



PRAYER DIARY

For SAT-7 and the Middle East

April 2022



Above: Presenters Morvarid and Ava on the set of SAT-7 PARS children's show Hashtag

Dear Friend,

Welcome to your Prayer Diary for April!

This month, we'll spend time praying for SAT-7's digital developments and Easter celebrations in the MENA.

And see p.12 for a special invitation to a series of supporter events with SAT-7 founder Dr Terence Ascott, who'll be sharing the exciting story behind his new book, *Dare to Believe!*

Thank you so much for your prayers. We pray you have a very blessed Easter.

In His love,

Emily Shumer

Communications & Resources Officer

FRIDAY 1 APRIL PEACE BE WITH YOU

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). At the start of this new Prayer Diary, ask Jesus to fill you with His peace.

SATURDAY 2 APRIL CONVERSATIONS

SAT-7 had 84,000 one-to-one conversations with viewers in 2021. Pray for even more conversations over the course of this year, and ask God to work through the viewer support team to show His love in each encounter.

SUNDAY 3 APRIL PRAY FOR SERHAT IN TURKEY

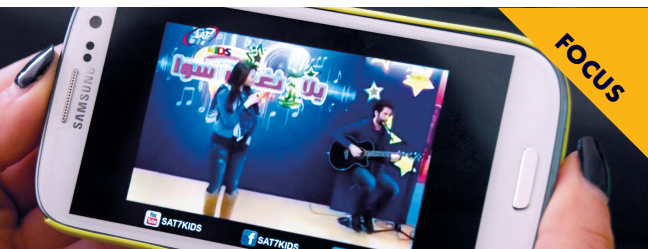
"I watch your programmes on SAT-7 TÜRK and want you to know that there are people on the other side of the screen who accompany your prayers, even if you do not see them. You're shining out – praise and glory to the God who gave you that light."

Thank God that SAT-7 is shining His light and strengthening the faith of viewers like Serhat across the MENA.



MONDAY 4 APRIL 15 YEARS OF SAT-7 PARS

SAT-7's Persian channel has now been broadcasting for over 15 years! Give thanks for the channel, which provides teaching, support and a voice for Christians across the Persian world.



TUESDAY 5 APRIL

A DIGITAL WORLD

SAT-7 has millions of viewers across its four satellite television channels, but increasingly, the way people consume media is changing. This week, we praise God for the ways SAT-7 is staying ahead of the curve through its digital media and reaching whole new audiences with the joy of Jesus.

WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL

SOCIAL MEDIA

SAT-7 is building online communities of support and discipleship through its Facebook and Instagram pages. Many of SAT-7's followers are from the majority faith background – praise God that they are engaging with the content.

THURSDAY 7 APRIL

FACEBOOK ENGAGEMENT

After Amar was given the advice she asked for on Facebook, she was amazed and said: "I cannot believe you cared enough to answer me!" SAT-7 received over 16 million engagements on Facebook in 2021. Pray that no one will slip through the cracks when they reach out for support.

FRIDAY 8 APRIL

SAT-7 PLUS

SAT-7 PLUS is the MENA's first Christian live-streaming and video-on-demand service. Give thanks that in its first year, more than 142,000 people watched SAT-7 PLUS! Pray for increased growth and development for the platform.

SATURDAY 9 APRIL

INSTANT CHAT

SAT-7 PLUS plans to launch an instant chat feature to enable viewers to connect directly with viewer support teams. Pray that this will open up channels of communication with a new demographic.

SUNDAY 10 APRIL

PRAY FOR VIEWER NASRINE

Nasrine, an Arabic speaker in the USA, got in touch to say: "I follow your programmes on YouTube because I can't watch you on the TV. Your videos are very encouraging to me."

Last year, SAT-7 had 37 million views on YouTube! Give thanks that platforms like this are making SAT-7 content accessible across borders and time zones – increasingly vital as more and more people from the MENA are on the move around the world.



MONDAY 11 APRIL

MY LIFE PODCAST

SAT-7 PARS has launched a new series of podcasts to meet the needs of those without sufficient Internet bandwidth for video. Pray for Persian testimony series *My Life*, the first of these new podcast productions, and ask that it will bring the message of God's love to a whole new audience.

TUESDAY 12 APRIL

MESSAGING APPS

Many viewers, particularly in the Persian world, reach out to SAT-7's viewer support team through mobile apps like WhatsApp and Telegram. Give thanks that the viewer support team are able to provide counselling, prayer and resources in a secure way through these apps, to help viewers in their time of need.

WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL**SAT-7 INTERNATIONAL**

Pray for the staff at SAT-7's international office in Cyprus today. Give thanks that they provide a vital bridge between SAT-7's Middle Eastern TV studios and support offices around the world.

THURSDAY 14 APRIL**SUDAN**

Life is becoming increasingly difficult in Sudan since last year's military coup. SAT-7's Andrew Gamal says: "Electricity is cut off most of the time, there are water shortages, and people have only two to three hours of internet a week. Demonstrations block the streets, and many have been injured." Join the Sudanese Church in praying for peace (read more on pages 10-11).

FRIDAY 15 APRIL**GOOD FRIDAY**

A SAT-7 PARS viewer got in touch to share: "Christ's death is the most amazing and emotive topic. Death is sad and grievous and accompanied by mourning and weeping. But the death of Jesus Christ is met with joy and a celebration of victory. Why? Because He rose from the dead and opened a way through death that leads to everlasting life. Hallelujah!" Give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice today.

SATURDAY 16 APRIL**JOIN THE PRAYER OF
AZITA FROM IRAN**

“

Our Father in heaven, oh Jesus my King, may Your name be glorified. My King, I pray for all Persian-speakers in the world to come from darkness into the light. We will not fear evil because You give us courage. Amen.”



FOCUS

**SUNDAY 17 APRIL****EASTER**

Happy Easter! Some Christians in the MENA are also celebrating Easter today, though others follow the Orthodox calendar in which Easter falls next Sunday. In the coming week, let's pray for viewers to experience His resurrection life.

MONDAY 18 APRIL**UNDERSTANDING EASTER**

Pray that through special Easter teaching and discipleship programmes on SAT-7 this week, viewers will grow in their understanding of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

TUESDAY 19 APRIL**EASTER CONCERTS**

SAT-7 is broadcasting a number of worship concerts and celebrations this week from across the region. Pray that the music and songs fill viewers with joy.

WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL**EASTER DOCUMENTARY**

This week, SAT-7 PARS is broadcasting a one-hour special Easter documentary in which three Iranian pastors explain the events of the three days leading up to the resurrection. Pray that Persian viewers will learn and grow through this theological teaching.

THURSDAY 21 APRIL**ISOLATED BELIEVERS**

A lack of religious freedom means many believers in the MENA will be unable to meet together to celebrate this Easter. Pray that they will know the closeness of the risen Saviour in their homes.

FRIDAY 22 APRIL

CHURCH SERVICES

SAT-7 ARABIC is broadcasting live church services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday from evangelical, Catholic and Orthodox churches in Cairo and Beirut. Pray for those who tune in, that they will feel connected to the wider body of Christ at this special time.

SATURDAY 23 APRIL

PRAY FOR BEHROOZ IN IRAN

"Hosanna! May this be a holy week when our hearts are cleansed and we celebrate His amazing victory. I thank you for the blessed programmes that you broadcast and wish you a happy Easter." Pray that Behrooz will be encouraged and strengthened by programmes on SAT-7 this Easter.

SUNDAY 24 APRIL

JESUS HAS THE VICTORY

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

Praise God that Jesus has victory over death! Pray God's blessing on the Middle Eastern Church today, and thank Him that whatever our circumstances, we have the victory in Jesus.



MONDAY 25 APRIL

SPIRIT OF LIFE

"The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you" (Romans 8:11). Thank Jesus that His life-giving Holy Spirit dwells in us all year round!

TUESDAY 26 APRIL

SAT-7 STAFF

Nearly 200 staff members and over 240 freelancers work for SAT-7, in five studios and six support offices around the world. Pray God's blessing on SAT-7 staff.

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL

DARE TO BELIEVE EVENTS

SAT-7 founder and president Dr Terence Ascott will be sharing the exciting story behind his new book *Dare to Believe!* at a series of upcoming supporter events in churches across the UK. Pray for Dr Ascott and the upcoming events, that attendees will be inspired as they hear more about God's faithfulness to SAT-7 and Christians in the MENA. (Find out more on p.30)



THURSDAY 28 APRIL

PRAY FOR DURU, A VIEWER IN TURKEY

"Thanks to SAT-7 TÜRK, I had the opportunity to get to know Jesus Christ better. I asked if I was too late for baptism at 30 years old, and you told me it was never too late." Pray that Duru will be able to get baptised.

FRIDAY 29 APRIL

SAT-7 KIDS REVAMP

SAT-7 KIDS has introduced a raft of exciting and engaging new content for its young Arabic-speaking audiences, along with updated graphics and programmes in High Definition. Pray that this revamp will engage even more children and young people.

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

PRAY FOR HALA, AN ARABIC VIEWER

Join Hala's prayer for her daughter: "Thank you for your love. Please pray for my daughter to return to the Lord Jesus. God bless you."



SAT-7 MOBILISES ARAB CHRISTIANS IN PRAYER FOR SUDAN

SAT-7 has called on Christians across the Arab world to join in prayer for Sudan by airing prayers for peace from an interdenominational church service in Khartoum.

"We are all here to pray for Sudan, coming from different tribes and different political backgrounds," evangelist Talal Nakoussy tells worshippers in one clip. "We are not here to discuss what is wrong and what is right," he continues. "We are here to pray for mercy over our country and declare God's power over Sudan and all those influencing Sudan."

SAT-7 shared the week-long series of clips on social media. This followed street protests on 17 January in Khartoum and nearby Omdurman, resulting in the highest number of casualties since demonstrations began against the military coup by Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan last October. The daily clips came from a service of prayer at North Khartoum Evangelical Church, where church leaders and congregation members cried out to God for peace in their land.

"SAT-7 was eager to schedule and promote these prayers on social media as we believe in giving a voice to the Church all over the region to engage and express itself," shares SAT-7 Arabic Channels Director, George Makeen.

He noted how Christians had suffered repression under Sudan's previous dictator, President Al-Bashir. Reforms announced by the transitional government planted hope for an equal society for people of all faiths and races. Those hopes could now be dashed.

But hope has been echoed in the heartfelt prayers aired by SAT-7.

Pastor Hafiz Fassaha was abroad when he learnt about the 17 January events from a tearful foreign pastor. He asked, "If this foreigner who never came to Sudan cried, what about you who drink from its water and live under its shade, and who grew up in it? Will you cry?" He encouraged them with the biblical example of Nehemiah.

Also taking part was Greek Melkite Catholic priest, Fr George Banna. He led the congregation in asking God to protect Sudan "from civil war and tribal conflicts, and to send His Holy Spirit over all those in power. Enlighten their minds and lead them in paths of peace and effective understanding to end this crisis. Guide the leaders to the shores of safety and to what is good for the country and the people."

Egyptian TV director Andrew Gamal, who produced the clips for SAT-7, is in constant contact with churches in Sudan. In the current crisis, he says life in the country is deteriorating week by week.

“

Electricity is cut off most of the time, there are water shortages, and demonstrations block the streets. Amidst all of this, the Church is praying for peace.”

GEORGE MAKEEN

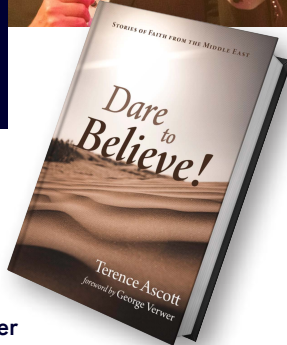
"Electricity is cut off most of the time, and people have only two to three hours of internet a week. There are water shortages too. Demonstrations block the streets, and many have been injured in these. Amidst all of this, the Church is praying for peace."

"After almost three years of the revolution, the Sudanese are still trying to find their way," Makeen states. "Our prayers are for them not to lose hope, to find support and understanding from the international community so that this country will peacefully find its way to a better future."



DARE TO BELIEVE

STORIES OF FAITH
FROM THE MIDDLE EAST



SAT-7 Founder Dr Terence Ascott will be sharing the exciting story behind his new book *Dare to Believe!* at a series of supporter events in churches across the UK over 2022-23. The book tells his own personal story, as well as the birth and growth of SAT-7.

CONFIRMED EVENTS 2022

BRISTOL, Woodlands Church, 28 May

BROMLEY, Crofton Baptist Church, 18 June

BANGOR, First Bangor Presbyterian Church, 8 October

“

During my nearly 50 years in the Middle East, I've witnessed massive change... I've seen disinterest in the Gospel to outright hostility toward it, and also the daring courage of Middle Eastern believers.”

DR TERENCE ASCOTT



Scan the QR code or visit sat7uk.org/daretobelieve for more information and event dates. **We hope to see you there!**

SAT-7 broadcasts 24/7 in Arabic, Persian and Turkish



SAT-7 is watched by millions of people in 25 countries

SAT-7 had 84,000 one-to-one viewer conversations in 2021



Names of viewers throughout have been changed and images used for representation only.

Images: SAT-7, Shutterstock.com, Unsplash

Scripture quotations taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version Anglicised Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 Biblica. Used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, an Hachette UK company. All rights reserved. 'NIV' is a registered trademark of Biblica UK trademark number 1448790.

Visit

www.sat7uk.org

today for the latest news
on SAT-7's work in the
Middle East.



SAT-7 UK

Registered Charity No. 1060612

Post: PO Box 3941, Chippenham SN15 9HQ

Tel: 01249 765865