

The challenge of answering the cry – every day

SAT-7's viewer support teams have the very important job of answering calls, emails and social media messages from our audience.

"It's a daily work, an unfinished work," says Enaam Haddad, SAT-7's audience relations manager in Lebanon. "It's a 24 hours a day, seven days a week work. People will always have demands and needs, and we will always have to be there for them, to answer them, to stand by their side."

The challenge of answering the cry for Enaam's small team and their counterparts in Egypt, Cyprus, London and Turkey is growing all the time. The number of people contacting SAT-7 has trebled in the last five years – from around 270 a day in 2010 to over 800 a day in 2015.

Enaam said: "The cries of the children and their parents are mainly for security and for feeding their spiritual needs. "We get a lot of prayer requests from people who are distressed, oppressed, who are living in a bad situation. They ask us to pray for them, to stand with them in prayer. And we do pray every time we receive a prayer request."



The support provided through SAT-7's programmes and the viewer support teams is greatly appreciated by our 15 million-strong audience.

Enaam said: "A lot of people say to us, 'Among all the violence around us in the Middle East, you are the only place, the only channel, where we really feel our kids are safe'; 'You are the only church we have'; 'You are the only source of Biblical teaching for us.' They tell us how their values and lives have changed because of SAT-7's programmes."

Pray

- Give thanks that so many lives are being impacted and changed through SAT-7's programmes.
- Pray for Enaam and her team in Lebanon and SAT-7's other viewer support staff, that God will give them wisdom – and time – to answer and help each person who contacts us.

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



News & Prayer

"Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping." Psalm 39:12

Answering the cry

The cry from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is deafening. We see and hear it in the news every day. Frightened children are crying out for peace. Women are crying out for value. Angry young men are crying out for meaning. Persecuted Christians are crying out for the strength to face each day. For their sake, SAT-7 is calling on people in the UK to "Answer the Cry" by giving, praying and telling others about our ministry.

More and more viewers are crying out to us for prayer, for support, for answers to their questions, for help with their problems.

During SAT-7's first year on air in 1996, we received 824 viewer responses. Last year, we received over 800 responses every single day.

It's incredibly exciting that so many lives are being impacted by our programmes, but the challenge of answering the cry every day is growing and our viewer support teams are struggling to keep up with the demand.

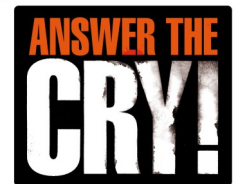
This month's News and Prayer features stories of SAT-7 viewers and how their cries are being answered.

You have hopefully also received our Answer the Cry booklet, which explains more about how SAT-7's TV ministry is making an impact in lives across the MENA region. Please consider who you could pass this onto. To order more, contact us on respond@sat7uk.org or (01249) 765865.

How will you Answer the Cry?



Rachel Fadipe
Executive Director
SAT-7 UK



From fear of IS to faith in Christ: Iraqi boy's testimony

"I used to be scared of Daesh [aka Islamic State] but Jesus filled my heart and filled it with joy and peace."

Nouh, a young boy from Iraq, shared on a SAT-7 children's show how he came to faith in Christ after his family were forced to flee from Islamic State militants.

He explained on *As Sannabel News* (or *AS News*) that though his family were of Christian heritage, they didn't know Jesus personally.

Nouh said that when Islamic State seized control of his home town, he was "very afraid that they would kill us because we heard they killed many people".

His family, like thousands of other Iraqi Christians threatened by the militants, fled their homeland. They went to Lebanon where they were welcomed and supported by a local church. "We got introduced to many people who love Jesus Christ," Nouh said. "I now have many friends who love Jesus."

The turning point for Nouh came at a Christian holiday camp, where he was convicted of his sin and came to trust in Christ for himself. He said: "After the camp I stopped doing all the bad things I used to do. I used to be scared of Daesh but Jesus filled my heart and filled it with joy and peace. I began giving praise to God and reading the Bible."

Despite all that Nouh and his family have suffered and lost, he said he is glad: "I am very happy that I came to Lebanon and learned about Jesus. Now I know that Jesus takes care of all the details in my life."

AS News is the longest-running show on SAT-7's dedicated children's channel, SAT-7 KIDS. It is a news programme with a difference: its reporters are all children or young people. The stories it tells focus on the good things children are doing and on their physical and spiritual wellbeing.



Watch: www.sat7uk.org/Nouh

Pray

- Give thanks that what was intended for harm, God intended for good in Nouh's life. Pray that Nouh will continue to grow in his faith.
- Pray for all the children who feature in *AS News*, that God will use their stories to make His love and peace known to youngsters across the troubled Middle East and North Africa region.

"Please please please help and guide me." Viewer

Christians are a very small minority in the Middle East and North Africa, and in many of the countries where SAT-7 broadcasts, they face severe persecution.

Every day, isolated believers cry out to SAT-7 for support, prayer and fellowship. Arvin* from Iran gave his heart to Christ 18 months ago. He shared with us how difficult it is for him to practise his faith in the hard-line Islamic republic:

"God created me free and gave mankind the power to choose but I fear that I will be arrested. It is not easy here in Iran. I do not have access to books or people to teach me more about Christianity. Having a Bible is a crime and all websites about Christianity are censored.

"I would like to go to a church, to pray and love Jesus and God without fear. People cannot be baptised because it is illegal. Moreover, people have to show a Christian ID card to go to a church. So for men like me who were not born into a Christian family, we cannot attend church.



"I would be grateful if you could help and guide me. Where should I go to be safe? What should I do to be safe? I would love to be a real Christian and attend church in a free country, and tell people how God showed himself to me. Please please please help and guide me. I'm eager for your response."

SAT-7's viewer support team are in regular contact with Arvin to encourage him in his faith. They sent him a Bible, and he takes part in our weekly Bible studies over Skype. Such follow-up support is vital for isolated believers like Arvin, who live in countries where they cannot go to church or meet freely with other Christians. It strengthens and encourages them, and makes them feel part of the Body of Christ. *name changed, image for illustrative purposes

Pray

- Praise God that He revealed Himself to Arvin! Pray that "the God of all comfort" (1 Cor. 1:3) will strengthen Arvin as he suffers for his faith.
- Pray for other believers in Iran who, like Arvin, are not able to go to church or meet with other Christians. Pray that SAT-7's programmes and follow-up support will strengthen them in their faith.