

WHAT IS HOPE? – Lessons from Syria

June 18, 2020 By MIKE BURNARD

Romans 8:24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

On 17 June 202 Syria was dealt an economic blow as the USA enforced the toughest U.S. sanctions yet. The new law prevents anyone around the world from doing business with Syrian officials or state institutions or from participating in the war-ravaged country's reconstruction. This applies to missions, humanitarian work, relief work, medical assistance, and any other form of development. Analysts say the new sanctions will be a heavy blow to a country where, according to the United Nations, eight out of 10 people make less than \$100 a month. The Syrian government called the sanctions "economic terrorism." Prices of essential goods are now beyond the reach of many. (www.incontextinternational.org/2020/06/17/)

Upon hearing the devastating news, I immediately connected with Christian leaders in Syria to hear their perspectives. **"God is almighty and can change every - thing to good. We have HOPE!"** was the response.

If hope lies in the unseen (*Romans 8:24*) then we who see, and always seek, demand and question the existence of faith, have much to learn about hope from those who live in the unseen. We have so much to learn from the Church in Syria. And instead of providing a whole devotion on HOPE, I would like to post one or two pictures of people who were able to look beyond the horizon and see something that everybody else missed. **This is hope!**

And there are the unseen sounds of daily life built on hope, not on circumstances. Finding the beauty in the unseen and hope in the expectations of faith.

This is hope! Thank you Syria for seeking the unseen and teaching us that, in a season of despair, there is a future, there is joy and there are sounds to listen to that points to a better future!

<https://thethirdway.org/what-is-hope-lessons-from-syria/>



Prayer † News



SYRIA - THE UNSEEN FUTURE



SYRIA - THE UNSEEN SOUNDS

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MAKING HOPE VISIBLE

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URGENT CALL TO PRAY FOR IRAN

Violent protests have filled the streets. Coronavirus has spread through the country. And the authorities are tightening the bonds of oppression.

It's hard for Christians in Iran to see beyond despair. Since the start of this year, SAT-7 has received many calls and messages from distressed Iranian Christians. One viewer said, "We are tired of this world surrounded by tragedies, bad news, poverty and problems."

Many of them are completely alone, as oppression stops believers from meeting together openly.

"My prayer for the personal faith of people in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan is that the Lord will give them the strength and the resources to continue to grow in their faith, and that they will not lose courage. I pray that through their faith, they will be witnesses of what God can offer us in our lives," concludes Panayiotis Keenan, Executive Director of SAT-7 PARS.

Please support our Iranian brothers and sisters at this tense and difficult time with the following prayer:

PRAYER FOR IRAN

Our heavenly Father, we lift up to You the nation of Iran. Our hearts break when we consider the trials that the Iranian Church, and the whole country, are facing. Please give Christians there the strength to stand firm, the faith to keep trusting You and the love that they need to bind them together. Please comfort Iranians who are scared, sick or grieving. Reveal Yourself to them in Christ and give them real hope.

We ask You also to direct the political leaders in Iran. Please overrule their decisions to benefit the weak, vulnerable and poor in the country.

We ask this all in the powerful Name of Jesus, Amen.

Watch: [PERSONAL FAITH FROM IRANIANS VIDEO PLAYLIST](#)



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN EUROPE

“Praise God for new Persian believers who were saved from their fear of death, found eternal life, and were granted new birth.”

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“On my birthday, I was so lonely that I wanted to end my life. I asked SAT-7 TÜRK for a Bible to see what it said about suicide. Now I read it every day and have hope. Thank God that you are His instrument to work this change in my life.”

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

“Three years ago I was in backward extremism. I am now full of joy for my Father’s love. Pray others will find joy in the Lord.”

FROM A VIEWER IN SYRIA

“War and destruction and poverty seem endless. Pray for me to overcome depression due to these conditions and find a true source of hope.”

FROM A VIEWER IN MOROCCO

“I am a new Christian. How can I meet another Christian, so we can talk? Ask God to help me find a Bible.”

MIRACLES DURING PANDEMIC



An Egyptian doctor called the SAT-7 KIDS program *Family of Jesus* during Easter, asking for prayers as he was attending to COVID-19 patients in a quarantine hospital. The *Family of Jesus* team prayed with him live on air. The doctor later contacted the program to share what happened.

“I want to share with you some good news. After you prayed for us on Saturday 25 April, there was a sudden divine response to your prayers in the hospital.

On Monday, 14 cases were healed of the virus and left the hospital. On Tuesday, 9 cases were healed. On Wednesday, 12 cases were healed. The Lord made a shift in the hospital mood from one of depression and sorrow to one of joy and happiness. All this happened in three days after *Family of Jesus* prayed. In my prayer request I asked for healing for the patients as well as God’s protection over the medical crew as we were required to work in the hospital for 15 days and couldn’t go home.

On the last day of our shift, the medical crew – 85 people including myself – were tested and not one of us was infected with the virus. Thank God for His care for all of us.”

- Give thanks for the extra efforts staff members have made to keep live broadcasts running and to create special episodes during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN EGYPT

“My teenage son is addicted to drugs. Pray for him to accept Jesus as his God and to be freed from this destructive addiction.”

FROM A VIEWER IN AFGHANISTAN

“My friend wants to leave the country. Pray for wisdom and safety for him and that we can be re-united someday.”

FROM A VIEWER IN ALGERIA

“When I saw the child marriage clip, I remembered my own marriage. Pray for me to have strength to fight for my daughter, so this does not happen to her.”

Throughout COVID-19, SAT-7 KIDS has been a loving and familiar hand for children to hold when nothing else feels normal. But maintaining this consistency not only involves presenters and production teams. Behind the scenes, SAT-7 KIDS Audience Relations are a direct line of support for young hearts across the Middle East.

- Pray the Lord will pour His wisdom and words through those who answer viewers, so their responses meet each inquirer’s spoken and unspoken needs.