

# Prayer and Praise

## ALGERIA: "THEY CAME WITH GUNS, BUT WE TOLD THEM ABOUT JESUS"

When armed authorities came to close down Riki Church in north-eastern Algeria, they were met with the peace of Christ. In a new SAT-7 documentary, Riki Church's leader and other Algerian pastors speak out, sharing their stories of injustice and how believers are standing for their rights while remaining peacemakers in their communities.

"Three cars showed up here with men carrying Kalashnikovs, as if they were ready to carry out an ambush attack," says Pastor Ibn Aymara Saeed. "But they found we were unarmed. We greeted them and talked to them about Christ. We told them we're Algerians, and we want peace. And that the Bible teaches us to respect the rulers of our country."

Pastor Saeed is the first of three church leaders interviewed in a new SAT-7 ARABIC documentary "Why?" *A Report on Algerian Church Closures*. Filmed on location, the program spotlights a systematic campaign by authorities to close Protestant churches in the Kabyle region, which began in November 2017 and escalated last year.

Despite the church members' assertion of their constitutional rights to worship and the fact that their building met all legal requirements, gendarmes sealed Riki Church in the town of Akbou in July 2018. Since then, the church members have worshipped outside, clinging to their faith and to their love for their country even amid injustice.

"We'll keep meeting in the courtyard until we're arrested or beaten," the pastor says. "This is our expression of protest against the closure of the church. During summer, despite the extreme heat and sweating, the believers held onto their fervour and faith. But it is still difficult. We know that the state and the Algerian people and Muslims are not our enemy. The only thing we want from the government to allow us freedom of religion." [Read article with video clip](#)

- Pray for God's timing to re-open churches closed by authorities, for faith-filled believers, and for effective testimonies sharing spiritual truth.
- Give thanks for the growth of the Church in Algeria!



# Prayer † News



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*Hasan and his wife look at pictures of their old life in Syria on their phone.*

## MAKING HOPE VISIBLE

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# Prayer and Praise

## A DOOR OF HOPE FOR FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

The news cycle has moved on, but in Lebanon over a million Syrian refugees remain. Some 350,000 are camped in the Zahle region of the Bekaa Valley alone. In a recent visit to families there, Katerina Parpa, from SAT-7's International Office, saw the possibility of change amongst their very real struggles.

Hasan and his wife look at pictures of their old life in Syria on their phone. Imagine you have spent a lifetime working long days in the fields. Building your farm with your own hands. Creating a home and a family with your spouse. Then, in an instant, everything is taken away from you. Your crops are set on fire, your home bombed.

You and your family run. When you return a few days later, you find your house ransacked. The tiles you carefully placed lie shattered; the walls you painted are riddled with bullet holes. Your belongings have been looted and your furniture reduced to firewood.

This is Hasan's\* story. We sit together on a bare concrete floor in the tent where he lives now as he shows me images of his ruined Syrian home on his phone. The images of the destruction wrought by ISIS could have been recorded by many of the millions of other displaced Syrians. Like Hasan, they are sitting in camps and other temporary residences, remembering the places they once called home.

"Do you hope to go back to Syria and rebuild your home and farm?" we asked. "No," Hasan replies. He is among many Syrians who have given up hope of ever returning to their homeland. What would they return to?

However, there are ways that hope and support are being brought to refugee families, and one unique way is through the power of satellite television. SAT-7's broadcasts can be a lifeline, nurturing faith and hope for their future.

As we leave another family, they settle in front of the TV watching the worship show *Family of Jesus* on SAT-7 KIDS. The sight of this family with hopes and dreams for the future fills my own heart with hope and a prayer that they, like other families, find their way to continue daring to dream. \*All names changed for security reasons

- Pray for new faith and hope for the many refugees.



# MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

## FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

“I am an asylum seeker and watch your programs via YouTube. I see them as a training course and try to transcribe them word for word.”

*Give thanks for SAT-7 TÜRK programs.*

## FROM A VIEWER IN SAUDI ARABIA

“Sometimes I lose hope when I see situations near me, but there is still hope in people who love Jesus.”

*Pray for God to encourage her.*

## FROM A VIEWER IN PALESTINE

“My cousin age 14 is being forced by her family to marry a man she doesn’t like. Pray for her.”

*Pray that child marriages will be stopped soon.*

## FROM A VIEWER IN EGYPT

“Christianity seems like a peaceful religion. How can I know for sure that it is true?”

**“We ask that people across the world keep the people of Lebanon and Iraq in their prayers; that they would pray specifically for a way forward – a vision for the country – a peaceful roadmap for our future that will show the way for tomorrow, and the future. Please pray that He will give us a vision, as people are worried about how the situation will unfold.”**

- Maroun Bou Rached, SAT-7 Lebanon Office

## NADEE’S STORY: FAITH IN THE FLOOD



Last year, Iran was severely affected by widespread flooding, causing significant loss of life and millions of pounds worth of damage to homes and infrastructure.

Amidst the chaos and fear, several viewers of SAT-7’s Persian channel got in touch to ask for prayer – including one mother, Nadee\*, and her son, Kamran\*, who prayed for a miracle.

“I live in a city where recently it was announced we would be flooded the following day,” Nadee told our viewer support team. “There was even an evacuation order for the neighbourhoods around rivers. I was very concerned for my mother and relatives.

“My seven-year-old son, Kamran, came to me and said, ‘let’s pray’. I didn’t have my mobile phone with me to record his prayer, otherwise I would have shared it with you so you might enjoy it.

“Truth be told, I had never heard him pray in this way, as each time I asked him to pray he said he didn’t know how. In any case, he prayed powerfully in the name of Jesus and said, ‘Amen’. He then said that God will stop the flooding.

“I didn’t know what to say! I really asked for God’s help, because I had seen that Kamran really trusted God and I didn’t want his faith to be damaged. The following day we prayed again, and he said, ‘I know there will be no more floods’ and I said, ‘Yes, the flood just won’t come.’

“Again, I said to God, ‘Please help us, even for the sake of Kamran’s faith.’

“Well, the floods never reached our town! I am so happy. “I recalled the portion in God’s word about God and two of His angels coming to destroy Lot’s home town, and Abraham asked God to not destroy the city for the sake of its believers. God told him He wouldn’t if there were any believers. But here there are still men and women who have faith and God for their sake allowed the calamity to pass us.”

*\*Names changed and image used for representation only*



# MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

## FROM A VIEWER IN EGYPT

“After I listened to your program, I opened my heart! I am delivered from Satan’s bondage and make God my refuge. Praise God.”

## FROM A VIEWER IN SYRIA

“Some orphans and displaced children here have never even seen soap to wash their hands. Give thanks that they are gaining hope and seeing God’s love for them on SAT-7 KIDS.”

## FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

“With current conditions, we turn some people away from churches, because of probable spies among them, especially at holidays. But people need right teaching, fellowship, freedom, and salvation for their families. Join us in praying for them.”

## FROM A VIEWER IN MOROCCO

“I am not a Christian, but I feel the Lord is speaking to me and people from different backgrounds. Pray that people will experience God’s love.”

## FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

“Pray for my 18-year-old son who was arrested in the November protests and for those who are grieving for family members who died in the protests.”