

Prayer and Praise

EGYPT: CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS GOES AHEAD

Hundreds of Egyptian Christians recently gathered for worship festivals in Egypt within 15 miles of site of terrorist attack near Maghagha that claimed the lives of 28 believers in May.

Three major conferences have been held in the volatile Minya area. **The Show Me Your Glory II** conference united members of all 17 Evangelical denominations of Egypt.

Two **Days of Harvest** conferences, organised by Kasr El Dohara Church in Cairo, were held in Etsa and Maghagha.

Three large festivals have been held at Wadi Natroun. The **One Thing** prayer festival and **Count it Right**, a family festival, gathered several thousand people, while the **Freedom Meeting** conference drew different congregations.

Buses taking worshippers to the conferences took different roads to their destinations and arrangements were made with Egypt's security forces. Nevertheless, Egyptian Christians' willingness to travel after a wave of terrorism shows their depth of faith and refusal to surrender to fear.

Live broadcasts on SAT-7 ARABIC, social media and *YouTube* took these festivals directly into the homes of viewers across the entire Arab world.

Reactions from those who watched the conferences online: "God bless you all." "May God touch each one of the coming generation." "My dear SAT-7 team," wrote a man from Oman: "Thanks to you for carrying the message of salvation to millions especially to those for whom TV becomes the only way they can watch it. I am a regular viewer of SAT-7 for many years. It's hard to put into words how I have been interacting via TV with the conferences."

In his message at one conference, Dr Zaki encouraged the people of Egypt: "Our country has lost many martyrs. We shouldn't think that Jesus doesn't respond to our current storms. We should approach the challenges as Jesus would, to neither blame others nor abuse our own power. God has the power to calm the storm."

- **Thank God for the perseverance and faith He gives the Christians in Egypt. Please pray for their safety.**
- **Give thanks for what God is doing in Egypt – in creating a hunger for Him and uniting believers.**

Prayer + News

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COMMUNITY GRIEVES PRIEST'S MURDER

The recent attack on Egypt's Coptic community has once again shaken Christians and non-Christians alike.

Father Samaan was from Beni Suef in Upper Egypt, but a pastoral visit brought him to Cairo. As he was returning to the church after visiting a family, he was chased down and viciously stabbed to death on Thursday 12 October.

On SAT-7 ARABIC's program *Keep on Singing*, condolences were extended to the family of the late Fr Samaan. The team lifted them to God in prayer, asking Him to fill them with His peace. Hymn singer and choir leader Samuel Farouk said that he knew Fr Samaan personally:

"He had the love and humility of Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord that He allowed me to meet with Fr Samaan and spend time with him. I saw the love of Jesus in him in an amazing way."

Farouk prayed for the late priest's family: "We pray for heavenly condolences to fill the house of late Fr Samaan. Bring grace and peace to his family and to the Church who are grieving."

A meeting in the Brethren Church, Heliopolis, broadcast on SAT-7 ARABIC, also had a time of reflection. Dr Farid Zaky recognised that many people were affected by this incident, as well as the previous attacks against the Christian community in Egypt. "His killing has undoubtedly caused considerable pain and outrage in many," Dr Zaky said. "Jesus taught us that His words are in the hearts of His followers, and we will continue to pray even for those who hate us."

- **Please join SAT-7 in prayer for Fr Samaan's family and for the Christian community of Egypt.**
- **Over 100 Coptic Christians have been murdered in the past year. This includes the stabbing death of Fr Samaan last month. Pray for protection and peace for the Coptic believers.**
- **Give God praise for the Egyptian Christians who are speaking of love and forgiveness. Ask that this Christian witness will lead many to new life in Christ.**
- **Ask for strength and an effective witness for them.**



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

From a viewer in Afghanistan – “We want to tell our friends about Jesus and about your programs. Pray we can share God’s love clearly and can connect with other believers.”

From a viewer in Iran – “Thank God for your *Telegram* forum. When our church was shut down, our fellowship was through you. My sister is in Greece and is still using *Telegram*.”

From a viewer in Oman – “Thank you for broadcasting important events... (such as the One Thing conference). God’s presence was amongst the attendees and renewed the strength of believers and churches. Praise God!”

From a viewer in Turkey – “Ever since I began to know Jesus a few months ago, I look forward to the future. Thank the Lord for helping me grow and get to know Him through your programs.”

From a viewer in Germany – “I used to live under persecution and had to keep my faith secret. Now I’m in Germany, and your programs still bless me.”

From a viewer in Syria – “Pray for me to get a Bible so I can learn about Jesus from beginning to end. I believe He can shine a light into these dark days.”

From a viewer in Iran – “I tried to go to church, but non-Christian background people are prohibited from church buildings. I went to some other meetings, but arrests stopped those. Thank God I can watch your programs on my phone and read the books you sent to my phone.”



“GOD IS WITH US AT EVERY MOMENT”

Shamiram, a Syrian refugee, shares with SAT-7 her testimony. Her family saw horrible things, underwent periods of poverty, and survived battles in Aleppo, Syria, yet, Shamiram kept her faith.

Before the war, everything was normal. And, for some time afterwards, life retained its ordinary rhythm. “We lived a normal life in Aleppo despite the war.” But then, the battles reached Shamiram and her family.

“It was beyond the works of fiction ...” Shamiram shared quietly on an episode of *New Eve*. Filmed jointly by SAT-7 and Square One World media, *New Eve* looks to help women in search of hope through personal testimonies like Shamiram’s. By sharing the effects of war on her life, Shamiram hopes that women across the Middle East will find hope regardless of the hopeless situations they face.

FINDING HOPE

“Then the war reached us and we saw horrible things that don’t even amount to what we see on TV or in movies.” Shamiram and her family watched as what felt like the works of science fiction took place in their own backyard. The stresses of battles, brutal killings, and the threat of torture – or worse – affected Shamiram’s family. So much so that her husband unexpectedly had a heart attack in 2011. After 20 days in a coma, he passed away.

The family relied on him for financial support so difficulties were inevitable. Yet, as Shamiram shared, there was hope. “God helped us.” Sometime later, things got worse when her son and daughter couldn’t go to work. The continuous explosions made working impossible. Yet, there was still hope. “The Lord saved us miraculously from many incidents that were a calamity to others.”

“GOD IS WITH US AT EVERY MOMENT”

- CONTINUED

When the brutal and merciless militia, the Al-Nusra Front, invaded Shamiram’s street, there was still hope. It seemed as though there was no one to stop them as they approached Shamiram’s home. But Shamiram clung to her faith. “I had peace. I made breakfast and coffee and told my son and daughter to come and have breakfast. They were surprised at this. Shortly, the Syrian army came into our street and fought Al-Nusra Front militias all day until 8:00 pm. We watched the whole fight. The Lord saved us.”

As things got worse, Shamiram decided it was time to leave Syria. Even though the trip was perilous, Shamiram and her children left for a better life in Egypt with family. “Our trip to Egypt was full of missiles, snipers and fights along the way.” Still, there was hope.

“The Lord protected us. I was afraid but I prayed all the time in the bus against these evil wars against us.” Miraculously, Shamiram and her family arrived in Egypt safely. “The people couldn’t believe we arrived safely from this road!”

Now Shamiram and her family feel safe and peaceful as they adjust to a new life in Egypt. And, thanks to her willingness to share her story, millions of women are finding hope despite the situations they are facing.

- Ask our Father to give courage to those in danger, guidance to the displaced, release to the imprisoned, peace to the grieving, and effective witness for all suffering for their faith.
- Ask the Holy Spirit’s help for SAT-7’s programmes to support war survivors in their struggles and help them start a new life with hope.