

SAT-7 ACADEMY — BREAKING NEW GROUND

This summer, SAT-7 is looking to break new ground when, subject to funding, it launches a new educational channel. SAT-7 ACADEMY will build on *My School* broadcasts – watched by over 1.3 million children – and on the broader range of educational shows the network provides.

Dr Habib Badr, a senior Evangelical leader in Lebanon, is convinced SAT-7 has a key part to play. “For me, SAT-7 is as important as the entry of universities and schools into the Middle East in the 19th century,” he says: “I have always likened SAT-7 to a great educational enterprise.”

While refugee and displaced children and families will be a key audience, the channel will also seek to bring positive change to viewers of all backgrounds. Primary level education, parenting skills, health education, critical thinking, and conflict prevention and resolution will all have a place in the schedules.

Dr Terence Ascott, Chief Executive Officer of SAT-7, spoke of the channel’s potential impact:



“We are talking about audience sizes in the millions. But even if we were only to impact the lives of a few thousand children, it would be worth it. One viewer can grow up to be a real instrument of change in their society.”

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PRAY

Saturday 25 March

Give thanks for the vision of this new channel and pray for the 1.3 million children already watching *My School*.

Sunday 26 March

Pray for the appointment of a director for the new SAT-7 ACADEMY channel.

Monday 27 March

Pray for educational and charitable organisations to provide funding so this new venture can take place.

Tuesday 28 March

Pray for SAT-7’s educational presenters as they give their time while leading already demanding lives.

Wednesday 29 March

Pray that new educational programmes will give viewers life-changing skills.

Thursday 30 March

Give thanks for Dr Habib Badr and the historic work of Christian schools across the region.

Friday 31 March

Pray for growing awareness of SAT-7’s education programmes and the future promotion of the channel.

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



NEWS AND PRAYER

March 2017

SPEAKING UP ABOUT CHANGED LIVES

SAT-7 receives many calls and messages requesting help and counselling. Around 40 per cent of the daily messages to SAT-7 include questions about marital problems, relationship issues and addiction. In 2017 SAT-7 launched the talk show, *Speak Up*, to present the real-life stories of people who have overcome challenges and can testify to how God has worked in their lives.

“*Speak Up* tackles the problems that people suffer from in their lives and among their families and friends,” says producer Amgad Shafik.

Safwat and Abeer (featured on the show) had deep marital problems. The couple began divorce proceedings, but when Safwat experienced a period of illness, Abeer faithfully stood by him. Together they attended a Christian conference for married couples and were reconciled. Today, Safwat and Abeer are in charge of this conference, ministering to other couples experiencing marital conflict.

Presenter Nancy Faltas’s desire for *Speak Up* is to be an encouragement to viewers who often



suffer alone and in silence. “*Speak Up* reminds us that God is omnipresent and is capable of turning our darkness to light and our difficult times to life-learning opportunities.”

Image used for illustrative purposes



PRAY

Wednesday 1 March

Give thanks for the testimonies of guests and their bravery in sharing personal struggles.

Thursday 2 March

Pray that *Speak Up* will be a practical encouragement to viewers in times of need.

Friday 3 March

Give thanks for Safwat and Abeer. Pray for the protection of their marriage as they seek to be a blessing to others.

Saturday — Sunday 4 & 5 March

Pray for Nancy Faltas as she presents and relates with people and their stories live on air.

Monday 6 March

Pray that SAT-7 will be able to respond to the growing need for help and counselling.

Tuesday 7 March

Please pray for Amgad Shafik — for the planning of future programmes.

Wednesday 8 March

Give thanks that viewers do not have to suffer alone or in silence.

GIVING WOMEN A VOICE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES



A daytime chat show aimed at supporting women in Iran and Afghanistan, is now live on SAT-7 PARS every week. *Insiders* discusses a range of cultural, lifestyle and family-oriented topics from a Christian perspective.

In a recent episode the panelists discussed racism, its effects on individuals, and how Christians can help make a difference. Maryam, a guest in this episode, talked about her experiences as an Afghan woman raised in Iran. She moved to Iran when she was very young because of conflict in Afghanistan and faced extreme discrimination at school and in the streets. "I was a teenager, and it was one of the worst times you could break someone," said Maryam. "It is one of the experiences that is still in my mind; whatever I do it is still with me."

The panelists discussed how everyone is equal in the body of Christ and that, as Christians, we should challenge ourselves to take a stand against prejudice and discrimination. Feedback on the show has been very positive, with the first show alone receiving 1,800 views on Facebook.

Producer, Moe Pooladfar, says, "we want to start conversations about issues that usually go unheard – to help create a culture where different opinion is heard and not pre-judged. *Insiders* is a platform where Farsi-speaking women can speak out and be heard."



Insiders panel

PRAY

Thursday 9 March
Thank God for Maryam — ask that God would heal the hurts of the past.

Friday 10 March
Pray for the hosts of *Insiders* as they present the issues discussed in the programme — for God's love to shine through everything they say.

Saturday — Sunday 11 & 12 March
Pray that many seekers will find *Insiders* for the first time whilst browsing daytime television and discover a biblical perspective on topics that are relevant to their lives.

Monday 13 March
Give thanks for the openness of the experts and guests who join each programme. Pray that God will continue to give them confidence and wisdom as they share.

Tuesday 14 March
Pray for more opportunities for SAT-7 to follow up with audiences after each programme.

Wednesday 15 March
Pray for Moe Pooladfar, producer, particularly as he plans the next series of programmes.

Thursday 16 March
Pray that all programme viewers will understand and know God's message of redeeming love.

GOD ANSWERS DESPAIRING WIDOW'S CRY

Life had become so difficult and painful for one 60-year-old widow and viewer of SAT-7 that she wanted to die. But while watching a live prayer and worship programme on SAT-7, God spoke to her and she felt compelled to call the show and share her story with presenter Maher Fayeze.

"I have been a widow for 15 years. I am going through difficult and bitter times. The trials have been constant but the last five years have been the worst in my life. After 60 years, I can't take it anymore. I want to rest. I was praying to God to take my life. I really want to die."

The woman continued, "But today I accidentally turned on the TV – I wasn't planning on watching this programme – and I heard you singing the song 'You shall not die'. This is the second time that God has sent me a message through you!"

Maher listened attentively to the woman, who nicknamed herself 'Daughter of God', before praying for her live on air. Maher told her to have faith that she would call the programme again and testify to God's grace in her life... Eighteen months later, she did!

"Today I am laughing but last year I was distraught while calling Maher. He prayed to God to reach me and hold me and save me from all the pain. So today is the day. Yes, today I must witness to the work of Christ in my life. I overcame many trials and I thank God for lifting off all the burdens I've had in the past."



Maher Fayeze, former host of *We will Sing*

PRAY

Friday 17 March
Give thanks for answered prayer and the amazing work of God's grace in the life of this woman.

Saturday — Sunday 18 & 19 March
Pray that SAT-7's live prayer and worship programmes will draw those watching into a closer relationship with the Saviour.

Monday 20 March
Pray for those leading worship – that God will use them to draw many people into his presence.

Tuesday 21 March
Pray that this woman's story will encourage others who are in situations of despair.

Wednesday 22 March
Give thanks for the group of intercessors who pray whilst *Keep on Singing* is live on air.

Thursday 23 March
Pray for Samuel Farouk, the new host of the programme — that God will give him words of comfort and hope as he speaks with people on air.

Friday 24 March
Use this Psalm to pray for viewers: "I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people. And I will hope in your name, for your name is good." Psalm 52:9