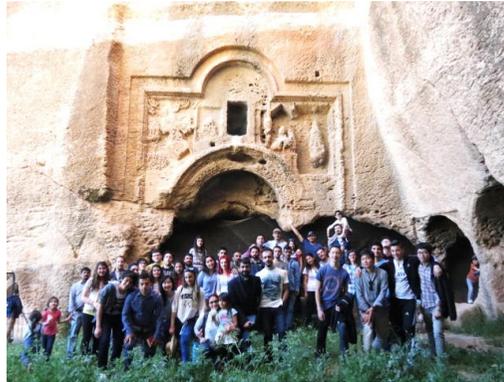


## Two Syrian refugees baptised at youth event

A SAT-7 TÜRK film crew visited the first ever Christian youth event in Mardin, Turkey, at which two teenage Syrian refugees were baptised.

More than 30 young Christians from across eastern Turkey gathered in the ancient city of Mardin, which is just 20 miles from the Syrian border, for the historic meeting. The three-day gathering included teaching, worship and visits to historical sites, as well as fun activities. The two Syrian refugees, aged 14 and 16, were baptised on the third day of the event.



SAT-7 TÜRK aired footage from the youth gathering on its weekly live news programme, which brings a Christian perspective on national and international events.

The event was organised by Mardin's newly-established Protestant church. The congregation meets in an ancient Syriac Orthodox church building, which had been unused for 55 years. SAT-7 TÜRK had covered the official reopening of the church in November 2015.

The theme of the youth event, which involved people from different churches, was "encourage one another". Syriac Orthodox Priest Gabriel Akyüz said: "It is essential that we continue to communicate and support one another in our faith. We should not pull one another down because of our differences. We all believe in Christ. We must encourage one another."

## Pray

- Praise God for this new church and its activity in Mardin. Pray for all those who attended the youth event, especially the two Syrians who were baptised, that God will continue to strengthen their faith.
- Pray that SAT-7 TÜRK's coverage of Christian events will help Turkish viewers grow in their understanding of Christianity.

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Registered Charity No 1060612, and a company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales), no 3301736



July 2016

# News and Prayer

Christian satellite television by and for the people of the Middle East and North Africa

## News & Prayer

*"I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow." Jer 31:13*

### Sorrow to joy

I hope you have visited our new website and watched the incredibly moving story of Elmira from Iran. Married at 11, she had two children by her 15th birthday and suffered terrible abuse at the hands of her drug-addict husband. But hearing on SAT-7 of God's love for her turned Elmira's life around. Watch her story at [www.sat7uk.org/Elmira](http://www.sat7uk.org/Elmira).

There are millions of "Elmiras" in closed homes across the closed region of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Our Answer the Cry campaign is aiming to make their cries heard by Christians in the UK. We are preparing resources to help you tell your church and/or small group about Elmira and how SAT-7 is sharing God's love with millions of people like her. A PowerPoint

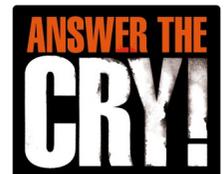
presentation and small group study will be available very soon. Check out [www.sat7uk.org/ATCresources](http://www.sat7uk.org/ATCresources).

You – or someone you know – may feel called to serve the people of the MENA full-time. SAT-7's international headquarters in Cyprus is seeking gifted and dedicated people in a variety of roles to join the team. Current vacancies include an English writer/editor, projects officer and projects accountant. We also need Farsi-speaking volunteers to help us respond to the huge numbers of viewers contacting us from Iran. Find out more at [www.sat7uk.org/work-with-us](http://www.sat7uk.org/work-with-us).

Thank you for your support and prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Fadipe".

Rachel Fadipe  
Executive Director  
SAT-7 UK



## Attack on elderly Christian woman condemned

A shocking incident in which a 70-year-old Christian woman was stripped naked and dragged through the streets of Upper Egypt was condemned on two topical SAT-7 programmes.



Women's chat show *Needle and Thread* and current affairs programme *Bridges* discussed the attack on the woman by a mob of around 300 armed men, who also vandalised and torched seven homes belonging to Christian families in El Karm village.

The attack followed false rumours of a love affair between the 70-year-old woman's son and a local Muslim woman. It renewed questions about the treatment of both women and the Christian community in Egypt.

*Needle and Thread* interviewed Psychiatrist Dr. Awsam Wasfy about the concept of honour in rural societies. He said a man's honour is associated with two things: a woman's body and land. Dr Wasfy added: "It's not only that honour is associated with a woman's body but more importantly that it is used in retaliation – by causing the same shame and disgrace to the other. [They think that] bringing shame on the mother will decrease the shame of the Muslim woman who was originally shamed in the community."

Meanwhile, a *Bridges* report on the incident featured a live call with Bishop Makarios of the Diocese of El Minya and Abu Korkas. He called for justice and for Christian and Muslim leaders to work together for change: "We must protect our values and morals and cooperate to achieve reform because religious figures in Egypt are one of the most influential factors in society, whether Christian or Muslim."

## Pray

- Pray for healing and restoration for the 70-year-old Christian woman. Pray that the offenders will be brought to justice.
- Lift up SAT-7's programmes that are challenging the treatment of women and other vulnerable groups in the MENA. Pray that they will change attitudes and help women understand their value to God.

## SAT-7 programme helps refugee children to learn

As the number of people displaced by conflict reaches record levels, refugee children have told SAT-7 how our educational programme *My School* is helping them to continue learning while away from home.

On World Refugee Day (20 June), the UN said it was the first time the number of refugees worldwide had passed the 60 million mark, with the highest numbers coming from Syria and Afghanistan.

*"I dropped out of school because of the war. [My School] is really helping me to learn more. I am learning to read and write in Arabic."*

Young boy from Syria

Half of all refugees are aged under 18. They are crying out for peace; to be able to go back to their homes, schools and friends. With millions of these displaced youngsters unable to go to school, there are concerns that they will become a "lost generation"; bored, frustrated and vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

But SAT-7's *My School* programme is offering hope to displaced children by enabling them to continue learning – wherever they are. The current series provides lessons in Arabic, English, maths and science for 5 to 7-year-olds.

A SAT-7 crew recently visited a refugee camp in Lebanon where it was clear how much the children appreciated the opportunity to learn. We filmed a group of children watching an episode of *My School* on a large TV in a makeshift "classroom". They were completely absorbed in the "lesson", repeating after the teachers and writing down what they were learning in workbooks on the floor. "When I started learning, I was ecstatic," said one young girl.



## Pray

- Give thanks that SAT-7's *My School* programme is reaching refugee communities and enabling those who cannot go to a physical school to continue learning.
- Pray for those who have been displaced by conflict, that they will receive the help and care they need.