

## DEDICATION OF CHURCH IN EGYPT

Exactly three years after the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians on a Libyan beach horrified the world, a new church in the Egyptian village of Al-Aour, has been dedicated in their memory.

SAT-7 filmed the packed inauguration service (15 Feb) at the new Church of the Martyrs of Faith and Homeland, broadcasted online on 22 February and via satellite TV on 1 March.

Over 500 Coptic Christians who had travelled from across Minya governorate crowded into the church for a dedication service led by Bishop Bevnoutious, Coptic Orthodox Bishop of Samalout.

In a service that mixed joy and tears, one of the most poignant moments occurred when Bishop Bevnoutious anointed the altar, inscribed with the names of all 21 of the young Christian martyrs on its sides.

“Today we remember our martyrs who were killed in Libya three years ago,” the bishop said. “Knives were held to their throats to deny their faith after forty days of being kidnapped, insulted, and threatened. But like the martyrs of every era in the history of our church, they held on to Christ. They are an example for us to hold on to our faith and to Christ regardless of circumstances. They are now in heaven praying for us”. He went on to remind worshippers of the approximately 120 other Coptic Christians killed in [terrorist attacks](#) on Egyptian soil since December 2016.

Nashwa Louis, the SAT-7 director who filmed the event, said he had expected to find villagers “sad and grieving, but they were joyous and consoled. The church is magnificent and huge and it was filled with people. Even the area outside was crowded with Christians from the village. They were overjoyed so much it felt like a celebration.”

- **Thank God for the new church in Al-Aour. Give thanks for the dedicated Christians in Upper Egypt.**
- **Ask God’s protection for the Christians in Egypt.**
- **Give God praise for the Egyptian Christians who are speaking of love and forgiveness in the face of recent violent attacks against their communities. Ask that this witness will lead many to a new life in Christ.**



March 2018

Dedication service in Al-Aour

MAKING  
HOPE  
VISIBLE

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## LIFTING ONE VOICE IN SONG

SAT-7 recently filmed a series of music videos in Lebanon, to unite believers from different Christian traditions together in praise.

Lebanon is home to a rich diversity of Christian believers. Whilst there are evangelical churches like the Resurrection Church in Beirut, the majority of Lebanon’s Christians are from the Maronite, Orthodox and Melkite Catholic traditions.

SAT-7 producer Andrew Gamal recently travelled to Lebanon, where his team produced an ambitious 40 videos in just three days, representing the different musical styles of the region.

Among the musical talent was the Saint Rafqa Choir,\* a Lebanese Maronite choir headed up by nun Sister Marana Saad.

The choir mainly sings sacred Maronite music and is devoted to “the prayerful expression of the Word through the medium of beautiful music.”

Gamal recalled the joy of filming one of the Choir’s songs in particular, recorded on the last day of filming. Although the whole team was tired, the song, based on Psalm 121, had a profound impact on Gamal.

“When they started singing, I felt the Spirit of God in that place,” Gamal said. “Tears came to my eyes, and I felt I did not deserve to be there to hear it.”

By introducing viewers to music that they may not have otherwise heard, SAT-7 helps promote understanding and unity between believers of different backgrounds.

If people see and hear Jesus in the worship, Gamal said, they will see the genuine faith of people in other denominations. “Music is a universal way to talk about Jesus,” he said. “Even viewers who cannot understand the language can relate to the emotion.”

- **Thank God for the power of music in uniting believers in worship! Pray that the new SAT-7 music videos would speak to people’s hearts.**
- **Thank God for the diversity of believers in Lebanon, and pray they would have unity as one body and one voice.**

\* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_iKww71nd8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_iKww71nd8)



# MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

**From a viewer in Iran** - "Thank you for the Bible you sent, but my parents took it away. Now I have to sleep in the parks or at friends' homes. Could you please send another Bible and also pray for my relationship with my family?"

**From a viewer of Afghanistan** - "Help me know what the truth about God is. Does He really hear my prayers and care about my troubles?"

**From a viewer in Morocco** - "I admire the program *We Will Sing*...I enjoy your songs over internet and your channel. My lifestyle has changed because I am closer to God... "  
(Thank God and pray for this viewer's spiritual growth.)

**After watching the Kasr El Doubara Evangelical Church service on SAT-7, Shadia from Saudi Arabia wrote us:** "I start my day with you. I need the support that I always receive from you! Thank you."

**Saeed from Iran, a new believer, wrote to us:** "Thank you for praying with me to Christ. After long research, I have seen how different Christ is from the other prophets. He is the only one who had never committed any sins, never used any violence to prove His way, and He is the right role model for me to follow. Again, thank you for helping me get closer to Him."



# SHIRIN'S STORY

From the age of three, I tried to get God closer to me through prayer, but my prayers were like a ritual. I did not hear Him once. His silence and my inability to hear Him had made me hurt, depressed and troubled. The closer I tried getting to Him, the more I thought He didn't hear me or didn't want to talk to me.

On your programmes, I heard people saying that they are able to hear the voice of God, so I wondered, why couldn't I? This made me eager to follow your programmes.

Now, I understand better how to pray because of your programmes: that I am to invite God into my life and not try to force Him to act; and to be genuine by confessing my sins.

As soon as I prayed in this way I heard His voice talking to me for the first time, saying, "Remain in my love" John 15:9. Although I had never read His Word, He started to speak it to me. From then on, my broken heart was healed.

It was God who took the step towards me, and not I – His work, not mine. All I had to do to get to know Him was to genuinely invite Him in. Since then He is with me and we commune daily."

- Shirin, Turkey

- **Thank God that Shirin learnt to hear His voice, and pray His blessing on her today.**
- **Ask that many more people in Turkey would hear God's voice through watching SAT-7.**
- **Pray that God would give His wisdom to the SAT-7 response teams who offer counsel and advice to viewers. Thank God for the difference these interactions are having in people's lives.**

# MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

**From a viewer in Turkey** - "I have been following your programs and have seen the faith you have. Can you pray for me to grow in my faith?"

**From a viewer in Iraq** - "I don't understand about the Christian practice of forgiveness. Help me understand more about this peaceful way of life."

**From a viewer in Iran** - "I am a new believer and I love having fellowship and worshipping, so I travel eight hours to go to church."

**From a viewer in Algeria** - "SAT-7 KIDS is the only channel that I feel comfortable to let my children watch. I pray that God will protect you and keep you, SAT-7."

**Amir from Iran** - "It's been a few years that I knew about Christ, but I got to know who He truly is on your channel. I had a lot of problems and I was struggling with people accusing me, until one day I watched one of your worship programs. I received such a peace that I was so eager to know more than I started following your programs."

**After watching "My School" program on SAT-7, Melad from Egypt wrote to us:** "I like to watch My School. I didn't know how to write in French but thanks to your channel, my French is much better now. Thank you!"