith when she was driven away from her home by militants. With the help of the Church in Lebanon, her trust in Jesus was restored. SAT-7 ARABIC's *From East to West* shares Iman's dramatic story.

Born and raised in the Chaldean Christian community in Iraq, wife and mother Iman was a believer until an unexpected trauma shook her faith.

"It was a quiet afternoon. My husband, our children, and I had lunch and then went for a nap. I started hearing children crying and people screaming. I looked out of the window and saw a horrifying scene. Extremist groups had invaded our village."

As the terrifying sight unfolded before their eyes, Iman and her husband soon realised they had no other choice but to run, lest they be captured and tortured. The family headed towards Erbil, where conditions became increasingly difficult, so they decided to flee the country. Iman and her family became refugees in Lebanon.

A crisis of faith

Traumatised by this experience, Iman felt she had lost her faith. With tears in her eyes, she recalls thinking: "My spiritual foundation is gone! There is no higher power, Jesus or Heavenly Father! What did we do to deserve this? The world is a monstrous place and God doesn't exist."

However, when Iman and her family arrived in Lebanon, her spiritual struggle

was transformed into a stronger belief in Jesus. A local church began to show Iman the love of God by providing her family with supplies and spiritual counselling. Iman began to attend the church regularly and witnessed the power of faith within the Lebanese Christian community. She says, "I realised that we are all bearing the Cross in different ways, just like Jesus did. It's a humble reminder of the sacrifice He made for our salvation."

The power of the Church

SAT-7 ARABIC strives to raise awareness of the struggles faced by Christians in the Middle East and North Africa through the documentary series *From East to West*.

The third season of the program particularly emphasises the impact of the Lebanese Christian community that has opened their doors to refugees and persecuted Christians. ■

“

I realised that we are all bearing the Cross in different ways, just like Jesus did. It's a humble reminder of the sacrifice He made for our salvation.



Image is for illustrative purposes only.

SAT-7 International

P.O. Box 26760, Nicosia, Cyprus, CY-1647

+357 22761050 | info@sat7.org

www.sat7.org

 **FACEBOOK**

 **TWITTER**

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SAT7Network

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