

FIVE-YEAR-OLD TEACHES PARENTS TO ACCEPT OTHERS



Parents, society and the media all influence people's judgement of others, and by the time we are adults, we have often formed certain opinions about people who are 'different' to us. But children often have a fresher perspective – like Lucinda, a young guest on a recent episode of SAT-7 ACADEMY programme *Keys to My Kid*.

Five-year-old guest Lucinda surprised the programme's presenter, Asnat Awad, during a candid chat about the "others". When asked how she sees people who are different to her, Lucinda answered, "That's how God created them. They are just like that. We can pray for the ill and poor for God to heal them and provide for them."

As they discussed the differences between people based on religion, physical appearance or race, Lucinda said that all people are the same regardless, and we should treat one another equally.

The episode also featured a Psychology professor, Dr Maher El Dabaa, who shared his insights on the topic.

"What's amazing about children is that they don't judge one another based on appearance, status or anything. They just play together," El Dabaa said. "But this innocent acceptance of the other recedes with time, as they grow and learn from their parents the judgement of the other."

Keys to My Kid is an educational programme that aims to help parents learn from their own children about parenting mistakes they may be making, as the children share their personal opinions and experiences. The show addresses topics including understanding children's needs, unhealthy teaching at home and psychological and physical abuse. ■



PRAY

Thursday 1 August

Thank God for Lucinda and her attitude of acceptance towards others.

Friday 2 August

Pray that *Keys to My Kid* will continue to shatter negative stereotypes.

Sat-Sun 3-4 August

Pray for our staff and volunteers who are at New Wine this week, that they will have a fruitful time!

Monday 5 August

Pray for presenter Asnat Awad and thank God for the impact she is having.

Tuesday 6 August

Pray for parents who watch the show, that they will learn more about their children and how to raise them well.

Wednesday 7 August

Thank God for the SAT-7 ACADEMY brand of programmes, which promotes education and positive values in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Thursday 8 August

Pray for greater equality and tolerance of others in the MENA region.

Friday 9 August

Thank God that He "does not show favouritism" (Romans 2:11) but loves us all equally.



PRAY

Sat-Sun 10-11 August

Praise God that Myriam and her family have returned home!

Monday 12 August

Today is International Youth Day. Pray for young people around the world, that they will find hope for the future in God.

Tuesday 13 August

Pray for Iraqi Christians, like Myriam and her family, as they return home and start to rebuild their communities and lives.

Wednesday 14 August

Pray for the Iraqi Christians who have not yet been able to return home, that they will be able to return soon.

Thursday 15 August

Thank God for SAT-7 KIDS presenter Essam Nagy and the positive influence he has been in millions of children's lives.

Friday 16 August

Thank God for SAT-7 KIDS programmes, which bring hope and comfort to children across the MENA.

Sat-Sun 17-18 August

"The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). Pray that, like Myriam, children across the MENA will come to know this amazing truth.

DO YOU REMEMBER MYRIAM, THE GIRL WHO FORGAVE ISIS?

SAT-7 first met nine-year-old Iraqi schoolgirl Myriam in 2014, when she was living in a refugee camp in Erbil, Iraq. In a video that later went viral, she spoke of her forgiveness towards so-called Islamic State (IS) – and her longing to return home.



Five years later, Myriam's prayers have been answered! A new 30-minute SAT-7 film, *Sequel of Hope*, caught up with Myriam and her family as they celebrated their first Easter back in their Christian hometown of Qaraqosh.

FLEEING FROM HOME

IS overran the Nineveh valley in 2014, and gave the Christian-majority population the choice of fleeing, paying a punitive tax, converting or "facing the sword." Myriam and her family were among the thousands who fled. She ended up in Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, living initially in an unfinished shopping centre and later in a temporary cabin in a refugee camp.

This is where SAT-7 presenter Essam Nagy first met Myriam, while filming a Christmas special in Northern Iraq. Despite losing her home, her school and her friends, she astonished Essam – and SAT-7's viewers – with a message of forgiveness towards her persecutors.

"I know that God loves me, He loves everybody – even the people who tried to harm us," Myriam said. "I won't do anything to them; I will only ask God to forgive them. I have forgiven them.

"I'm not angry at God. I thank Him because He provided for us. Even if we're suffering here, I know that Jesus will never forsake me."

Following the liberation of Qaraqosh from ISIS in 2016, Christian families slowly started moving back to the area. Myriam and her family finally returned home in September 2018.

SEQUEL OF HOPE

Filmed in Qaraqosh this Easter, *Sequel of Hope* shows both the destruction left by IS and the resilience of the Iraqi Christian community.

In the film, now 13-year-old Myriam says her family's home was "protected by the hand of God". IS destroyed much of her hometown, but Myriam's house remained standing.

But after living as a refugee for four years, she says, "It's not about the house. It's about seeing what God is doing for you. God is always protecting you and you can count on Him."

"I love Qaraqosh," she continues. "It's where I was born and studied during my childhood, but the more important thing is that I love to see people believing in God."

A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Myriam also urged Christians to pray and bring hope to the millions of refugee children who are still displaced from their homes.

"Please, please, don't forget the world's children," Myriam says. "I know what it's like to think you will never see your home or your friends again. As Christians we must remember in our prayers and in our compassion all the children around the world who are suffering because of war and often because they are Christians."

In her saddest moments, Myriam said that knowing that believers around the world were praying for her and other Iraqi Christians – and being able to watch SAT-7's children's programmes – kept her hope alive.

"Myriam's story captured millions of hearts," says SAT-7's International CEO, Rita El-Mounayer, who grew up in war-torn Lebanon and, like Myriam, found a refuge from war in watching TV.

"If we want to change the Middle East, we must focus on the children. They have all this pain, all this brokenness and hurt. But God is using SAT-7 to bring a message of reconciliation and peace." ■



PRAY

Monday 19 August

Thank God for Myriam's powerful message of forgiveness, and the millions of lives it has touched.

Tuesday 20 August

Pray for an end to war and violence in Iraq and Syria, so that many more families' lives can return to normal.

Wednesday 21 August

Thank God for the resilience of Iraq's Christian community, who remained faithful under pressure. Ask God to strengthen them today.

Thursday 22 August

Thank God for the new film, *Sequel of Hope*, and pray it will be widely viewed and shared.

Friday 23 August

Join Myriam in her prayer for the world's children – particularly those who are suffering because they are Christians.

Sat-Sun 24-25 August

Thank God for the "message of reconciliation and peace" that SAT-7 is broadcasting across the MENA.

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:44-45

SAT-7 TÜRK NEWS ADVOCATES FOR CHRISTIANS IN TURKEY

SAT-7's Turkish news service, SAT-7 TÜRK HABER, has established itself as a valuable source of news in Turkey. By providing reliable and objective news from across the country, the channel is helping unify and inform Turkish churches and Christians.

People in Turkey love watching television, and the news is especially popular. However, news about Christians is often misrepresented on secular television.

By providing reliable and objective news related to Christians in Turkey and around the world, SAT-7 TÜRK has gained the respect of other media companies and is often consulted by them on all aspects of news about Christians and the Church.

“We are working on finding individuals at each church who can serve as a point of contact, and who will keep us updated on their news, prayer requests and church updates,” explains Melih Ekener, Executive Director of SAT-7 TÜRK. “It will then be up to us to present this information as news.”

The latest local and international Christian news is available on SAT-7 TÜRK's news website. Articles in both Turkish and English cover all aspects of Christian life, including church events, culture and arts, health, technology and even sports.

Christian news can bring much-needed support to the MENA's persecuted Church – building unity and trust between different denominations, as well as demonstrating the region's vibrant Christian presence.

“News about Christians is vital,” comments Rita El-Mounayer, CEO of SAT-7. “Christians in Turkey have a voice, and they need to be heard. It is crucial that we develop and finance our news department in Turkey.”

“Our goal for the future is to create a fully functioning news department,” adds Melih. “We want to become an ambassador of Christian news for Turkey.” ■



PRAY

Monday 26 August

Praise God for the presence of a Christian community in Turkey. Thank Him that SAT-7 TÜRK HABER is giving a voice to Turkish Christians and the local Church.

Tuesday 27 August

Thank God that SAT-7's Turkish news is trusted and well-regarded by secular news outlets. Pray that Christians will start to be represented well in the Turkish media.

Wednesday 28 August

Pray for non-Christian viewers of SAT-7 TÜRK HABER, that their perception of Christians will be changed for the better.

Thursday 29 August

Pray that Christian news will help to unite the different denominations in Turkey and build trust between them.

Friday 30 August

Pray that SAT-7 TÜRK will receive the finances it needs to develop its news department.

Saturday 31 August

Pray for Christians around the world who experience persecution, that they will be supported and encouraged by Christian television channels like SAT-7. Ask God to strengthen them today.

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

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