

News in brief

SAT-7 has become the first Arabic Christian channel to stream live on Facebook.

Viewers have responded enthusiastically to the new service, which enables them to participate in live church services and other events as part of an online community.



A viewer from Egypt posted on Facebook: "Wow, what a great ministry to be able to watch the live streaming on mobile devices. God bless you. Please pray for me a lot."

The live Facebook broadcasts attracted 96,000 views and 28,000 audience responses in July.

- *Give thanks for the opportunities created by social media to share Christian content. Pray that the live Facebook streaming will help isolated believers and seekers to connect with God and each other.*

Civil war in Yemen has left more than 80% of the population in need of humanitarian aid, but people there are still hungry for God's Word.

SAT-7 received this request from a man in Yemen: "May God bless you all. We don't have Sunday school in Yemen. We would like you to help us with Biblical materials so that we can teach a group of children believers in Yemen."

Our viewer support team in Lebanon sent him nine Bible story books including Noah, Moses, Jonah, the prodigal son and Jesus calming the storm, plus colouring books featuring biblical characters.

SAT-7 sends out scores of such resources to viewers every month.

- *Pray that the materials will arrive safely and will help this group of children in Yemen to grow in their Christian faith.*

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News & Prayer

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Matthew 7:7

The cry for truth

People living in many parts of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are not free – like we are in the UK – to explore different ideas and beliefs. They live in a culture where they are not expected to question what they have been taught. School children mostly learn by rote, leaving them lacking critical thinking skills.

Yet despite this background, the tumultuous events of recent years are causing people to distrust authority figures and question inherited beliefs. Amid the barbaric violence of groups like Islamic State, and the death and destruction caused by protracted wars, many people in the MENA are searching for a God who makes sense.

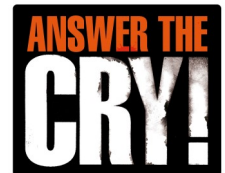
And Christ is revealing Himself to SAT-7 viewers across the MENA region who are earnestly seeking the truth. In this month's News and Prayer, Masood from Iran tells how SAT-7 helped him find the answers to his questions.

Thank you for praying for viewers like Masood. God's Spirit is at work in the MENA, and it is a great privilege for us in the UK to be part of that through prayer.

Please make a note of **SAT-7's Day of Prayer – 6 November**. We are preparing resources to help you involve your church and/or small group in this important event. Pre-order now: www.sat7uk.org/dop or call 01249 765865.



Rachel Fadipe
Executive Director
SAT-7 UK



SAT-7 founder tells viewers: "The truth is your friend"

In a special on-screen interview to mark SAT-7's 20th anniversary year, founder and CEO Dr Terence Ascott encouraged viewers to test what they hear and be open to other perspectives.



Watch: www.sat7uk.org/Forbidden

Appearing on *Forbidden*, a talk show on SAT-7 ARABIC that tackles controversial and taboo topics, Dr Ascott talked about why SAT-7 exists, its growth over the last two decades and its relevance today.

Stressing the importance of diversity and the part it plays in SAT-7's ministry, Dr Ascott said: "The power of diversity is that we can learn. It brings people together to sharpen each other; to challenge each other's ideas, thinking, attitudes and opinions. Sometimes we just like to huddle together with those who share our opinions - we don't grow that way."

Dr Ascott encouraged viewers to explore other people's perspectives: "The truth is your friend. But discovering what the truth is is another challenge. Do you know that something is true when you hear it? It might resonate with your conscience, with your belief system, but is it really true?"

Referring to the conflicts and crises that are besetting the Middle East and North Africa, Dr Ascott said that the violence and hatred are causing people to turn away from their traditional beliefs: "There's been a disappointment in religion because of the inhumanity that has been shown by Middle Easterners to Middle Easterners. It's made people search for meaning in life and for a God who makes more sense to them and their consciences.

"In this context, Christians can offer a God who brings reconciliation and makes sense. SAT-7 is a platform where the Church can share this message."

Pray

- Praise God for His blessing on SAT-7 over the last 20 years and for the powerful platform it gives to the MENA Church to share the Christian message in a troubled region.
- Pray that viewers who watched the interview with Dr Ascott will take on board his encouragement to be open to other perspectives.

Iranian seeker finds answers through SAT-7

"Your channel helped me find the truth about my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. I have introduced many thirsty people to your channel. They are searching for real happiness."

Masood* from Iran contacted SAT-7 to share how our Farsi channel helped him find the truth he had been desperately seeking for three years.

He told us via secure messaging app Telegram that he was not happy with his beliefs and wanted to find out more about Christianity. It was difficult for Masood to find a Bible in Tehran; he eventually managed to track one down, but he lacked someone to explain it to him.

"At that time, I didn't know about SAT-7," Masood said. "I kept reading my Bible but I was not satisfied with my knowledge of Christianity. A few months ago, I was flicking through the TV channels and I found SAT-7. *Principles of Faith* was on. The host was talking about Christ and explaining how to connect to God. I became more and more interested in your programmes."



Masood got in touch with SAT-7 host Pastor Shariyar via Telegram. The pastor spent time talking with Masood and helping him on his faith journey. "He helped me to find the way and the truth in Jesus Christ," Masood said. "I prayed the repentance prayer and invited the Lord to come into my life."

Since then, he says he has had "such a peace" and his "life has drastically changed". Masood is keen to share his faith in Christ with others: "I testify to what the Lord is doing in my life. I tell them about your programmes and my good teacher Pastor Shariyar."

*name changed, image for illustration

Pray

- Praise God for the work He has done in Masood's life! Pray that Masood will continue to grow in his faith.
- Pray for Masood's friends who are themselves "searching for real happiness". Pray that they too will watch SAT-7 and engage with the Christian teaching on the channel.