

CHRISTIANS UNITE IN LEBANON



The end of June saw 3,000 Christians gathered together in Lebanon to praise and worship God at 'We See Wonders'.

Organised by Resurrection Church Beirut, in collaboration with Kasr El Dohara Church in Egypt, the event was broadcast live on SAT-7's Arabic channel and took place from 24-26 June. **It aimed to encourage Christians across Lebanon through the power of unity in prayer and praise.**

Patricia, a woman who attended the event, described it as "extraordinary". "We used to see people gathered in prayers in Egypt... We would pray and say to the Lord, 'God, please let this happen in Lebanon.' And indeed this is what happened... **How marvelous is it to see people from different communities away from any conflict focusing on the most important part - Jesus Christ. We are so happy!**"



Those attending were encouraged to draw upon the help of the Holy Spirit to experience God's grace and forgiveness. One of the organisers, Elie, commented, "We had 2,400 Bibles and gave away almost all of them. There were Bibles in Arabic, Kurdish and French. People are spiritually thirsty to experience the love of God."

SAT-7 News & Prayer articles are available in full at: www.sat7uk.org/pray

SAT-7 UK, PO Box 3941, Chippenham SN15 9HQ
Email: respond@sat7uk.org
Phone: 01249 765865

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PRAY

Friday 25 August
Give thanks for the encouragement that 'We See Wonders' was for many Christians across Lebanon.

Saturday 26 August
Ask that more events can be held in safety in countries like Lebanon and Egypt.

Sunday 27 August
Give thanks that Christian leaders in Lebanon are able to demonstrate unity and faith in public together.

Monday 28 August
Pray for the people who took Bibles, that God would open the eyes of their hearts to His truth and love.

Tuesday 29 August
Pray for local churches in Lebanon who are able to encourage seekers and disciple new believers.

Wednesday 30 August
Pray for Lebanon in its role as a stabilising presence across the Middle East.

Thursday 31 August
Pray for Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lebanon. Pray for SAT-7's new ACADEMY channel in its focus on education for displaced children and families.

**MAKING GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE
ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA
THROUGH CHRISTIAN TV**



NEWS AND PRAYER

August 2017

SAVING THE NEXT GENERATION FROM THE PERILS OF SELF-HARM



Self-harm or *khoonbazi*, literally translated as "blood-game", is a growing problem among teenagers in Iran.

A recent eye-opening episode of the SAT-7 Persian language talk show *Insiders* revealed that an increasing number of teenage girls are turning to self-harm as they try to deal with family and relationship problems, stress and abuse. With the most common types of self-harm being poisoning, drug abuse, and cutting, it is no surprise that often the result is suicide.

One viewer commented: "I couldn't believe it or get it out of my mind. I asked my daughter if she knew about it and she said, 'Yes, I know children who have done it.' This is a very sad reality, and I am heartbroken. Most of all, I am concerned about how to protect my daughter."

Show guest and psychologist Dr Shadi Javaheri explained that, "we have to teach young people... to express their feelings. They do not dare to share their problems with us because they fear that what they say might lead to judgment or punishment."

Insiders advised parents to create an environment for their children that is understanding and accepting, allowing them to be open and honest about their worries. *Insiders* presenter, Hengameh Borji, also encouraged parents and teenagers to rely on God during difficult times.



PRAY

Tuesday 1 August
Pray for teenage girls in Iran, who are turning to self-harm in the midst of emotional difficulties.

Wednesday 2 August
Pray for parents, that they would be encouraged to have a more open and accepting relationship with their children.

Thursday 3 August
Ask for wisdom for the presenters of *Insiders* as they tackle controversial subjects live on air.

Friday 4 August
Pray for those who work behind the scenes responding to viewers who have questions or requests for help.

Sat 5 - Sun 6 August
Pray for producer, Moe Pooladfar, as he develops future SAT-7 PARS *Insiders* programmes.

Monday 7 August
Give thanks that *Insiders* presenters are able to weave biblical teaching into practical advice.

Tuesday 8 August
Pray that all those watching would have a fresh understanding of God's love for them.

PERFECT TIMING FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL



As every school child knows, September is the month when the sun finally sets on the summer holidays and a new school year gusts in! Across the Middle East and North Africa, wars and displacement mean

over 13.4 million children have no school to go to.

This is one reason SAT-7 is launching its new ACADEMY channel on 1 September. Another is the substandard education the majority of the region's young people receive – dominated by rote learning without critical analysis and sometimes infected by attitudes of discrimination. This is why SAT-7 ACADEMY will promote discussion, creative thinking, listening to others and respect for all.

“Education is one of the greatest answers to the problems of the Middle East.” This is the view of His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK and patron of SAT-7 UK, who spoke at SAT-7's annual NETWORK conference earlier this year.

Dr Mike Bassous, General Secretary of the Bible Society of Lebanon, was also lavish in his praise. He said. **“SAT-7 comes as an answered prayer and an answered call.** Only through educating the new generation will we be able to cast new values in the region and will we be able to educate them about what democracy really means in the region. **The timing of SAT-7 ACADEMY is perfect.”**



Bp Angaelos (top) and Dr Mike Bassous (left) interviewed by Lindsay Shaw at Network

PRAY

Wednesday 9 August
Please pray for SAT-7 ACADEMY staff as they finalise the schedules for the first season and ask for God's help for new presenters and new teams.

Thursday 10 August
Pray for the building of new relationships with the NGO community involved in health, education and social development.

Friday 11 August
Pray that programmes designed to promote healthy lifestyles and wellbeing will help displaced families adapt to their new environments.

Sat 12 - Sun 13 August
Pray that SAT-7 ACADEMY will help turn back the tide of prejudice, discrimination and violence against ethnic and religious minorities.

Monday 14 August
Pray for more funds to help SAT-7 create new educational programmes across the new channel.

Tuesday 15 August
Pray for Bishop Angaelos and Mike Bassous in their important spheres of ministry across the region.

Wednesday 16 August
Pray for the development of the SAT-7 ACADEMY website that will offer a wealth of educational content and “catch up” access to programmes.

FUN AND LEARNING ON THE FARM



At the heart of SAT-7 is a deep-seated sense of the need to care for all aspects of the human ‘being’ – educationally, physically and spiritually. Currently aired on SAT-7

KIDS, *Fun Farm* aims to bless children from head to toe with quality educational material, practical tips on staying healthy and innovative ways of sharing faith.

Episodes, which are filmed on a virtual farm, help children to learn about animals and plants, and presenter, Joelle, teaches them about healthy eating and cooking. Children are taught creative art work and are inspired to “go green” by considering how they can look after the environment.

However, embedded within the fun and games are important Christian messages. Storytelling weaves biblical values and ethics into everyday situations. In a recent episode, the presenters tell a story about a mint plant in a farm that survives a cold winter. It grows into a large thick plant full of leaves, teaching children to turn the difficult circumstances they go through into opportunities for growth.

One parent wrote:

“I am Ranya's mother from Egypt. God bless you for this wonderful ministry... It is a very beautiful programme that my kids watch and love so much.”



Fun Farm

PRAY

Thursday 17 August
Pray for the children and families watching *Fun Farm*, that they will learn from the programme and develop godly values.

Friday 18 August
Pray that *Fun Farm's* programme makers will be able to share God's love as well as practical advice in each episode.

Sat 19 - Sun 20 August
Pray that viewers who watch *Fun Farm* would discover other relevant programmes from SAT-7.

Monday 21 August
Pray for the Channel Manager and team at SAT-7 ACADEMY as they develop a suite of shows.

Tuesday 22 August
Ask that God would provide the funding and resources required to develop SAT-7 ACADEMY.

Wednesday 23 August
Pray for children across the region who are crying out for peace and safety.

Thursday 24 August
Pray these verses for parents watching *Fun Farm*: **“Teach [these words] to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”**
Deuteronomy 11:18-19