

“THE STOLEN JOY WILL RETURN”

Amid the turmoil and threats of persecution, SAT-7 is helping Syrian Christians take comfort in Jesus. The encouraging words of women from war-torn Aleppo, broadcast on SAT-7 ARABIC, helped show viewers, in similar situations, that God is with them.

At a church event broadcast by SAT-7, church member Mona described the perils faced by countless Christians and the incredible faith of one believer, even when he was faced with death.

“A young man named Abdel used to attend services here. He was a quiet man but always praying,” Mona said. “Abdel was a doctor who offered much-needed medical services for free after war broke out. Soon enough,” Mona continued, “Daesh (IS) militants came to the city and captured him. They threatened to kill Abdel unless he denounced his faith, but he refused and was executed.”

Despite the threats they face, Christians in Syria are turning to God and able to see His blessings. Another church attendee, Therese, described how God’s grace spared her and her family. Therese said: “Walking along the street after visiting our relatives, we heard a terrifyingly loud explosion. We are no better than those who were killed, but because we still have a role here to witness to the goodness of our Lord, He is good and protects us. Each one of us has a role among her family, her friends, her neighbours, to witness to the Lord, His goodness and His eternal mercy.”

Well-known speaker Dr Yvette Elbayadi Isaac also encouraged the congregation and SAT-7’s viewers, saying: “People around the world are praying for the Church in Syria. [We believe] all that was stolen from us will be returned, the stolen joy and security will return.”

- **Plead for reduced violence in the Middle East. Intercede for those displaced, injured, and suffering.**
- **Praise God for faithful church leaders who are remaining in dangerous areas to serve their struggling congregation and to mentor those who want to know God more. Pray for believers in dangerous areas. Ask that they may keep the Christian faith alive.**

Prayer & News

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MAKING
HOPE
VISIBLE

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MODERN-DAY HEROES OF FAITH IN IRAN

“They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – the world was not worthy of them.” (Hebrews 11:37-38)

Right now, we have Christian brothers and sisters across the Middle East and North Africa living in the face of violent oppression. Iranian Christians in particular face different kinds of subversive persecution that has put a tight squeeze on their livelihoods.

Mansour Khajehpour, former Executive Director of SAT-7 PARS, came to Christ from a devout Shia background at the age of 15. He says, “If you accept Jesus Christ in Iran, you keep this between you and your wife or husband. Around you, there are spies who will betray you, so it has to stay in your heart. People constantly lose their jobs, are disowned by their communities and family members, are kicked out of schools and workplaces, and are beaten on the streets. I have the joy and honour of saying I personally experienced most of those.”

Viewers contact SAT-7 counsellors to ask for prayer, encouragement and fellowship during isolating times. They face trials that would be uncommon in the Western world, but they are courageous heroes.

Sam contacts SAT-7 to say, “Thank you for your kindness and for supporting me with the Word of Truth. I didn’t expect people to react so aggressively when I told them about the Bible. I had no peace when it first happened. But today I’m at peace and have no fear because I truly feel that God is with me. I always pray, and I believe in the power of prayer. **To pray in the name of Jesus Christ is mighty.**”

- **Pray for God’s protection for the believers of home groups that are considered illegal in their country.**
- **Several church leaders in Iran have recently been sentenced to long terms in prison. Pray for their courage, protection, peace of mind, and release.**
- **Ask God to use SAT-7 powerfully to provide fellowship, teaching, and inspiration for believers who have no one with whom to share their faith or to encourage them in person.**



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

Danial from Iran wrote to us: "Praise the Lord for those who have translated God's Word into our language so that we may worship Him in our mother tongue. Pray for me to grow in my faith. Please pray for me to remain faithful to God and His Word. May He bless all His servants in your network."

From a viewer in Saudi Arabia: "You said that God's word is 'a lamp to my feet and light to my path.' Pray for me to be able to get this book with God's word in it."

From a viewer in Iraq: "My husband's pension has not come, and we had to borrow money. I wrote a letter to Jesus, and we were able to pay it off. Thank Him with me."

From a viewer in Qatar: "Although it is difficult for mail to get here now, you sent me those stories. Pray for God to bless you and your ministry."

From a viewer in Algeria: "I didn't know much about Jesus. The programs *First Step* and *Examine the Scripture* helped me know Him. Pray I increase in knowledge of Him."

From a viewer in Egypt - "Since seeing your programs, my family and I are new believers in Jesus. Help us learn more about Him and how to reflect Him to others in daily life."

PEACE ON EARTH – MORE THAN A DREAM?

Grace is an Arab Palestinian Christian who says, "Not only do I love my hometown but also I love Christ, my Lord, Saviour and King whom I serve and live for in this unique place. I chose to stay here and know that God remains faithful no matter what!"

She wrote the following letter from Bethlehem:

For many of the people living in this region, living in peace seems a faraway dream. Everyday life in this land reflects more the chaos, violence and disturbance of earthly kingdoms. Living in turmoil affects every aspect of life: the habits and lifestyles of people; their hopes and dreams; their plans and future. Furthermore, it nurtures hatred and negativity, resentment and agony. They don't know the powerful words Jesus gave to His disciples during His life in this very land: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.' (John 14: 27) Indeed, Jesus never gives as the world does: Jesus' peace is genuine, it never fades...

This is something the world cannot explain because they have never experienced it. It becomes our mission then to be the star that points people to the real treasure. Only when we offer our very best for the true King will we be wise men and women for our generation.

May the cry of our heart be a cry for peace, love, joy and transformation, one step at a time, one person at a time, for the birth of Christ is the hope of peace and reconciliation for the world.

Grace.

Grace received theological training at Bethlehem Bible College and the London School of Theology. She is currently head of Biblical Studies at Bethlehem Bible College and serve her home church "where God does something marvelous every day, despite the ups and downs, the joys and sorrows." - Read her full letter: <http://www.sat7sa.org/News%20Perspective%20Menu.php>



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

From a viewer in Iran - "A family member complained that we are infidels. She wants a large sum of money and is using our faith as manipulation. We have a notice from the court. I refuse to deny my faith in Christ. Please pray for us."

From Gazal in Iran: "Indeed, God sees all our needs, and He knows our thoughts. Your text message was exactly what I needed. In the past, I would receive teachings at church, twice weekly, but it's been a couple of years now, and I feel like a fish outside of water. We all need spiritual food and God's Word to live by. It doesn't matter how long we've been in faith. I have been walking with the Lord for thirty years: I need spiritual food just as much as someone who has become a new believer. This makes your responsibility heavier. We are like sheep that have been separated from the flock. I have to admit that this distance has affected the way I live, talk, and think. I'm upset with myself: being distant from a community has this fading effect on my faith. Sometimes I don't even open the Bible. There was a time that I wouldn't go to bed before reading the Word. Being far from the community of believers is difficult. I ask our Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy on me, Iran, and Iranians, and that we may once again worship our living Saviour in perfect unity, with one voice."