



CHRISTIAN SATELLITE TV
BY & FOR THE PEOPLE
OF THE MIDDLE EAST
& NORTH AFRICA

Uplink

News from SAT-7
JULY 2015

Focus
on Marriage

pages 6-13

The Beauty of Marriage

By the Rhine River on a peaceful summer morning, I was enjoying a coffee with my extended family. During such gatherings, I always talk with my German brother-in-law about the diversity of the two cultures we come from: Egypt vs. Germany, or the Middle East vs. Europe.

Our discussions reminded me how, 15 years ago, I went through a dilemma when I was preparing to propose to my wife. She had lived in Germany for 20 years. She was not only thinking about moving from a single life to a married life and from a student life to a work life but, by saying yes to my proposal, she would also need to accept the challenge to move from Germany to Egypt—from the West to the Middle East. In spite of all that, she finally said yes!

Five years ago, I was privileged to join SAT-7 to serve potentially more than 300 million Arabic speaking viewers. I realised that SAT-7 supports the church by broadcasting God's love, and has a special role in ministering to couples – to help them build stronger marriages.

The MENA region remains largely indifferent to issues such as divorce and the marriage of minors. In Egypt alone, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, divorce cases increased by 36 percent during the period 2012-2013.

The MENA region also suffers from high rates of child marriages. In Egypt, the percentage of women currently aged between 20 and 24, who married before the age of 18, is 17 percent. In Iran, this number is 32 percent, according to UNICEF.

SAT-7 programs introduce views of marriage from a biblical perspective, including the parallels Christ drew between his relationship to the church and a man's relationship to his wife. Through a range of programs, we encourage our audience to learn more about this important subject, interact with us, send prayer requests and, where appropriate, seek professional counsel. You can read much more about this on pages 6-13.

Farid Garas

Farid Garas
Executive Director, Egypt Office

'WITH JESUS' TEAM VISITS SOUTH SUDAN ORPHANAGE

The SAT-7 KIDS' *With Jesus* team discovered the power of thankfulness during their recent trip to South Sudan.

In June a film crew of seven travelled to the remote South Sudanese village of Rokon, to visit the True Light Ministry Orphanage – a home for children who have lost their families during the years of conflict in South Sudan. While there, the team filmed a three-part series featuring children from the orphanage.

Exciting invitation

Maria, an Egyptian woman from Beni Suef and a key founder of the orphanage, invited the team to visit after she had called in to the program last year. The children were very excited to meet the *With Jesus* film crew. "They were so happy to see us and received us with singing and dancing," said Milad Awad, a member of the team.

Difficult circumstances

The village's only source of water is a well but, what comes from it, isn't fit for drinking. And, to their dismay, the team soon learned that local traders do not sell bottled water either, simply because the locals

cannot afford to buy it. The village also had many malaria-carrying mosquitoes and a shortage of food and medical supplies.

Surprised by thankfulness

When the team began asking about their lives, the children gave astonishing testimonies. Despite their traumatic experiences, the children expressed genuine thankfulness to God for being delivered from conflict.

Prayer on air

There is no doubt that the children in this orphanage have faced, and will continue to face, trials of many kinds as they grow up without their families in this remote and difficult area, but the *With Jesus* team were inspired by their faith and overflowing gratitude to God for the things they did have. The programs included a moment where the team prayed for God to send more workers to help people in difficult areas such as South Sudan and, in particular, the True Light Ministry Orphanage.



SAT-7's *With Jesus* team sharing love at an orphanage in South Sudan.

"...the children expressed genuine thankfulness to God."





Andre Hovsepian is the lead actor in the film Closure.

'CLOSURE', GOD'S ANSWER TO THE SON OF A MARTYR

Closure, a film soon to air on SAT-7 PARS, portrays the story of an Iranian Christian's tragic murder at the hands of Iranian intelligence officers. This 60-minute movie deals with the reality of injustice and the practicality of forgiveness. The film is inspired by the true stories of Iranian Christian martyrs, including Haik Hovsepian, the father of the film's Director, Joseph Hovsepian.

In the film, the audience warms to main character Dr. Dariush, a loving husband and father who devotes his free time to Christian outreach ministry. The family is stunned when intelligence officers raid their home at night, exposing his stash of Bibles. The officers brutally murder Dr. Dariush in front of their very eyes.

The doctor's son, Cyrus, spends years struggling to cope with resentment and bitterness. He must choose between vengeance and redemption when he later finds himself face to face with his father's killer. It is ultimately his heavenly Father's advice that must guide his steps.

The two-night film premiere of *Closure* in London, sponsored by SAT-7 PARS, drew almost 500 people! The channel has 90 days of exclusive broadcasting rights this summer. *Closure* will be dubbed in Arabic and Turkish to air on SAT-7 ARABIC and SAT-7 TÜRK, making the potential viewing audience **over 65 million people** in the region!

A DAY FOR ORPHANS

World Orphans Day took place on 20th April. To mark the occasion, the SAT-7 program *Why Is That?* recorded its show 1st April from the Church-run *Good Samaritan Orphanage* in Cairo.

The crew interviewed several orphans. A young boy named Marcelle said, "The thing I love most about God is that He is with

me however I feel. Sometimes I feel alone but I know He is with me and loves me – no matter how many times I have sinned or how many times I feel angry".

Another SAT-7 KIDS program, *Uncle Monir's Scribbles*, also marked World Orphans Day. Presenter "Uncle Monir" spoke with two girls, Mira and Miriam, from the Virgin

Mary Orphanage for Girls in Cairo. He drew caricatures of Mira and Mary, Miriam's sister.

Uncle Monir also showed a sketch of Jesus Christ holding a child and saying, "My child, as long as I am with you, you will never feel that you are an orphan."

SAT-7 KIDS marked the World Orphans Day on 20th April.





NEW PROGRAM IN KURDISH

The New Life is a new program in Kurdish that presents Christian teaching through readings from the Gospels and looking in depth at the stories and parables that Jesus told.

In a region facing conflict on a daily basis, where millions have been displaced from their homes and live in fear and uncertainty, Nihad brings a message of hope to Kurdish speakers across the region.

In each episode, Nihad, a

believer from North West Syria, reads a specific passage from the Bible and explains it to his audience. This is followed by a Kurdish hymn and a prayer related to the topic being presented.

The program is shot outdoors with the backdrop of the attractive scenery of Lebanon and the two monasteries of Saint Georges Rayfoun and Saint Abda.

While the episodes are in

Kurdish, Arabic subtitles make them intelligible to a wider audience in the Arab World.

The program and its presenter have received many positive messages of support:

“Thank you dear brother for your message of encouragement to us. We pray that God will bless you and that you stay in contact with us always.”

Network 2016 in Cyprus

Network 2016, next year's meeting of SAT-7 Partners and supporters, will be held in Cyprus, 6-8 April. It is a special event, where we will together celebrate the 20th Anniversary of SAT-7.

Please plan to join us and mark it in your calendar.

SAT-7 Day of Prayer

This year, SAT-7's Day of Prayer will be held on Sunday 1st November. We want to encourage Christians and churches around the world to pray for the Middle East and North Africa on this specific day. This year's theme will focus on refugees and internally displaced people - and the difficult situation so many of them face in the MENA region right now.

Emergency – Our Cash Flow

SAT-7 is facing some financial challenges, mostly due to the fact that we have more opportunities than resources to meet our needs.

Over the past 12 months, a major shortfall in funding for our core operational costs - like satellite time, salaries and program production has made the situation even more difficult.

SAT-7 has been operating on a flat budget for the last four years but has still taken on many important new challenges, not least the recent strategic launch of a 24/7 satellite channel for SAT-7 TÜRK.

The bottom line is that we currently face a cash flow shortage of several hundred thousand dollars (about €300,000).

If you would like to support SAT-7 please use the following account:

Name: SAT-7 Europe
Number: 9743-4452309947
IBAN: DK8830004452309947
BIC (SWIFT Address): DABADKKK.

Bank Name: Danske Bank,
Christiansfeld, Denmark

If you would like to donate online please go to:
<http://sat7.org/en/int-donation>

Latest annual report

SAT-7's 2014 Annual Report has already been mailed out.

If we missed you or you did not receive your copy, please let us know. Send us an e-mail at: info@sat7.org or download a pdf of the report at:
<http://www.sat7.org/files/AR2014-Live->





Focus on Marriage

SAT-7 SUPPORT FOR COUPLES

Around the world the concept of a typical family has been transformed during the past 50 years, but in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) that change has been less dramatic.

In this region, most families still have two parents and exist as part of a traditional extended family network. Tradition, however, does not always work for good. Domestic violence against women is accepted in many places, and although most countries in the region have laws prohibiting it, child marriage is still common.

In this edition of *Uplink* we want our theme to focus on marriage and how SAT-7 helps couples build stronger relationships.

Marriage is still the way

Children under the age of 18 in the Middle East are more likely to live in two parent families than in other family structures. The Middle East is still one of the regions of the world where adults are most likely to be married.

Increases in the rates of divorce, child bearing outside of wedlock and co-habitation without marriage, trends that have impacted marriage rates in other parts of the world, are

While long-held traditions can help hold together family units in the Middle East and North Africa, sometimes those ways can also cause great harm.

not seen to the same extent in the Middle East and North Africa.

Underaged girls getting married

Most countries in the Middle East and North Africa have laws on the minimum age for marriage. These range from 13 for girls and 15 for boys in Iran to 20 years-of-age for women in Tunisia and 21 for men in Algeria.

The Population Reference Bureau is

an American non-profit organisation that provides information on population and health. It claims that some families in the MENA region take advantage of religious laws that allow marriage at a younger age than legislated minimum ages and then postpone official registration of the marriage until a later age.

“Such practices further disadvantage child brides, leaving them with no legal basis to receive inheritance, alimony or child support if the husband dies prematurely or abandons his underage bride,” the PRB says.

SAT-7 supporting couples

While long-held traditions can help hold together family units in the Middle East and North Africa, sometimes those ways can also cause great harm.

For those suffering in silence, SAT-7 can be their only avenue of help and our goal is to support couples - no matter what circumstances they are facing.

MARRIAGE: HARD WORK, LEARNING AND LOVE

In most cases the relationship between a husband and a wife is the deepest and most intensely personal one man or woman can enter into during their lifetime.

It is a relationship in which a couple share the highest of highs and sometimes the lowest of lows. It's where a person's character can be the most vulnerable and that's what makes the guests on SAT-7 TÜRK's *My Life Companion* program all the more courageous.

Learning how to be married

The program sees married couples share some of their trials and tribulations. The hope is that their experiences might help others who are going through similar challenges, or to inform those who are considering marriage.

Host Yecua Özgelik says, "Like any other task a person wants to do well, couples getting married can benefit from some training."

"We wanted to produce such a program about marriage because in Turkey we now have second and third generation Christians. In today's society, there are many other young people who could benefit from some training in how to make a marriage work. What better way than to introduce

them to some couples who have had experience in facing and overcoming challenges?"

Couples share their stories

A different married couple is invited onto each program and they are asked how they met, how they decided to get married, and how their family reacted to the marriage.

One of those couples was Gökhan Talas, who is working as a Production Manager in SAT-7, and his wife Özge.

Their relationship began like a fairy tale.

"We met in church," Gökhan says. "She was in the worship choir and I saw her and said to myself: I will marry her! And she felt the same way! It was just like a miracle for us. After eight months we got married. I was 20 and she was 19."

But Gökhan says they quickly found out that being married can be very difficult.

"We were very young"

"We experienced a lot of challenges," he says. "Social

difficulties, financial difficulties. We were very young... We didn't know anything about marriage or spending our lives together and we needed to learn a lot of things. We're still learning actually. It took a lot of effort to carry on with our marriage until today."

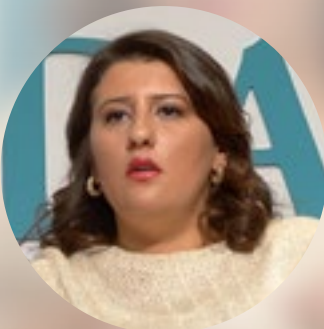
Özge says they shared a wide range of experiences from their marriage on *My Life Companion*.

"We just told our story. We talked about our life, from the beginning of our marriage until today."

No marriage is perfect

Gökhan and Özge say they hope the show will help other couples.

"We wanted to give examples for young people because many think that a marriage, especially a Christian marriage should be perfect," he says. "We learn a lot of things from our wife or husband and through being with them. This is a part of what God wants to teach us and a part of our Christian experience. Marriage is very important, as a way of learning and growing in faith."



"We were very young when we were married. We didn't know anything about marriage, spending our lives together and we needed to learn a lot of things. We're still learning actually!"



LAUGHING AND LEARNING WITH NEWLYWED COMEDY DRAMA

A new comedy drama series on SAT-7 PARS charting the highs and lows of a newly married couple is a laugh a minute – but with a serious message.

Safe Home follows new believers, Donya and Jahan, as they try to build a life together. They want their marital nest to be a place filled with love and joy, a “safe home”. But they find that the honeymoon period is soon over as misunderstandings and character differences cause tensions between them, as well as with their friends and neighbours.

Well-known producer

The 13-episode series is airing on Thursdays at 8pm (Iran local time), prime time viewing for the show’s target audience of young adults.

The show’s producer, writer and director is Omid Ahangar, a well-known actor in Iran. His wife, Noushin Khani, a former film actress, plays Donya. It is hoped that the talented couple’s high



.....

The series is aiming to both entertain and encourage couples to work through their difficulties in a constructive and Christ-like way.

.....

profile will help attract a wide audience for *Safe Home* in Iran.

The series is aiming to both entertain and encourage couples to work through their difficulties in a constructive and Christ-like way. Marital problems are rife in Iran, with one in every three marriages ending in divorce; 19 divorces are finalised every hour.

Fight for marriage

SAT-7 PARS Deputy Executive Director, Nikoo Ordodary explained that these difficulties are often a result of couples not knowing each other very well when they marry, marrying too soon, or for the wrong reasons.

“Instead of standing together and fighting for their marriages, they are encouraged to let go and quit trying. More than ever,

social impact programmes with embedded Christian values and messages are needed for the hopeless young generation of the Farsi-speaking world,” she said.

New drama each week

In each episode of *Safe Home*, Donya and Jahan encounter new crises. They have to get to grips with challenging issues including jealousy, anger, adultery and forgiveness. Not only do they battle these difficulties, they must tackle everyday grievances resulting from such things as one partner working late or not being able to spend enough time together.

Nikoo Ordodary says: “The young couple gets to know themselves

and settle into their new roles as husband and wife, and learn from their own mistakes. Finally, they both come to the conclusion that no house is safe in its physical form, but their home is safe so long as God is with them and they live with God.”

Safe Home encourages couples to seek biblical solutions to their daily problems, attend church together, and spur one another on in ministry and good deeds.

The series also demonstrates to unbelievers that coming to know Jesus and walking with him through the ups and downs of life builds trust, brings happiness, peace and true safety.





Couples draw caricatures before going on set to film an episode on the program *Gawazophrenia*.



Couples in the make-up room being filmed discreetly and answer questions honestly about their partners.

COUPLES DISCUSS THEIR MARRIAGE ON AIR

Heavily pregnant with her fourth child, Yvette Helmy, producer of a new Arabic program for couples called *Gawazophrenia*, spent three consecutive days on location in a remote area of Egypt to record the 25 episodes of the program. However, the long recording process didn't affect her happiness as she saw her dream for this program coming to life.

"The filming process was quite tiring due to the difficulties of preparing the set in such an isolated location. However, the positive responses I received from the couples on-set were rewarding and they certainly enjoyed the recording sessions" says Helmy.

Inspired by her own trials

Married for fifteen years, Yvette says she has experienced many of the problems and pressures that couples struggle with, including



Program presenters Amal Sharsh (left) and Ehab Alfred (right) link the different segments on the episode of the program *Gawazophrenia*.



Couples on the Gawazophrenia program answer questions and their responses are measured by the truth thermometer.

a time when her husband got sick and she almost lost him.

"From my experience, I can see that when a man and woman join in marriage their union constitutes an expression of the body of Christ and that's what the devil attacks. He attacks marriage because it is a blessed union from God," Yvette says.

After praying for seven years, Yvette finally managed to translate her idea into a program that discusses problems couples experience and how to deal with them.

Back to reality

Many couples have unrealistic expectations of each other and of married life. Sometimes the imaginary, perfect relationships portrayed in films and stories have a detrimental effect on those living out their lives in real marriages with real partners.

'Gawaz' means marriage in Arabic, and 'phrenia' represents confusion between reality and delusions. This show hopes to help couples to step out of their

imagined expectations and to deal with the reality of a relationship with another real-life human being.

All kinds of couples

"I wanted to get couples with different backgrounds and circumstances; all kinds of couples, from all over Egypt, old and young, childless and with children,"

Inspired to help save marriages and spread the Word of God to couples in dire relationships, Yvette searched for a dynamic way of engaging with and speaking to her audience. "People like to address reality issues through fun. That's why we have used a mixture of interviews including a candid-camera segment."

Honest and open discussion

First, presenters Ehab Alfred and Amal Sharsh interview each partner separately in the make-up room, in order to get honest answers from each of them about their marriage.

Afterwards the couples watch a video clip which presents the problem to be discussed in the show.

Three couples at a time are interviewed in the studio by two hosts, Rev. Sameh Hannah, the pastor of a church in Cairo, and his wife Neveen. The hosts then facilitate an honest and open discussion between the couples about the issue raised, while also sharing their own experiences.

Playing the blame game

Yvette shares that a common problem is couples blaming one another - each one judging the other without considering the part they play themselves in the relationship.

One aim of this program is to help couples to see things from their spouse's point of view, and not always to look for who is to blame but instead focus on how they can move towards a solution. Most importantly though, Yvette believes the program shows couples how the key to a successful marriage is having God at the centre of their own lives and relationship.

'BE RECONCILED WITH GOD' FOR A HEALTHY MARRIAGE



A man and a woman, two sides in one relationship: marriage. Each has their side of the story to tell, and an expectation that the other will hear and act on it. That's what Inas Adel and her husband Osama ElDabaa do on their new season of the program: *Be Reconciled with God*.

"Ignorance, illiteracy and external cultural influences invade many Christian homes and damage relationships between couples," explains Inas Adel, presenter of the program *Be Reconciled with God*. "These can lead to misconceptions about marital relations and a demeaning view of the intimate relationship in marriage – things which can eventually cause the destruction of the marriage. "An unfulfilled intimate relationship is a mirror to an unhappy life, which in turn affects their intimate relationships. We want to break that vicious circle."

Awareness brings change

The motto of the program is "Different thinking opens up a way for change."

Adel explains that changing the old misconceptions perpetuated in culture can only happen through awareness and renewal of the mind. This can be achieved by offering explanations and understanding to the couples. The program aims to create awareness using verses from the Bible, the Church Fathers, church liturgy and doctrine to discuss and refute misconceptions about marriage.

Targeting a wide audience

Be Reconciled with God targets a middle-class audience but, according to Adel, the team is also keen on being of support to less-educated people in rural areas, people who are more likely to rely on advice from priests or leaders in their churches regarding marital problems.

Spiritual and psychological advice

Be Reconciled with God presents both spiritual and psychological advice

to viewers and couples. Program guest, Dr. Alfred Sedrak, analyzes the marital issues and problems discussed on the show from a psychological perspective in order to help a wider audience find a solution to their problems.

Be Reconciled with God is a production of the Coptic Orthodox Golden Mouth Ministry, who generously donated the series to SAT-7.

Be Reconciled with God addresses problems from multiple perspectives to bring about change in marriages.



SHARING THE CHALLENGES OF GROWTH TOGETHER

SAT-7 ARABIC's latest program *We Grew Together* is a spin off from the live youth show *From Me to You*.



Like its precursor, *We Grew Together* is a live magazine-style show and the presenters of *From Me to You* have moved over to the new program.

SAT-7 ARABIC Programming Manager George Makeen says he wants the team of *We Grew Together* to be taken out of their comfort zone by the new program.

"We wanted to build upon the success of the previous program and help motivate them to go further, and have a greater impact on the viewers," George says. "We didn't want them to stay in their comfort zones, but to push ahead and truly, grow together."

Guests from a wide variety of backgrounds are welcomed on the program and, a week before each show, the hosts post questions on their Facebook page – questions on which the guests share their perspective each week.

The topics range from sex before marriage to getting divorced or having plastic surgery.

The We Grew Together team in the new set design in the studio in Lebanon.

HAVING THEIR SAY!

Men's Talk on SAT-7 ARABIC is a talk show dedicated to important men's issues.

Great effort has been given to the show's structure to ensure it holds the attention of its target audience – the men.

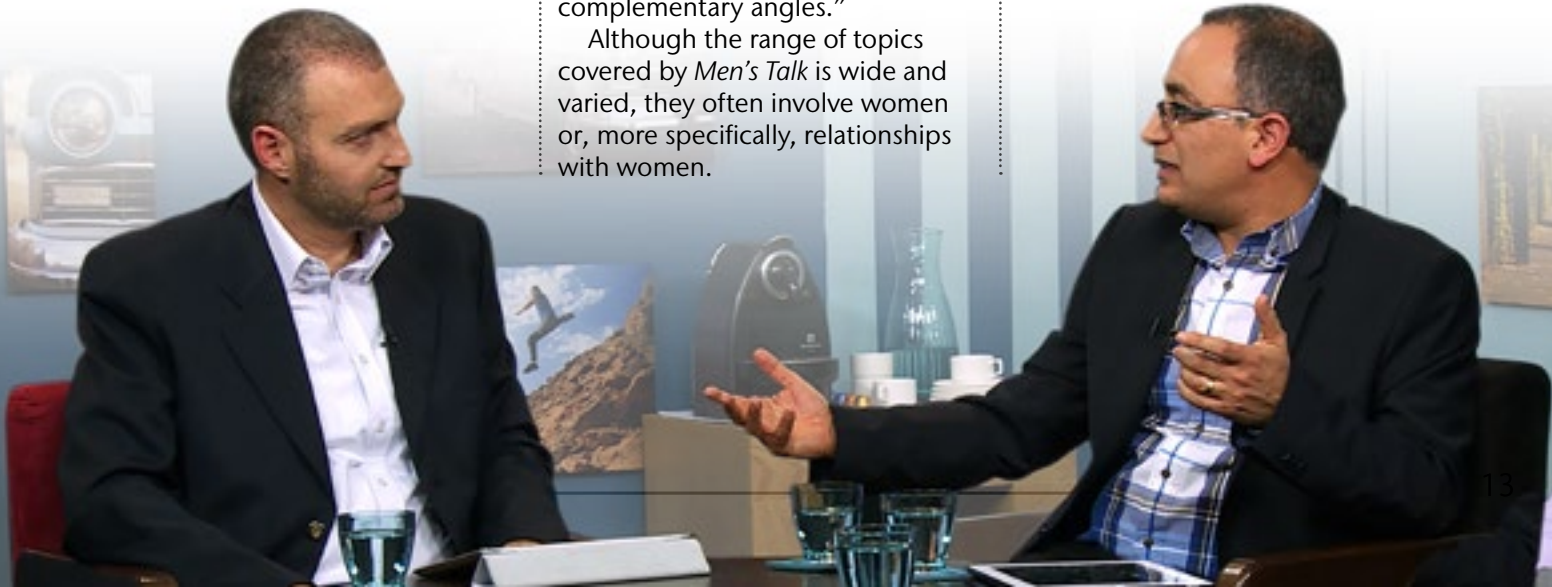
"Our attention span as men is very, very short and we're very focused," a male producer of the program says.

"The three hosts have different roles: one is young and presents the younger generations' perspective, one of them is a clinical psychologist and the third is a businessman. They all come at a subject from different but complementary angles."

Although the range of topics covered by *Men's Talk* is wide and varied, they often involve women or, more specifically, relationships with women.

The producer says men have an important role to play, not only in securing their own wellbeing, but also the welfare of women.

"In order to empower women, give them back their space and allow them to decide for themselves if they want to change their lives, you need to talk to men," he says.





INVENTIVE COMEDY DRAMA HELPS KIDS TO HELP OTHERS

The adventures of a teenage inventor will teach young viewers how they can use their talents and skills to help others in a new children's comedy drama on SAT-7 KIDS.

The adventures of a teenage inventor are portrayed in a new children's comedy drama on SAT-7 KIDS that will teach young viewers how they can use their talents and skills to help others.

DokDok's Family is currently in production and is scheduled to go on air in September.

The producers are pulling out all the stops with a robot and an animated boy among the cast.

The title character, 13-year-

old DokDok, takes after his father Momtaz in his love of inventions. But while Momtaz is rather clumsy with his creations, causing a lot of trouble, DokDok is able to correct his father's mistakes and rescue the situation.

One of the main aims of *DokDok's Family* is to encourage young viewers to be helpful and to use their gifts and abilities to bring happiness to others. The family exemplify this in the way

they offer advice and assistance when their neighbours and friends face problems. Meanwhile, the robot, Fawzy, helps around the house while Mizo, the animated boy, works with DokDok on his inventions.

Producer Monir Zakhary said: "We know a lot of our programmes are being watched by those outside the Christian community so we're looking to do more programmes that address their needs and starting point with SAT-7 KIDS. That's why we're using more drama like *DokDok's Family* - that has key social and spiritual values."

Although still in the production phase, the show has already attracted the attention of the Egyptian media. The news website *el-Fagr* (Dawn) described it as "a unique television experience" because it addresses children's issues, which are not included in the majority of TV productions.

DokDok's Family is a new children's comedy drama. It is in production now and will be on air in September.



DISCIPLING A NEW GENERATION THROUGH ANIMATION

Animated characters on SAT-7 KIDS are not only colourful 'people' who sing and play but are also role models for children. The characters teach kids by learning themselves as they go through different experiences.

Gigi, is a young girl who thinks of herself as a royal princess. As she goes through each day, embracing life's lessons, she learns that even though she is not really a princess by birth, she is God's special daughter. Gigi is God's little princess.

Gigi, God's Little Princess, is the first animation series specifically dedicated to young girls. It aims to encourage them to see their true value - that each of them is unique and special to God. In a world filled with social pressures on children to conform and fit in, this is such an important lesson.

Finding good animated shows is a challenge

"We have to watch a lot of animated programs to find ones with the values and qualities we need for SAT-7 KIDS," says George Makeen, SAT-7 ARABIC Programming Manager. "We're looking for shows which are educational, non-violent, fun without being silly and which carry Christian messages or values." George explains that *Gigi, God's*

Little Princess targets the ages of four to seven and teaches girls of their importance in belonging to the King of kings.

Gigi's quirky personality and overactive imagination captures the attention of kids, many of whom respond with comments saying how much they like to watch the series.

In one episode, Gigi learns about diversity and friendship with others who are different to her when she tries to skip a long queue. She stands in a shorter one, only to find out that the short queue is intended for people with special needs. Colourful and imaginative, the stories of Gigi's personal experiences raise issues and ideas which are discussed in learning and exploring segment at the end of each episode.

Adventurous role models build kids' characters

The *Character Builders* animation series also works to develop children's character through telling engaging stories of personal experience and reviewing the

lessons that those characters have learned.

A bunch of friendly domestic animal characters embark on different adventures and each one of them learns about important character virtues - such as courage, honesty, responsibility, thankfulness, patience, self-confidence and politeness. Each episode focuses on a particular character trait using stories and teaching.

"*Character Builders* has a specific educational context with clear values. It doesn't focus on the abstract but on real personal values such as courage and faith," says Makeen.

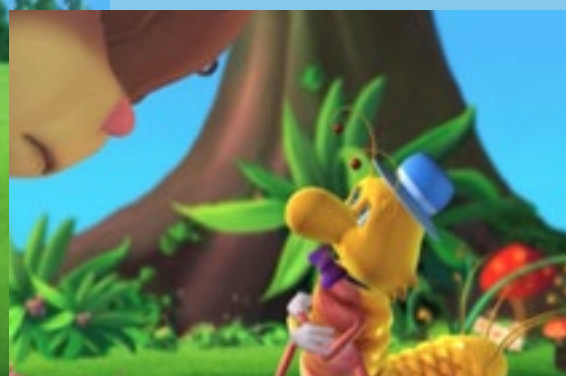
Spiritual is fun

The Torchlighters is another animation series that presents Bible characters and Christian heroes, whose lives and faith witness to God. These true stories help children to understand spirituality and how it can be lived out.

The series includes the lives of many Christian heroes and martyrs - such as Saint Augustine, John Wesley and Eric Liddell. The show's stories come from Europe, America and the Far East, and target children above the age of eight.



Gigi helps kids learn valuable life lessons through her own mistakes and triumphs.





TEAM EFFORT TO BUILD 'MY SCHOOL'

SAT-7 KIDS and the NGO Heart for Lebanon are collaborating on the daily program, *My School*, to teach refugee children whose education has been interrupted by war. The two ministries are working together to meet a serious need.

Many Syrian and Iraqi refugee children cannot attend school. Recent UNICEF figures show that more than 20 million Arab children are not currently in school – twice as many as a decade ago. Many of these are internally displaced people in Syria and Iraq and are all potential beneficiaries of the *My School* program.

The SAT-7 KIDS program *My School* is bringing education to children through television. This has been possible through a partnership between Heart for

Lebanon, a local organisation in Lebanon serving refugees and the SAT-7 KIDS Lebanon team.

Heart for Lebanon provides teachers and local curriculum and the SAT-7 Lebanon studio team record and produce the episodes. The pilot phase of the curriculum covers the essential basics of Arabic, English and math.

Experienced in serving Heart for Lebanon has been serving refugees since 2006, when war again devastated much of Lebanon's infrastructure. Camille

Melki, Executive Director at Heart for Lebanon, says:

"We are proud of standing alongside SAT-7 as they venture into this on-air school. I believe *My School* is a great opportunity to go into homes and tents and teach children that no other NGO is able to reach. The number of refugee children is so huge that today we need to think of creative, unconventional ways of educating them."

A great opportunity to help

The numbers are shocking. Lebanon hosts more refugees per capita than any other nation - a quarter of the almost 6 million population (Source: Wikipedia). Every month, Heart for Lebanon gives food and hygiene supplies to 2,800 Syrian and Iraqi families.

Camille Melki points out that many of the child refugees have seen things that even an adult should never see. "These kids have not only left everything they know, but they are also traumatized by the images of war."

This presents a great opportunity for SAT-7 and Heart for Lebanon to minister to families in need.

"The Church was there in the midst of their suffering," says Melki, "You are moving a community of young kids from total despair to hope in Christ."



"I believe *My School* is a great opportunity," Camille Melki, Executive Director for Heart for Lebanon

International Office

SAT-7, P.O. Box 26760, CY-1647 Nicosia, Cyprus
Phone: (357) 22 76 10 50
E-mail: Mail@sat7.org

European Office

P.O. Box 117, DK-6070 Christiansfeld, Denmark
Phone: (45) 40 33 66 59
E-mail: Europe@sat7.org

Other Offices

USA

usa@sat7.org

Canada

canada@sat7.org

UK

uk@sat7.org

Lebanon

lebanon@sat7.org

Egypt

egypt@sat7.org

Turkey

turkey@sat7.org

South Africa

southafrica@sat7.org

Channel Websites:

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

Watching SAT-7 via satellite

SAT-7 ARABIC

Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.355 GHz Vertical; Middle East & North Africa

SAT-7 KIDS

Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.355 GHz Vertical; Middle East & North Africa

SAT-7 PARS

Eutelsat Hot Bird 13B at 13° East, Txp 122, 10.949 GHz Vertical; Middle East, North Africa & Europe

SAT-7 TÜRK

Turksat 4A at 42° East, 11.824 GHz Vertical; Turkey, Europe & Central Asia

SAT-7 PLUS

Eutelsat Hot Bird 8 at 13° East, 12.380 GHz Vertical; Middle East, North Africa & Europe

For information on how to support SAT-7, please go to:

www.sat7.org/giving

SAT-7 International Website:

www.sat7.org



SAT7Network



SAT7Network



@SAT7Network



CHRISTIAN SATELLITE TV
BY & FOR THE PEOPLE
OF THE MIDDLE EAST
& NORTH AFRICA