

QARAQOSH:

THE HOPE THAT ISIS COULD NOT KILL

ISIS were driven out of Qaraqosh in 2016, but it has taken years for refugees to come back. Today, only around half of the once 55,000-strong population has returned.

Parts of the city feel like a ghost town, with empty streets and buildings damaged or lying in ruins. ISIS destroyed, burned, or vandalised every church in the city. At some, the walls are riddled with bullet holes, with images of Jesus gashed and defaced.

But amid the ruins, hope is alive.

Essam Nagy is the SAT-7 Presenter, Producer and Director of the documentary, who visited Qaraqosh. "The place is packed with people," Nagy says in *Sequel of Hope*, "who are eager to be part of the body of Christ ... The whole scene declares the victory of righteousness over darkness and hatred."

Along with the Easter services, the film shows thousands of believers gathered for a Palm Sunday procession.

In a town where Christian families were murdered and buried in mass graves – a town reduced to an insurgent holdout – they dance joyfully through the streets.

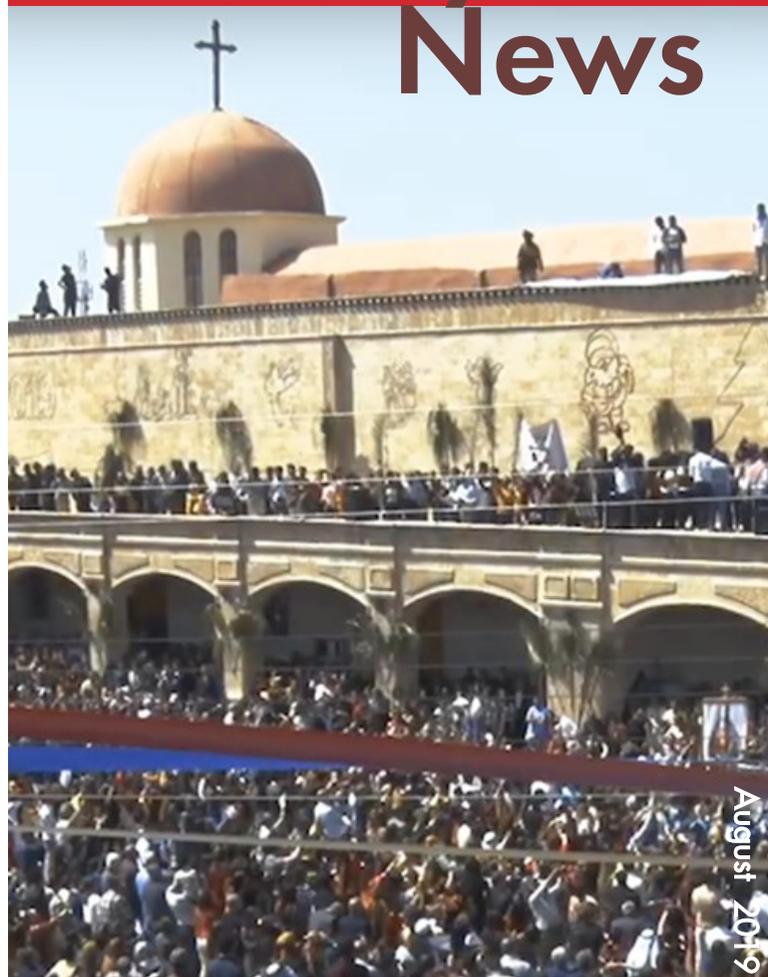
Nagy explains, "The believers of Qaraqosh bear the weight of what they have endured, but they are far from broken. They are there to make a statement – to say, 'It is not so easy to erase us.'"

"ISIS wanted to bring all the crosses down, and they did," continues Nagy. "They wanted to erase all the Syriac and Aramaic inscriptions in the churches, and they did. "But in the end, they couldn't wipe out the hope. There is an 'X-factor' to being a Christian in the Middle East, one that cannot be erased. It is hope. When you lose everything," Nagy says, "nothing is left but what you believe."

- **Pray for Christians who are slowly joining in the repopulation of Mosul, Qaraqosh and the Nineveh Valley, their historic homeland in Iraq.**
- **Pray for the restoration of homes and churches, that the Christian faith would continue to flourish in Qaraqosh and other towns destroyed by ISIS.**



Prayer + News



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MAKING HOPE VISIBLE

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THE POWER OF PRAYER

Many Turkish viewers contact SAT-7 TÜRK's *Power of Prayer* program with prayer requests. They also share testimonies of answered prayers, which are an incredible source of encouragement to the SAT-7 TÜRK staff.

Every day, SAT-7 TÜRK's Audience Relations team receives calls and text messages from curious and interested viewers, who want to ask questions about Christianity or simply give feedback on the many live programs. However, some of the most exciting messages are from viewers who want to share what God has done in their lives.

One such testimony was shared by a regular viewer from Turkey, Cevdet, who called SAT-7 TÜRK to tell them how their prayer for him had been answered. "Thank you all very much for calling me back. The last time we talked, I had many troubles and problems. I asked you to pray for me, and we prayed together. When I was talking to you, I had serious back pains, but an hour later, they were gone!"

Not only does God perform miracles in SAT-7 TÜRK's viewer's lives, He uses these stories to fuel the energy, passion, and creativity in the staff as well. "These are a huge blessing for us," says Nora Isoğlu, a member of the SAT-7 TÜRK staff, passionately. "When we hear these testimonies, we understand, 'Yes, God really is working everywhere.' As a result, we can pray with more faith and conviction today."

Things are, however, far from over for Cevdet. "I have some spiritual problems; I feel like I am under the influence of evil spirits. In recent weeks though, I have started to feel much better, especially after you prayed for me. I thank God that He has answered your prayers!" This is the beginning of Cevdet's journey with God. He has now received a Bible and adds: "I believe that my life will be changed by reading it. Please continue praying for me."

- **Pray for Cevdet and viewers like him in Turkey, as they recognise God's work in their lives. Pray that they remain in touch with SAT-7 TÜRK staff so that they may be a source of support and comfort to one another. Pray with more faith and conviction today, as you too recognise that God is working everywhere.**



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN EGYPT

“Pray for my sons to break away from friends who sell them drugs and to find young people who know Jesus instead.”

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

“I have been working as a temporary wife in exchange for money, to feed my children. Help me know how to stop this lifestyle and follow God.”

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“I am not ready to tell my family that I am a Christian, but I want to show love and kindness in all aspects of my life. Pray that I will have courage and the right words.”

FROM A VIEWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“I have a court hearing coming up. Pray that I will never deny Christ, no matter how much pressure there is.”

FROM A VIEWER IN SYRIA

“I am tired and heartbroken by what I see around me. Now with Christ, I have peace, and don’t fear being killed.”

Pray for this young person’s growth.

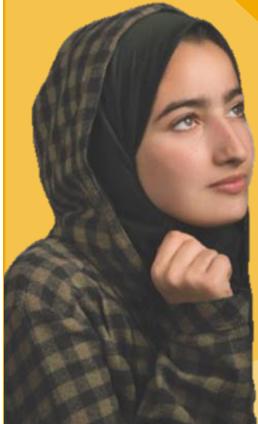
FROM PRIDE TO HUMILITY

Pride gets in the way of healthy relationships, and putting aside that pride after an argument can be very difficult and almost impossible for some. However, through the Holy Spirit, God can transform destructive pride into a spirit of humility.

Elsa, a viewer in Iran, shared her testimony of how she was able to overcome her pride with the SAT-7 PARS Audience Relations team.

“Greetings and blessing to my wonderful brothers and sisters! May the living God grant you blessing and health. Tonight, because of Jesus Christ, I was able to break my pride.

I had an argument with someone close to me, I don’t know to what extent either of us was at fault. However, as I was listening to brother Milton and sister Rosita on the *Principles of Faith* program, the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to my heart and told me to set aside my pride and take the first step in apologising and asking for forgiveness.” Deciding to obey God’s word, Elsa knows that she has done the right thing, as the spirit of humility was accompanied by peace. “I believe that putting aside my pride has caused me to have peace in my heart. I also believe that it has brought glory to the name of Jesus Christ, especially since the person I had the argument with knew that I am a Christian. I didn’t want my faith to be questioned and I was keen to demonstrate that a believing Christian should display the best behaviour.”



“The reason I was able to forgive was because the Lord Jesus Christ forgave my sins. How light we become when we give our burdens to the Lord! Thank God for Christ, the living God who grants peace to our hearts.”



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN JORDAN

“My family escaped from ISIS in Iraq. Pray we can all get visas to Australia to start a fresh life, and so I can go to school again.”

FROM A VIEWER IN ALGERIA

“For 23 years my husband beat me, and I begged for divorce. Then he heard about Jesus, accepted Him, and changed. With my eyes shut, I accepted Christ who changed my husband. Rejoice with us.”

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“I came to Jesus because of a movie. It made me seek the Creator of the universe.”

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

“In May, authorities locked our church, took down the cross, and installed cameras. Help me act like Christ and forgive them.”

FROM A VIEWER IN AFGHANISTAN

“I am lonely and abused. I’ve fasted and read religious books but am still depressed. Help me find the God of peace and hope.”