

CHILDREN DRAW THEIR DREAMS FOR SAT-7 PARS

SAT-7 PARS children's programme *A Girl's World* recently asked children to share their hopes and dreams in pictures. The drawings give a fascinating insight into the lives of Persian-speaking children and the challenges they face.

"I dream about a world with happiness for kids and their parents, a world without war, hunger, and without any fears for all children," one young girl wrote next to her hand-drawn picture. She also dreamt of a world where "no parents would feel embarrassed because they can't provide for the needs of their children."



A young viewer affected by a recent earthquake in Iran said her dream is for her house to be rebuilt. In Tehran, where air pollution is an issue, some children dreamed of a world with clean air and access to nature.

One young viewer from Iran drew a picture of people entering a church building, expressing her dream that she and her family would be able to worship openly. "It's impossible for people in Iran to be Christian, but I love to be a Christian," she wrote.

Parastoo Poortaheri, presenter of *A Girl's World*, explained that by inviting viewers to share in this way, the show's producers can ensure programming remains relevant and engaging, as well as teaching children that they have a voice.

"We always work hard to produce relevant and positive programmes that will inspire and encourage kids," Parastoo said. "We want children to know they are valued."

SAT-7 News & Prayer articles are available in full at:
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PRAY

Thursday 24 May

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16). Thank God that He loves and accepts children and listens to their worries.

Friday 25 May

Thank God for the role SAT-7 PARS is playing in helping children feel valued.

Sat-Sun 26-27 May

Pray that Christians in Iran will one day be able to worship together freely.

Monday 28 May

Ask God to be close to each of the children who shared their dreams, and pray He would answer their heartfelt prayers.

Tuesday 29 May

Thank God for the strong bond and relationship of trust between *A Girl's World* and its viewers.

Wednesday 30 May

Pray for Parastoo, the presenter of *A Girl's World*, and thank God for the work she is doing.

Thursday 31 May

Pray for Farsi-speaking children around the world, that they will find answers to their hopes and dreams in Jesus.

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



NEWS AND PRAYER

May 2018

A NEW AUDIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

Over the last year, SAT-7's Persian channel has seen a significant surge in responses from viewers in Afghanistan wanting to know more about the Christian faith.

The huge increase came after the channel launched on a second satellite platform, Yahsat, a year ago. New data shows that the number of viewers contacting SAT-7 PARS has almost doubled from around 1,000 to over 2,000 a month since the launch, with many encouraging testimonies coming from Afghan viewers.

One such testimony was from Shahnaz*, an Afghan woman who discovered that her husband had become a follower of Christ. "My husband was telling me about Jesus and I was very stressed and worried about it," she said. However, Shahnaz soon noticed that since finding faith in Jesus, her husband was changing for the better.



**Name changed and image used for representation only*

"Looking through his life, I noticed he had changed because of Christ's teachings," Shahnaz testified. "His behaviour at home with his family, his words and his overall conduct had become much more positive."

Her husband's faith soon began to impact the whole family, and Shahnaz too found a relationship with Jesus.

"All I know is that I love Jesus Christ very much and I believe in Him," she said. "Also, my daughter, who is four years old, loves to participate in SAT-7 PARS children's programmes by singing the songs."

Afghanistan is one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a Christian, second only to North Korea. But thanks to the power of satellite television, God's voice of love is being heard.



PRAY

Tuesday 1 May

Thank God for the surge of SAT-7 viewers in Afghanistan!

Wednesday 2 May

Praise God for His life-transforming work in the life of Shahnaz's husband, which was such a powerful witness to the rest of the family.

Thursday 3 May

Thank God for Shahnaz's husband's boldness in sharing his faith with his family, despite the potential risks.

Friday 4 May

Pray for Afghan believers, that their friends and family would notice a difference in them and want to know more.

Saturday 5 May

Pray that entire families in Afghanistan would come to know Jesus.

Sunday 6 May

Thank God that, through media like SAT-7, His voice is being heard behind closed doors and is encouraging believers around the world.

Monday 7 May

There may be thousands of unknown believers in Afghanistan who are keeping their faith a secret. Pray for their safety, and for increased tolerance towards Christians.

EXPLORING EGYPT'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Egypt historically had a Christian majority for several centuries, and its capital is home to many churches that illustrate the country's rich Christian past. SAT-7 ARABIC is producing a new documentary, *Christians of the East*, that will bring this fascinating, little-known history to life by telling the stories of Cairo's churches.

Director Nashwa Louis shared that even she has found the show's content to be a revelation.

"The programme shows Christians their history – not in words, but with images," she said. "Our viewers need to know that we have a strong, rich heritage. When we are introduced to different churches and leaders, we feel the true value of our history, and this increases our confidence."



Each episode introduces a new congregation, interviews its leader, and explains the church's history, traditions, and architecture. The programme aims to inform and empower Egyptian Christians by showing them their own faith's history in their homeland.

The team hopes that Egypt's historical background will also be revelatory for viewers from other faiths, who may be unaware of their nation's Christian past. "We are speaking to all viewers, not just Christians," Louis said. "The word 'Copt' [now used to refer to Coptic Christians] originally meant 'Egyptian'. We want to inspire people to search out their history."

It isn't only Egypt that has a surprisingly rich Christian legacy. The *Christians of the East* team plan to produce further documentaries to highlight the Christian heritage of Iraq and other countries in the region, where Christianity had, until recent years, flourished for centuries.

PRAY

Tuesday 8 May

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4). Praise God for the faithful witness of centuries of believers in Egypt, and for the legacy they have left.

Wednesday 9 May

Pray that *Christians of the East* will be an encouragement to Christians in Egypt and strengthen them in their faith.

Thursday 10 May

Thank God for the relative freedom Christians in Egypt have to worship together, and pray for their safety as they meet.

Friday 11 May

Pray for the *Christians of the East* team as they produce further documentaries. Thank God for their skills and expertise, which they are using to serve Him.

Sat-Sun 12-13 May

Thank God for the rich diversity of Christian traditions in Egypt and pray for unity among them.

Monday 14 May

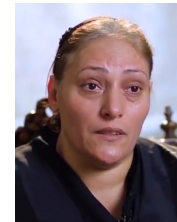
Pray that viewers of other faiths will watch the show and be inspired to find out more.

Tuesday 15 May

Christians are a minority across the Middle East. Pray for strength and boldness for Middle Eastern believers, particularly in countries where the Christian population has dwindled significantly.

BEREAVED MOTHER SHARES STORY OF CHRIST'S COMFORT

An Egyptian widow was plunged into despair by her son's sudden death. But in the darkest moments of her life, Jesus comforted her in the most powerful way.



The brave speaker, who did not give her name, shared her testimony on SAT-7 programme *New Eve*. She had a daughter, Maivel, who was born with Down Syndrome. "At first, I was very depressed, and I blamed God for giving me a first-born with a disability," she said. "But I still had faith in Him."

Eight months after Maivel was born, the woman became pregnant with a son, Younan. Tragically, shortly afterwards, she lost her husband and became a widow at just 39 years old. "That's when I started seeing Jesus in my dreams," she said. "He comforted me in ways I could not have imagined... God always provided for us."

Maivel and Younan grew up, and Younan enlisted in the army. But when he was only 21 years old, tragedy struck once again — Younan died one night from a sudden heart attack. Naturally, this devastating loss had a spiritual impact. "I was so shocked that I rebelled against God," said the woman. "I blamed Him and said, 'You know how hard it was for me to get pregnant. I accepted your will when you gave me Maivel, but why did you have to take Younan too?'"

Once again, God intervened in the woman's life in a dramatic way. "Jesus came to visit me one night in my sleep, and He took me to church. It felt like He raised me from the dead. I started going to church again, and my life began to change," she said.

As part of this new chapter in her life, she joined a group at her church that serves members of the congregation with disabilities. "They are the real angels on earth," she said. "This service has helped me let go of my anger and have compassion for others."

The woman ended her inspirational testimony with some words for others: "My advice is to always have faith in God and to surrender to His will."

PRAY

Wednesday 16 May

Thank God for the Egyptian widow's faith and hope in the face of such unfathomable tragedy.

Thursday 17 May

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). Pray this verse for others facing trauma and bereavement.

Friday 18 May

Pray that the woman's testimony will inspire viewers to want to know more about the hope that she has.

Sat-Sun 19-20 May

Pray for any ministries or people you know who are serving those with disabilities.

Monday 21 May

Thank God for the show *New Eve*, which gives women space to share their stories. Pray that viewers will be inspired, empowered and uplifted.

Tuesday 22 May

Widows around the world face injustice, poverty and discrimination. Thank God for the special concern He shows for widows in the Bible. Pray He will draw close to them and give them hope.

Wednesday 23 May

Praise God that Jesus is revealing Himself to people across the Middle East through dreams and visions.