

AFGHANISTAN – HOPE FOR A HURTING LAND

On 19 August Afghanistan marked a century of independence from British influence. But after 40 years of near continual warfare and insecurity, few Afghans are in a mood to celebrate. But growing numbers are responding to SAT-7 programmes that offer practical help and a counter-cultural message of love and forgiveness.

The dream came twice in quick succession, so Behzad knew it was important. “I dreamt that a hand reached out to me and a voice that was warm and kind said, ‘Come to me my child’.”

Behzad asked several religious teachers in his Afghan town what it could mean but none of their answers convinced him. Then, he came across a SAT-7 programme. The presenter was quoting Jesus in Behzad’s own language, saying, “Come to me all you who labour”.

“That made me want to know more about Christianity,” Behzad told SAT-7. “I called your number and left you a message. I want to give my heart to Jesus Christ and become a child of the Lord.”

Testimonies like Behzad’s are remarkable in a country that ranks second in the world for Christian persecution in the Open Doors World Watch List.

Afghanistan allows no churches and prohibits people from changing their faith. Yet a growing number of Afghans are coming to Christ. After SAT-7 Persian broadcasts launched on the Yahsat satellite in June 2017, the number of viewer contacts from Afghanistan almost doubled last year.

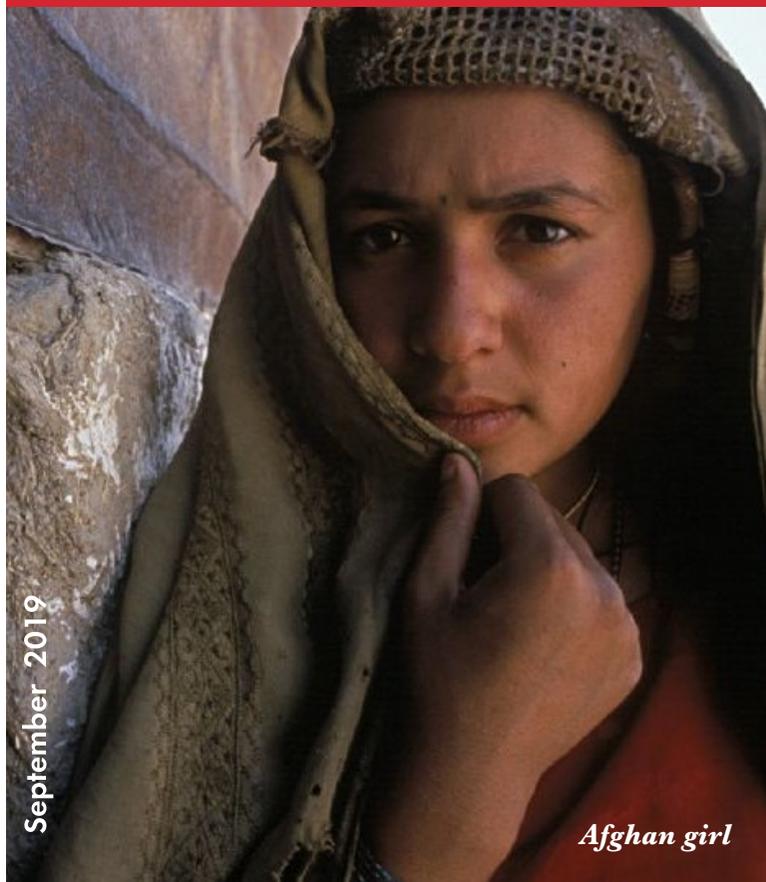
Mikael Tunér, a producer for SAT-7 media partner, *Media Mission*, knows Afghanistan well. He says, “Afghan people are disillusioned. Many are trying to leave the country because they don’t feel they have a future there.”

Amidst such uncertainty, deep poverty, and the legacies of war, Afghans search for hope. Perhaps it’s no wonder that SAT-7 programmes are drawing a growing and eager audience.

- **Pray that God will protect His children in Afghanistan, who are often isolated and vulnerable.**



Prayer † News



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Afghan girl

MAKING
HOPE
VISIBLE

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A MOTHER’S PRAYER FOR IRAN’S YOUTH

Being a mother can be challenging in the best of circumstances. Katayun*, a believer in Christ, has deep concerns for her daughter and the youth of Iran.

“I am a mother and I love my country,” she writes to SAT-7. “Every day I witness the ruin of our young sons and daughters who are the same age as my own daughter. The children of this land are like my own. Their pain is my pain, their destruction is the destruction of the flower of our country. I suffer seeing the flower of youth wither before it has had a chance to blossom. They are trapped by addiction to traditional and man-made substances.”

She asks everyone to pray “for the salvation of these young people who are being devoured by wolves. Pray for those with no one to protect them. My heart aches seeing that no one heeds the cries of the helpless.”

Katayun notices that many young people have become resistant to religion and anything resembling faith in God. They confuse false and failed “religion” with the real Sovereign God. Katayun explains, “The teenagers say ‘Auntie, you’re telling us religious tales.’ I tell them about Christ and they say, ‘We’ve had religion and saw no benefit and now you tell us about Jesus. Maybe you have managed to deceive yourself but we don’t believe or trust anything.’”

“Please pray ceaselessly. I am waiting to see the mercy of God and witness the salvation of my child and the children of my land. Day and night I weep and pray, but I haven’t lost hope because Jesus heals. I have faith but I am struggling.”

Despite the growth in the number of Christians in Iran, the ongoing drug problem is one of many major social issues, perhaps too big for the Iranian Church to effectively deal with alone. SAT-7 is acknowledging these issues through programs that speak on the topic of addiction. With drug production being high in Afghanistan, (About 90% of the world’s heroin is produced from opium grown in Afghanistan) and drug trades happening in neighbouring countries like Iran, the Middle East as a whole is an area heavily susceptible to drug use, but the Lord can still meet people in the midst of these deeply rooted problems.

* Name have been changed for security purposes.



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAQ

“ISIS burned our church. Walls have bullet holes, and Jesus’ picture is gashed. Pray for us as we rebuild and show victory over evil.”

FROM A VIEWER IN AFGHANISTAN

“I had a husband and children, fasted, and read religious books but was lonely. Now with Christ, I have inner peace.”

Pray for this new believer to grow in faith.

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

“I was a member of an extremist group in Afghanistan... if my parents found me, they would kill me, but pray for a doorway to bring light to my family.”

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“I’m watching your program secretly from my husband and son. I realise there is much I don’t know about Jesus, and I see no harm in learning more. Pray for me to learn much more.”

“I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN”

With these words Jesus called Simon and Andrew to follow Him. Is God calling Kerem, from Turkey, in a similar way today? After an encounter with a priest and repeated dreams, Kerem is looking for answers and has shared his story with SAT-7 TÜRK.

Despite not being a Christian, on a visit to Ephesus, Kerem found himself praying at a church. After finishing his prayers, he went to sit outside with his friends.

“There was a group of priests sitting near us and we started talking to them”, explains Kerem. After some time, one of the priests addressed Kerem personally: “He told me that there was something different about me, and that someday, I would be with them and become one of their brothers.”

Surprised, and put on the spot among his friends, Kerem laughed it off, dismissing the comment. “Why on earth would I follow Christ?”, he thought. Time passed, but Kerem was not able to forget the events in Ephesus, and soon after, he had a dream.

“In my dream, Jesus Christ handed me a fishing rod. He told me to leave the lake I was at and to go to another lake to go fishing with Him. So, I went to the other lake and began fishing with Jesus,” Kerem explains. “I caught a fish, inside the fish were four coins.”

Because of this dream and his encounter with the priest, Kerem started looking for answers. Discovering SAT-7 TÜRK, he began watching the programs and wrote to the channel to ask the questions burning on his heart.

“What do all these dreams mean? Why are these things happening to me? Please pray for me.”

- Please pray for Kerem, and people like him in Turkey, who are hearing God calling them. Pray that they will respond like Simon and Andrew did, when they heard Jesus call, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”. (Mathew 4:19)



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN SAUDI ARABIA

“Help me find a Christian girl to marry. I don’t know how or where to look for one in my country.”

FROM A VIEWER IN MOROCCO

“My education stopped when I was a child, because I am a village girl. Thank God for your programs that give me education and hope.”

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“I’m a believer, but I haven’t been baptised. There isn’t a church here. I can’t go anywhere because people around me are so far from Christianity. Pray for me.”

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“Five Christian friends are in prison on serious false charges. Pray for these young men to experience God’s strength and comfort. Also plead for their wives’ and children’s needs to be met.”