

Prayer and Praise

SHARING EASTER WITH THE SUFFERING CHURCH

“The message of Easter is one of hope, victory, and love for all humankind. We want to share this message with our viewers through our Easter programming,” says Executive Director Panayiotis Keenan.

Many new believers in Iran face persecution for their faith; attending church or celebrating Easter is prohibited or dangerous. This underground church is forced to meet in smaller circles to lower the risk of being discovered.

Uncovered secret groups are often socially ostracised; they are forced out of schools, jobs, or communities. Many have stopped attending home churches as reports of Christians being arrested for their faith is not a rare occurrence.

“Isolated Persian believers want to feel a part of the global Church in celebrating Christ’s resurrection, and SAT-7 PARS gives them a way to do so,” says Keenan.

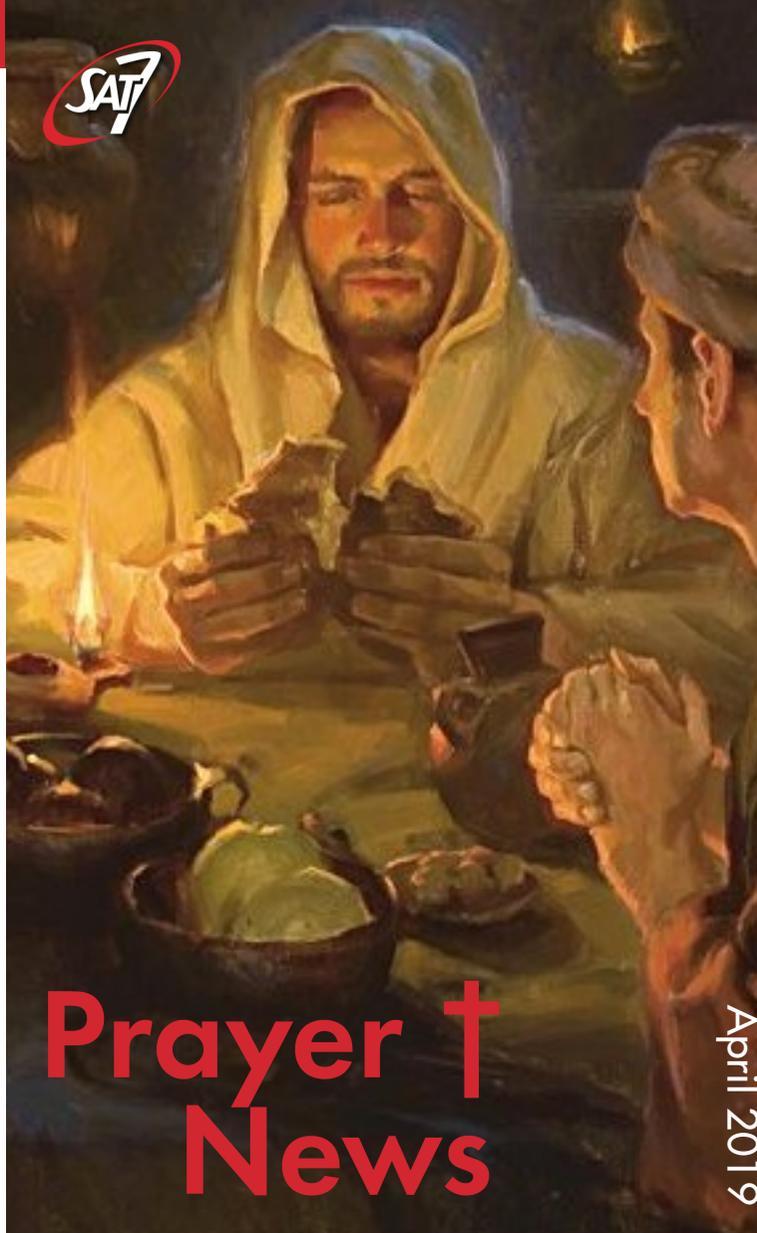
“The cross is the foundation of our faith. It is important for us to offer many programs to our viewers; to explain, remember and celebrate the Lord’s sacrifice for us all.”

“Our audience may know what Easter is about, but how have they responded? What impact does the resurrection of Jesus have on their daily lives, and how are they moving forward in their faith?” asks Pastor Milton, challenging the viewers in the weekly SAT-7 PARS live show, *Our Neighbourhood*,

Pastor Milton will also lead Holy Communion, live on the show, and invite viewers to join in their own homes. This is significant, not just because it is Easter, but because many will not be able to attend such a service in their own country or language: “This is a chance for our audience to feel connected to the global Church.”

The programs that SAT-7 PARS will be broadcasting over the Easter period, provide viewers with a deeper understanding of the significance of Easter and encourage them to look beyond the surface of tradition.

- **“This Easter, my prayer is that our viewers will experience Jesus’ resurrection power in their lives and that they will continue to grow in their faith and shine Christ’s light,” says Keenan.**



Prayer + News

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MAKING HOPE VISIBLE

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Prayer and Praise

BIBLE COMMENTARY IS A LANDMARK FOR THE ARAB WORLD

What does the Bible have to say about the specific experiences of people living today in the Arab world? What guidance does it offer to Christians in Arab societies?

These are some of the questions tackled by a unique new Bible commentary whose Cairo launch event was screened recently on SAT-7.

The Arabic Contemporary Commentary on the Bible (ACCB) is the fruit of ten years of collaboration by Bible scholars from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories.

In a region where only a few contemporary Christian books are in Arabic and written by people living in an Arab context, it is also the fulfilment of a dream.

“This commentary is a dream that we had eleven years ago of having a commentary that addresses the contemporary Middle East,” Dr Andrea Zaki, President of the Protestant Churches in Egypt, explained.

“The commentary isn’t about the Bible text only, but the contributors interpreted the Bible text and seek to show how it affects our daily lives towards the different challenges we face.”

“But the audience of this book isn’t restricted to Christians only,” he stressed. “This book is written for anyone who speaks Arabic from any culture or religious background. It is written in language that is understandable by the average reader.”

Looking to the future, he said, “We want to see the Bible changing the Church so that the Church under God can change society. Our hope and prayer is that this Arabic Contemporary Bible will prove to be an invaluable, trustworthy companion for all those who preach and teach the Bible.”

- **Praise God for the Arabic Bible Commentary.**
- **Give thanks for the many scholars from different countries who worked together on this project.**
- **Pray this Commentary will be an invaluable companion for those preaching and teaching the Bible.**

Read article: <http://www.sat7sa.org/News%20Update.php?id=nup201904>



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN JORDAN

“I want to go back to Iraq, but everything is destroyed. Now, my dream as a mother is to go to the US and live in safety with my sons and grandsons. Then, when I die, I will be in peace, because I have seen my children grow up.”

FROM A VIEWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“I used to be full of hate. I trained with an extremist group. I stumbled on your channel and a seed was planted. I repented and gave my life to Christ. Pray for other young men like me.”

FROM A VIEWER IN OMAN

“My brother and I have no church. We feel like we are the only Christian family in our country. Pray for some Christian fellowship for us.”

FROM A VIEWER IN EGYPT

“I am disgusted with violence in the name of religion and desperate for real faith and hope. Pray for me and my family as we seek the truth.”

As arrests of Christians escalate in some areas in the Middle East and North Africa, plead for courage, wisdom, protection, justice, and affective witness for those suffering for their faith.



HOPE THROUGH PERSECUTION

“I would like to thank you for remembering us in your prayers and for sending us these prayers and weekly verses to our personal pages. They are a source of great encouragement! It's truly heart-warming to know we have brothers and sisters that keep us in their prayers and thoughts. Such a blessing. Every single word in these prayers is dear to me because it helps me start off the week feeling blessed.

You have no idea how much your presence and what you do, helps us persevere through all these hardships and persecutions, and how much it strengthens our faith here in Iran. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for you.

We need God's hope. May God bless each and every one of you.”

— Hooman, a male viewer in Iran.

As Christians all around the world celebrate Easter this month, remember brothers and sisters in Christ who are being persecuted for their faith. Pray that believers living in the MENA will have freedom to worship openly, without fear of persecution from the government, friends and even family.



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“My family, even my children, don't want anything to do with me because of my belief in Christ. Pray for my loneliness and that my family will meet Jesus.”

FROM A VIEWER IN DUBAI

“Your beauty and faith shows a picture that honours our God. I pray you always reflect the joy and love of God.”

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

“Thank you for the Bible you sent. I was a prison guard and was touched by a Christian prisoner's honesty. Don't forget to pray for Christian prisoners.”

FROM A SYRIAN REFUGEE IN LEBANON

“My daughter hears praise songs on your channel, lifts her little hands, and wants to be a singer. My other daughter wants to be a doctor, but she can't even go to school now. Pray they will get to fulfil their dreams.”

Plead with God for freedom to worship Him openly in spirit and truth, in every Middle Eastern and North African country.