

News from SAT-7
September 2016

INSIGHT

EDUCATION -A HUMAN RIGHT

INVESTING IN THE
FUTURE LEADERS
OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Pages 6-13



**MAKING
GOD'S LOVE
VISIBLE**



In this issue



- 04 **NEWS FROM THE CHANNELS**
- 06 **EDUCATION – A HUMAN RIGHT**
- 08 **THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND RITA'S VISION**
- 09 **DIGITAL SHOW TEACHING THE BIBLE**
- 10 **EDUCATING A POTENTIALLY LOST GENERATION**
- 12 **A GIRLY PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PERSIAN WOMEN**
- 13 **"LOVE, WORK HARD, AND BE TRUE"**
- 14 **I AM SAT-7**
- 15 **SAT-7 PARS INSPIRES YOUNG VOLUNTEERS**
- 16 **"BUY A TV AND WATCH THAT CHRISTIAN CHANNEL!"**

A BETTER TOMORROW

SAT-7 has always been committed to holistic programming. We aim to minister to our viewers in all areas of their lives: spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical. And we have a long track record of doing this well, producing and broadcasting programs that have positively impacted lives across the Middle East and North Africa.

When it comes to children's education, we are of course concerned not to "lose a generation" because they never had the opportunity to go to school. SAT-7 has already begun some on-air classroom-style programming for displaced and refugee children in the region. But, the issues around education in the Arab world are much wider than the refugee crises and much deeper than just the need to read, write and do basic maths!

In the decade before the so-called Arab Spring uprisings, the United Nations Development Program cited the widespread lack of opportunity for a good education as one of three root causes for what it called the severe "backwardness" in the Arab world. By "a good education" we do not mean just attending school and learning to read. We mean that children need to be taught to think for themselves. They must be equipped and encouraged to question, to be creative and to learn basic life skills.

While we always seek to build these ideas into our kids' programming, we must also address the needs and attitudes of parents and poorly trained teachers, most of whom have not themselves experienced education beyond rote learning, for whom violence has been the normal way of maintaining discipline and whose obsession with "the right answers" has stunted free thought.

Therefore we have decided to launch a new educational channel in 2017. This channel will not only offer teaching for kids who are hungry to learn the basics of literacy and maths. The concept is much more holistic. We want to see the next generation in the Arab world grow up well, with positive values and attitudes, and to shape a more inclusive, creative and democratic society.

This is how we see "education", and we hope that our Educational Channel will make its mark in these important areas!



Termy
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Founder and CEO

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SAT-7 TO LAUNCH NEW EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL

SAT-7 is preparing to introduce an educational channel that will help meet the desperate need for improved schooling in the MENA region. It is scheduled to air in May 2017 with special programs for children, parents and teachers.

A lack of good education is perhaps the greatest social challenge currently facing the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). A generation is at risk of becoming “lost” as their opportunities for schooling and employment are destroyed by the ongoing violence. The new educational channel represents SAT-7’s considered, Christian response to this challenge.

“This is a golden opportunity to excel in one key element of SAT-7’s vision, to be “serving the community and contributing to the good of society,” says George Makeen, Director of SAT-7’s Arabic-language channels.

The new channel aims to inspire impactful, life-long learning across the Arabic-speaking world. The on-air classes will not only offer an academic education but also promote critical and analytical thinking and acceptance of other cultures and peoples, in an effort to help build better communities.

Looking beyond the current crisis

The channel has been developed in response not only to the current refugee crisis but also to a general lack of quality education in the region. George says: “The escalating conflicts in the Middle East are largely due to ignorance and poor education. We have been working to combat this for years, running campaigns on illiteracy and, more recently, introducing

the on-air school program *My School* on SAT-7 KIDS.” As George explains, the problem is not limited to children who cannot go to school. “Many of those who do attend school are being taught a very narrow way of thinking, by teachers who were trained to teach as they themselves were taught,” he says.

Chief Channels and Communication Officer Rita Elmounayer agrees, describing a vicious cycle in which teachers in the MENA who were beaten as students go on to use violence to maintain discipline in the classroom. She described the thought process behind the plans for the channel: “If we don’t do it; if we don’t invest in education to do something good and to offer an education based on Christian and internationally recognised values, somebody else will invest in education to do something bad, to teach any other values with a different agenda. And we have seen the result of it: radicalism, extremism and the consequences that follow from such movements.

At a time when SAT-7 is also wanting to urgently expand programming on the SAT-7 TÜRK Channel and invest more heavily in social media, it has been encouraged to believe that new governmental and foundation funding will be available to help underwrite this new initiative in 2017. ■

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When we went to a Syrian refugee camp in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon and saw the children sitting on the floor watching the *My School* programs, I thought, ‘It’s a no-brainer! We have to launch this channel now!’” Rita Elmounayer

Rita Elmounayer, Chief Channels and Communication Officer, interacts with children during a visit to a refugee camp.



BIBLE CHAMPIONS ON THE VIRTUAL FOOTBALL FIELD



A virtual football stadium full of cheering crowds is the setting for a new kids' program called *Champions' Stadium*. The footballers (played by actors) are characters from the Bible who compete in a contest between good and evil. The show's presenters comment on the game's developments and decide the winner based on points gained during the match.

The program discusses biblical events in a humorous context, with its football matches highlighting particular encounters to teach the children important lessons.

One example is the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent, in which the serpent appeared initially to have won. Later, however, God intervened and the serpent lost. "The moral message of the program is that good always wins," says the Program's Writer, Ramzy Bishara.

The program consists of a match between two or more characters, studio analysis of the match, a news brief and a song. A total of 26 20-minute episodes will be produced and will be available in Arabic on DVD in Christian bookstores, along with CD recordings of the program's songs. ■

462,000

fans on SAT-7 KIDS' Facebook page.



STORIES IN THE SAND

The SAT-7 KIDS program *Stories in the Sand* is now also being watched by young SAT-7 PARS viewers. The innovative program, now dubbed into Farsi, tells Bible stories using the creative talents of Egypt's first sand artist. Michael Romany brings parables to life as he pours sand through his fingers and uses it to paint moving images on an illuminated glass table. ■



SAT-7 TÜRK LAUNCHES LIVE PRAYER PROGRAM

Prayer Season, a new live prayer program, has been receiving many phone calls and prayer requests. Host Ayda Danacıoğlu has been discussing challenging issues with viewers live on air since 11 July.

“One phone call can make a huge difference,” says Ayda. “I have experienced many traumas in my own life. My purpose is to be sincere, to share people’s burdens and to remind them that they are not alone.” ■

CHILDREN LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAISING GOD

Praise Factory, a new SAT-7 KIDS program, teaches the importance of spending time worshipping God. The show’s factory-set features tools and industrial uniforms to help reinforce the message that children can praise God wherever they are and whatever they are going through. In this way, children will learn that God is with them everywhere, not just when they are at church.

Producer Mounir Zakhary explained why he feels praising God is so important. “Praise is a treatment for everything in our lives,” he said. “Whether we are sad, confused, tired, doubtful or dealing

with problems, praise treats it all.”

Praise Factory will include drama and worship music in two segments, one live and the other pre-recorded. Throughout the program, children sing and learn hymns and songs. Each episode also features a band or choir from a different church, singing their own songs of praise.

The live segment is presented by four young adults whose ages range between 18 and 24. They wear industrial clothing, such as overalls, to show that they work at the “praise factory”. ■

DANDELION WRAPS UP IN ITS SEVENTH YEAR

SAT-7 PARS’ live youth show *Dandelion* broadcast its final episode on 28 June. During the special episode, Presenter Nikoo Ordodary and Producer Shahin Kashiloo discussed how the program had blessed them over the years.

This popular talk show has found a place in its viewers’ hearts since 2009. During the hour-long weekly episodes, Nikoo led discussion on social issues while looking to the Bible for guidance. The show has received lots of positive feedback from its audience. ■



Nikoo Ordodary on the set of *Dandelion*.



The logo of *The Accuser*, with graphics inspired by Eastern fasting traditions.

THE ACCUSER

New apologetics program *The Accuser*, on SAT-7 ARABIC, answers the questions and concerns that many Middle Easterners have about the Christian faith. The set will reflect a traditional Eastern atmosphere, in which Christians and people of other faiths can find common ground and listen to each other without judgement. ■

EDUCATION -A HUMAN RIGHT

More than 21 million young people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are either out of school or at risk of missing out on education. Of this number, more than 13 million children are receiving no schooling at all.

4.5 million children are out of school in Syria and Iraq, where conflict has destroyed large parts of the education system. As the violence expands, millions more are at risk of becoming a “lost generation” deprived of the knowledge and skills needed to be successful adults. Recognising the educational challenges in the MENA, SAT-7 is moved to address them by offering a variety of educational programs on all its channels.

We are also working with organisations on the ground to provide satellites and TVs in refugee camps and schools, to give more people the opportunity to watch SAT-7's educational programming.

A society without proper education, hope for a better future, understanding and acceptance of other people, will remain mired in conflict. SAT-7's aim is to address these needs by offering a wholesome education, based on Christian and internationally recognised values. We aim to offer the right tools, encourage a positive mind-set and, above all, give young people hope. ■



13M

children of the MENA region
receive no schooling

1 IN 5

schools in Syria
has been destroyed, damaged,
or used for other purposes.



THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND RITA'S VISION

Rita Elmounayer, SAT-7's Chief Channels Officer, has a vision for investing in our viewers' education. Here she shares her own moving testimony and how her early experiences motivate her today.

Rita grew up in war-torn Lebanon. Her childhood memories are of decades of intermittent conflict, losing her mother at a young age and fearing for her father's life as he fought in the war. Rita's school would often be closed because of the shelling, and her family moved around, staying in bunkers and with other family members. Even in times of peace, they feared that the war would return. The mental strain of this instability and insecurity still affects Rita today.

However, these experiences also made Rita determined and gave her great compassion for other people living through war and hardship. She said, "You grow up with an urge to love others: to help them and to share your story in the hope that it will make a difference in their lives."

A father's promise

God did not give Rita what she wanted as a young person: security, stability, and the small luxuries that all teenagers crave. However, He has given her something else: an education. Rita's family were poor, with nine relatives sharing a one-bedroom apartment. Nevertheless, Rita's father provided her and her sister with the best education, sending them to private schools and later to university.

Rita often felt jealous of her more privileged school friends. She would ask her father, "Why are we poor?" One day he took his daughters aside, saying: "I know that we are not rich and that you would like to have nice things. I cannot give you a house, land or money," he said, "but I promise to give you a good education. It is a weapon for a better future for you!"

From left to right: Little Rita, posing for the camera, holding her father's automatic weapon.

Rita and her younger sister Andrea with their father.

Rita as a teenager in her scout's uniform in school

"My father used the word 'weapon'," she explained, "because he is a soldier. At the time, I did not fully grasp what he was saying, but now I do. Whenever I travel, speak different languages, hold meetings, give presentations or appear on screen, I thank God for my Dad."

Working towards a vision

Rita's education has enabled her to bring faith and hope to future generations through her work for SAT-7. Today, she manages SAT-7's five channels, looking at the big picture and developing new ideas to meet our viewers' needs. She said: "SAT-7 KIDS has many millions of viewers, not only children but also their families. We receive countless emails from parents thanking us for investing in their lives and in their children's lives. It is essential that we teach these children the right things. We want to transform this new generation, who might be seen by some in the West as potential terrorists.

"We promote values that are not often shown on other TV channels: reconciliation, tolerance, love, peace and forgiveness. Our goal is to invest in people's lives, and in order to maximise this investment we have to begin when they are still young. We want them to have better lives and to be better people – leaders driven by love and compassion. We believe this new generation will one day grow up to change the face of the Middle East – to be a better one – we only need to believe." ■



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If I had the opportunity to go back in time and experience a different childhood, I would not want it. Everything that happened, has made me the person that I am today; with a passion and love for the people of this region, and a drive to offer them hope for a better future.



DIGITAL SHOW TEACHING THE BIBLE

New SAT-7 KIDS Bible-teaching show *With Zack* uses engaging technology to communicate the Gospel to digitally-savvy young viewers.

In today's fast-paced, digital world, teaching the Bible to a new generation of TV viewers requires a creative approach. This Autumn, SAT-7 KIDS will launch a first-of-its-kind storytelling show *With Zack*, which follows a bold new strategy.

The show is hosted by 14-year-old rising star Zack Dabbour. With the aid of advanced technology, Zack will tell stories from the Bible using animation.

An engaging learning experience

The show's technical set-up is a large part of what makes it so special. Instead of being recorded in a traditional studio, the program is filmed with a "green screen" background, which is later replaced with computer-generated images. This format enables Zack to tell the stories by interacting with animated graphics that appear around him, an approach designed to appeal to today's children who are often greatly influenced by the use of such technology.

Zack is very excited about the show's format. He said: "Viewers will definitely benefit from the show's engaging and educational format. The animated graphics are the most interesting part – there's a story playing behind me, and sometimes I move the objects around with my hands."

Great potential for children and new believers

Zack is the son of renowned SAT-7 ARABIC Presenter Dr Imed Dabbour. Zack has undergone professional training in drama and TV presenting, and *With Zack* marks his first appearance as a TV host. Although *With Zack* is primarily a children's program,

it will also be helpful to older viewers, especially new believers who will benefit from its Biblical foundation. The first episode outlines the overall contents of the Bible, with subsequent episodes discussing Old Testament stories and characters. The program is mainly aimed at North African audiences, with North African Arabic being the main dialect spoken, but it will also be understood by, and relatable to, audiences in the rest of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

There is no doubting the young presenter's passion for communicating his rich Biblical knowledge to his audience, especially to children. He says, "I try to interact with viewers and tell biblical stories in a fun way, so that they will be eager to watch and learn more about God. I really want to share the Gospel with kids and families in the Arab world, so that they will believe in Jesus Christ." ■

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I really want to share the Gospel with kids and families in the Arab world, so that they will believe in Jesus Christ.



EDUCATING A POTENTIALLY LOST GENERATION

Millions of children in the Middle East have been displaced by violence and are missing out on education. The SAT-7 KIDS program *My School* is stepping in to help prevent this vulnerable generation becoming “lost”.

Since its launch in March 2015, *My School* has been catering to the educational needs of the millions of refugees, internally displaced children and those who are impoverished and unable to go to school in the Arab World. *My School* is providing complementary education with the objective of both preparing young viewers for their future integration into physical schools, either in their host or home country, and assisting students attending formal education.

Following a successful Phase 1, in 2015, which was comprised of 90 episodes of Kindergarten 3 curriculum in the subjects of English, Arabic and Mathematics, the program is now onto Phase 2, covering the curriculum of Grade 1 in the subjects of English, Arabic, Mathematics and (new) Science.

A fresh 90-minute episode is introduced every day and it is broadcast five times a week, using both the

SAT-7 KIDS and SAT-7 PLUS channels, covering all the different time-zones in the Arab World and Europe.

In the coming year, SAT-7 plans to introduce more topics and expand the target age range by covering all six grades of primary school.

A Christian response to a great humanitarian need

Millions of children are at risk of becoming a “lost generation” deprived of the knowledge and life-skills needed to be successful adults. An alarming number of these out-of-school children and youth must work to provide for their families. Many of them are being forced into the worst forms of labour, including the smuggling of goods and sexual exploitation.

And, some of the most vulnerable children and youth are being recruited as workers and combatants by armed groups.

More than

21

million Arab children are at risk of missing out on an education.



This page: Filming an episode of *My School*, in the SAT-7 KIDS studio in Lebanon.

Next page: On the left Presenter Petra Charabaty with SAT-7 KIDS Broadcast and Special Projects Manager Andrea Elmounayer, on the right.

The *My School* program represents SAT-7's considered and prayerfully developed Christian response to perhaps the greatest social challenge currently facing the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) at present. SAT-7 is an unashamed advocate of human rights and every child's right to education regardless of his or her background, ethnicity or religion. As a Christian organisation SAT-7's commitment is to show unconditional love as Jesus himself did.

SAT-7 KIDS Broadcast and Special Projects Manager, Andrea Elmounayer reflects these values in her observation: "Jesus said 'Love your neighbor as yourself', and this is exactly how we operate. We want to show our love to the refugees in our region by listening to their needs and making their voices heard. We can defy the challenges these children face by providing a well-thought-out on-air education, which is vital for their personal growth and social integration."

Building strong relationships with the community

My School is addressing the educational needs of the majority of displaced children in the Levant area as the on-air lessons are based on a combination of local regional Arabic curriculums, thus helping these viewers thrive – whether they stay in their host country or are eventually able to return home. Andrea further explained: "Taking into account the issues facing refugees, *My School* does not target a specific "age group", but rather provides the basic education needed by any child who suffers educational challenges, whether they are displaced or underprivileged."

To coordinate its activities, develop a well-rounded curriculum and be updated about the constantly changing context, SAT-7 is engaged in a series of dialogues with major stakeholders on the ground, and existing schools.

All organisations acknowledge the significance of SAT-7 KIDS and of *My School* in particular, due to the show's unique ability to reach displaced communities in a creative and effective way. SAT-7 is looking to further enhance its partnerships on the ground to achieve the successful distribution of educational materials to all those who need it.

The collaboration has so far resulted in a complete curriculum, covering the first three years of the primary school. Recently, the team also added special practical segments between the lessons. Andrea says, "In response to the trauma and problems that our target audience might be facing, we have added into the programs four new segments: a drawing segment, a science experiment, therapeutic storytelling and a lifestyle segment."

Educational techniques

My School has so far been a resounding success. Andrea attributes its impact to two factors: the presenters, who are well-trained teachers; and the advanced educational philosophy behind the show. Andrea says that the program's approach exposes kids to countless opportunities, including "the chance to listen, be heard, think, analyse and solve problems, and make better decisions and life-choices that will lead to a brighter future and an improved life."

The show has been building strong relationships with its viewers. Andrea says the program is "a big milestone for SAT-7 KIDS, and it would not have been possible without the interaction, love and engagement of our audience, which has been the most inspiring part of our journey. We have received some remarkable feedback and have been able to respond to each one individually." ■

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Jesus said 'Love your neighbour as yourself', and this is exactly how we operate, by listening to these children's needs and making their voices heard.



A GIRLY PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PERSIAN WOMEN

Presenter Parastoo Poortaheri and the SAT-7 PARS team are planning a new live show that will offer vital support to girls aged 8–15.

During a few quiet moments in her busy work day, we spoke to Parastoo about her inspiration and goals for this new program.

What inspired you to create a live show for girls?

Girls and women in Iran and Afghanistan are not treated equally to men. In Afghanistan, the majority of girls do not go to school. In Iran, some girls from poor families are at risk of being forced into child labour. Even families in better situations cannot afford to send their daughters to school.

We can provide something that these girls desperately need: the chance to learn and talk about issues that are not otherwise discussed, with a Christian perspective. There are no other programs like this on Persian TV.

What topics do you want to open up for discussion?

We want to discuss challenging subjects that affect the intended age group, such as loneliness, rejection and how girls can protect themselves. There is so much sexual abuse of young women, but no-one ever talks about it in Persian culture. We cannot talk about these issues in great depth, but we can help open a dialogue. We want to break down the culture of shame.

We also want to open a discussion about insecurities around physical appearance and encourage viewers to maintain a healthy body image. Many girls in the Middle East undergo plastic surgery or develop eating

disorders because they are ashamed of the way they look. As well as discussion, *Girly* will include segments about health, relevant books, films, and craft projects.

How will you approach such sensitive and culturally controversial issues?

My goal is not only to give the audience information. We want to provide an interactive show where girls can call in anonymously and ask for advice, so that we can help where we can. This approach will also help the SAT-7 PARS team better understand the current situation for girls and young women in Iran.

We approach topics from a biblical, a social, and a psychological perspective. We want to present a balanced, well-rounded view to give our young audience something to think about. Ultimately, we want these girls to know how valued they are in God's eyes.

Do you see yourself as a “big sister” figure to these young women?

No. I want to be friendly and to be myself. I do not want to be seen as a big sister who knows everything, because I simply don't! I want them to know that I am one of them. I am here to listen, and we will approach these problems together.

The program is expected to begin live broadcasting in December 2016. ■



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There are no other programs like this on Persian TV.

We can provide something that these girls desperately need: the chance to learn and talk about issues that are not otherwise discussed, with a Christian perspective.



“LOVE, WORK HARD, AND BE TRUE”

The first-ever children’s live program on SAT-7 TÜRK is encouraging young viewers to live joyful, principled lives. *Morning Joy* began in June 2016 and is broadcast for two hours every weekday morning.

Presenters Ecem Okcular and Merve Alışır entertain and educate 5 to 12-year-old viewers through drama, arts, crafts, cartoons and Turkish Bible-teaching segments.

Heartfelt motto

The show’s motto is “Love, work hard, be true”. When asked what inspired these words, Merve replied: “To achieve anything in life, we must be loving, hard-working and truthful. The world tends to divide people into stereotypes: ‘the smart guy’, for instance, or ‘the beautiful girl’. We want to break down these stereotypes. The smart guy will not succeed if he does not work hard. Beauty is meaningless without love. We must teach children that what is on the inside matters just as much as the outside.”

Merve and Ecem want to ensure that children are on the best path, one that enables them to be fulfilled by joy. “We have found these principles to be important in our lives, so we must set an example for the next generation,” says Ecem. “The love and truth of Jesus are values we want to inspire in these children.”

Positive role models

Ecem plays three characters in *Morning Joy*: herself, a child called Ege and a grandmother figure. Ege is

a curious child, eager to know about everything, and she asks Merve questions on the audience’s behalf. Grandmother tells the children how the world has changed over time. In the first episode of the show, Grandmother showed the audience an old telephone, describing how it works and how it compares with mobile phones today.

The idea behind the different characters is to encourage children to ask questions and to learn from people of all ages, encouraging respect and love across generations.

A dynamic duo

Ecem has previous experience in children’s theatre. Before working with SAT-7 TÜRK, she performed in front of over one million children. Merve is a mother herself and also has experience working with children. Ecem and Merve’s friendship, enthusiasm and energy excites the young viewers and captures their imagination.

“Before we had the first rehearsal, we confided our on-screen strengths and weaknesses to one another,” Merve says. “Sharing these, ensures we continue to be a good team and that we can help each other during the live show.” ■

(From left) Presenters Ecem Okcular and Merve Alışır, on the set of *Morning Joy* in the SAT-7 TÜRK studios.



I AM SAT-7

MAJID MASOULEH

SAT-7 PARS Content Provider and Presenter

What does your role with SAT-7 involve?

I am a children's and youth Program Content Coordinator for SAT-7 PARS.

I write scripts for children's programs and kids' live programs in Farsi.

I also present the live shows.

What job did you do before you worked with SAT-7?

I worked for an engineering company in Iran.

Why do you like working with SAT-7?

Working at SAT-7 is not just a job – it is an act of serving God. We have the opportunity to introduce Christianity to new generations in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. We are here to help children grow by providing a message of hope. Their lives will have a bigger impact on others if they grow up to be faithful people.

Tell us a little about your spiritual journey so far.

I always praise the Lord for His plans for my life. Thirteen years ago I questioned God, asking, "Why am I here on this island [Cyprus]?" But then God used me to help many of my family members. They now trust in Him. He has also enabled me to speak to thousands of children in Farsi, spreading the love of Christ through our programs.

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

I would ask him, "Do you know me?" It is very important to me that He recognises me as His son. I would also ask if I am following Him and the plans that He has made for me. ■



NETWORK 2017

Our next annual NETWORK conference, which will be held 29-31 March 2017, in Beirut, Lebanon. Please mark the date on your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing with you how God is continuing to bring hope and love in the Middle East and North Africa through SAT-7's satellite channels.

Serving a wider Turkish audience

SAT-7 TÜRK is now broadcasting to an audience of five million who watch TV through D-Smart, a private satellite platform. The channel has also been broadcasting via Turkey's national satellite, Türksat, since 2015. Becoming D-Smart's 157th channel means SAT-7 TÜRK now has a total potential audience of 55 million.

Broadcasting Manager Gökhan Talas says, "This is an important new step for SAT-7 TÜRK. It continues to be a miracle that our channel can broadcast. These are dark days for Turkey, but this is one of the reasons we are here serving the country. God is working."



How to find SAT-7

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

SAT-7 KIDS (ARABIC) Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.353 GHz Vertical;
Covering Middle East & North Africa.

SAT-7 PARS Eutelsat Hot Bird 13B at 13° East, Txp 122, 10.949 GHz Vertical; Covering Middle East, North Africa & Europe.

SAT-7 TÜRK Türksat 4A at 42° East, 11.824 GHz Vertical;
Covering Turkey, Europe & Central Asia.

SAT-7 PLUS (ARABIC) Eutelsat Hot Bird 8 at 13° East, 12.380 GHz Vertical;
Covering Middle East, North Africa & Europe.

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Read more

SAT-7 ARABIC	www.sat7.com
SAT-7 KIDS	www.sat7kids.com
SAT-7 PARS	www.sat7pars.com
SAT-7 TÜRK	www.sat7turk.com
SAT-7 PLUS	www.sat7.com

SAT-7 PARS INSPIRES YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

A church youth group from Finland took part in a SAT-7 PARS workshop in Cyprus this summer. The teenagers were trained to produce an episode of a children's live show, working alongside directors, cameramen and presenters.

The workshop was an eye-opening and educational experience for the 10 young people, and it ignited their desire to serve and help bring a message of hope to children in the Middle East.

"I didn't know things in the region were this bad," said Olivia Ojala, a 20-year-old volunteer. Sonja Olli, 16, added, "This workshop has definitely influenced my view of the Middle East. There are so many small children, and they need God in their lives."

The unique workshop helped the volunteers realise that we can all use our individual, God-given talents to help spread the Gospel. Most of them already wanted to be involved in Christian ministry, but they had a limited idea of what this might look like. Group Leader Emmi Vanhanen explained: "Many young people think that being in overseas Christian work means they have to be a nurse, a pastor or a teacher. I hope that, through this workshop, they will learn

that you can be a missionary no matter what studies you pursue."

The workshop also aims to inspire youngsters who may not yet have decided what they want to do with their lives. "Our goal is to get young people excited about using their gifts for God's work," said Workshop Coordinator Mikael Tunér, who works with SAT-7 PARS through a partner organisation in Finland. "There are many possibilities for coming to SAT-7 as a volunteer."

Presenter Parastoo Poortaheri added, "We want to encourage them, firstly to find their talents and secondly to learn about media missions." The show was also a great encouragement to SAT-7 PARS's viewers. "It was a very inspiring and amazing day," said Parastoo. "Our viewers enjoyed the show and learned that they have friends across the world, who are not Iranian but who really care about them and pray for them." ■



Presenter Parastoo Poortaheri takes a selfie with the teens from Finland and the SAT-7 PARS Limassol studio crew in Cyprus.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

SAT-7 offers a number of opportunities for supporters to give their time, knowledge and skills. Many volunteers come to us through a sponsoring church or Christian organisation. Could you, or someone you know, be our next volunteer?

"Although I do not understand Farsi, or what the presenters are saying while filming, it is clear that the shows have a great impact on the viewers," he said. "For me, this is not only a chance to develop

my skills in media production; it is an opportunity to experience a whole new culture. I feel privileged to be a small part of a huge ministry." Kasper Breindahl, from Denmark, moved to Cyprus to volunteer as a Camera Operator and Production Trainee for SAT-7 PARS.

Read more about volunteering at www.sat7.org, or send your CV and a covering letter to hr@sat7.org ■



“BUY A TV AND WATCH THAT CHRISTIAN CHANNEL!”

Eli, a Turkish-born Christian and ethnic-goods supermarket owner, living in London, has been growing in his faith with the help of SAT-7.

When Eli first heard about SAT-7 TÜRK, he felt God was guiding him. “The Lord said to me, ‘Buy a TV and watch that Christian channel!’”. Since then Eli has not only become a regular viewer but also encourages other Turkish-speakers to tune in.

A priceless gift

Born and raised in Turkey, Eli comes from a non-religious background and moved to London with his parents in his late teens. He is now married and owns a business, running an ethnic-goods supermarket. Despite all his personal and commercial successes, Eli always felt there was something missing.

In 2013, he met a Turkish pastor who turned his world upside down by giving him a copy of the New Testament. “From the moment I started reading it, my life was changed,” Eli said. “The New Testament was the best gift I ever received.”

Hungry disciple

Eli began attending Pastor Emre’s church and was baptised. He has since immersed

himself in Christian literature and become very involved in his church. He has even made trips to Istanbul to connect with churches there. “In April, I was at Aya Yorgi Church, where people come from all over Turkey and Europe to meet. We distributed over 3,000 Bibles in a single day and prayed for many people. It was one of the happiest days of my life.”

Finding SAT-7 TÜRK

It was Pastor Emre who introduced Eli to SAT-7 TÜRK. Now, Eli watches the channel with his wife at home as well as at his shop, where it can also benefit his customers. “I watch Bible study programs and Christian movies. All the programs help me grow in my faith.”

So far, Eli has told more than 50 people about SAT-7 TÜRK and knows that at least 20 of them are now regular viewers. “I like to meet new brothers and sisters from different churches,” Eli explained. “This is God’s plan. That is why I am so happy to help where I can. I had nothing before I came to Christ. Now I have everything.” ■

“

I have a Bible under the till at the shop and read it when I have free time. I want to improve my friendship with God continuously.



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