

NEW YEAR PRAISE OVERFLOWS IN CAIRO

انا فرحان باهتف مجدداً ليك

In Cairo this New Year's Eve, so many believers gathered to begin 2019 in an atmosphere of praise and prayer that the 3,000-capacity Kasr el Dobra Evangelical Church (KDEC) had to expand into the street.

SAT-7 live-streamed the second of two New Year's Eve celebrations from the church. Together they drew some 8,000 worshippers. As 3,000 participated in the main chapel and overflow rooms, a thousand more at both services braved a bitterly cold evening and sang their praises in the street by following the service on a large screen.

Under the title *More of Jesus*, the church's senior pastor, Dr Sameh Maurice, took the theme of making room in a different direction. "If I'm filled with myself," he said, "there won't be space for Christ to increase in me." Maurice quoted John the Baptist (John 3:30), saying, "He must increase, but I must decrease".

Eva Botros, one of the pastors at the church, admitted: "We expected fewer people this year because of the cold, but it didn't prevent people from coming. The worship was great – full of joy and life – and the message was very touching."

"THE WHOLE DIFFERENCE"

Despite the high numbers attending, KDEC sees its ministry as one to the nation as a whole. With this in mind, Eva stressed how valuable it is to have the service streamed on SAT-7.

"It makes the whole difference!" she enthused. "Eight thousand can come to our church, but the number of people watching weekly through SAT-7 is 200,000. In a country of 100 million it isn't enough to serve those who can come to the church. We need to reach across the whole country, to Upper and Lower Egypt."

Eva often visits these areas as part of the church's social action programme, and is thrilled to hear many tell her of the "life-changing experiences they have by watching on SAT-7".

CLIMAX

The New Year's Eve celebration wasn't the only great gathering broadcast on SAT-7 ARABIC at the start of this year. On 4 January, KDEC played host to the Christmas Celebration of

the Evangelical Church – the body linking most of the country's Protestant churches. Representatives of the government and Al-Azhar university, the leading Muslim seat of learning, were in attendance. They heard Evangelical Church President Dr Andrea Zaki emphasise how the manger gathered people of diverse economic, social and religious backgrounds – from shepherds to Magi. "Accepting the other is essential for a resilient community," he said.

A NEW HOME FOR PRAISE

With Eastern Christmas falling on 7 January, another significant service was streamed live across the region.

On 6 January, the Orthodox Christmas Eve service was broadcast from the newly built Cathedral of the Nativity, which is the largest cathedral in the Middle East.

The building, located in Egypt's new administrative capital outside Cairo, had been opened the very same day by Egyptian President Abdel Al-Sisi.

SAT-7 BRINGS JOY TO THE NEEDY AT CHRISTMAS

Two special productions have been prepared for SAT-7 KIDS' Christmas schedule. The crew visited a children's cancer hospital in Cairo, Egypt to bring joy to the young patients. Another production offers children insight on Christ's humble beginnings by filming in a manger.

Despite financial restraints on SAT-7's productions, the studios have managed to produce many entertaining and spiritually enriching programs for its Christmas schedule.

SAT-7 KIDS VISITS CHILDREN'S CANCER HOSPITAL

Assanabel News visited a children's cancer hospital in Cairo, Egypt, to bring Christmas joy to young patients. A special celebration was organised by St John Church of Cairo; a fun and colourful performance with dancing, singing and drama.

The children learned about the message of love and hope, from the volunteers of St John Church who planned the event and were given the chance to send Christmas wishes to their loved ones on camera.

"We wanted to bring some joy to these children whose lives have become restricted to medicines, syringes and cannulas," says Producer Mounir Zakhary. "It's enough the pain they are going through, they deserve joy."

APPRECIATING CHRIST'S HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Another Christmas production took place in a real-life manger. The program shows children where Jesus was born and the circumstances of his birth. Thirteen-year-old presenter, Amira, sits on the hay among donkeys, cows and goats in a manger and tells young viewers of the birth of Jesus Christ. She explains to children why their God humbled Himself to be born in the least expected place.

Rising up from the hay, Amira explains, "This place is so uncomfortable as you can see, but Jesus was born in a place like this. He could have chosen to be born in a castle but the birth of Jesus in the manger teaches us love. He loves all of us, the rich and the poor, and teaches us humility."

"Many children don't know what a manger looks like and can't imagine what it would be like to be born there," describes Producer Mounir Zakhary. "We wanted to film there and show them what Jesus did for their sake."

“

I've got some good news for you, news that will lift up high the name of Jesus. I'm really pleased to tell you that my son who suffered from cancer in his spine made it through his operation, and he is now healed. He is walking now.

Praise to the Lord who has answered our prayers. I want you to announce this on air and tell everybody that whatever they ask from the Lord in His Name in prayer, they will receive it, according to His Divine will.

- From a mother in Egypt

Contact details in SA:

PO Box 72646, Lynnwood Ridge Pretoria 004 SOUTH AFRICA
www.sat7sa.org
southafrica@sat7.org
+27 83 628 6488
+27 12 807 2763

Banking details in SA:

SAT-7 South Africa
ABSA / Branch code : 632005
Cheque account : 93-1343-4717
Please state name and address with deposit

**MAKING
LOVE
VISIBLE**