

THE WALL: PSYCHOLOGICAL SITCOM BRINGS CHANGE FROM THE INSIDE OUT

SAT-7 ARABIC's thought-provoking new sitcom, *The Wall*, is helping MENA viewers strengthen their societies from the inside out. As they laugh and empathise with characters, viewers will be offered new perspectives on gender equality, racism, disability rights, and more.



The show's plot centres on married psychologists Sara and Adel, who share a single office partitioned by a wall. When the couple

discover a futuristic new psychological technique that allows them to inhabit the minds of their patients, literally seeing from their eyes, they begin a journey of discovery that broadens their perspectives – and helps them understand each other.

“Storytelling, as in this drama, is the best way to communicate with viewers,” says SAT-7 ARABIC Programming Manager George Makeen. “It encourages us to look at modern life, and its struggles, with different eyes.” Since its launch in January, the show has already garnered a following, with several thousand people watching on Facebook alone after the main satellite broadcast.

Through *The Wall's* 26 episodes, Sara and Adel confront many societal issues common in the MENA, enabling viewers to see them from different perspectives. For example, when Adel sees from the perspective of Moheeb, a young man with Down's Syndrome who works at the clinic, he learns what it is like to experience unfairness every day.

The Wall's unique strength is that these weighty issues are embedded in an exciting, engaging plot – in which Sara and Adel must contend with enemies both within and outside of their clinic – and always with humour.

As viewers develop their own understanding of freedom of religion and belief, unity within diversity, minority rights, and freedom of speech, the aim is that they will make positive changes in their interactions with those who are different, and also share their understanding with others. ■



PRAY

Sunday 1 November

Thank God for *The Wall* and pray that it will be popular with SAT-7 viewers.

Monday 2 November

Pray that, as people watch *The Wall* and other SAT-7 shows about human rights and diversity, their attitudes towards others will begin to change for the better.

Tuesday 3 November

Thank God for the creativity and talent of the show's writers, actors, producers and behind-the-scenes team.

Wednesday 4 November

Pray for Arascope, the production house that creates *The Wall* and other shows for SAT-7. Pray that God will be with them in their work and provide everything they need.

Thursday 5 November

Thank God for SAT-7 ARABIC and pray for those who work for the channel.

Friday 6 November

Pray particularly for viewers who predominantly engage with SAT-7 through Facebook and other social media channels, that they will have a real encounter with God through watching online.

Sat-Sun 7-8 November

Pray that, despite the enormous challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, SAT-7 will continue to be able to create new shows and engage new audiences.



PRAY

Monday 9 November

Praise God that Andrew's father was miraculously healed from coronavirus.

Tuesday 10 November

Thank God that Andrew and other SAT-7 staff have been working hard to keep broadcasting throughout the pandemic.

Wednesday 11 November

Thank God that viewers are able to find support, encouragement, teaching and community through SAT-7's broadcasts even during times of isolation.

Thursday 12 November

Pastor Cem, a SAT-7 presenter, said that since the pandemic gripped the region, *"We receive more questions, there are more discussions, more positive and negative reactions. People are hungry for answers are many are turning to God."* Pray that people will find the answers they seek in Jesus.

Friday 13 November

Pray for God's protection and blessing on SAT-7 staff – whether in front of the cameras, behind the scenes, interacting with viewers, or in support offices around the world.

Sat-Sun 14-15 November

Pray that viewers will tune in to SAT-7's health programmes which give advice on how to stay safe and well.

STANDING FIRM THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

2020 will be forever remembered as the year coronavirus swept the entire globe. Despite the chaos, uncertainty and risk, SAT-7 staff across the MENA worked harder than ever to make sure broadcasts never stopped.



Among them was Andrew Gamal (above), SAT-7 Producer and Audio Studio Manager in Egypt. Here, he shares the story of his father's recovery from COVID-19, and how his drive to show Christ's hope to struggling viewers kept him going during the pandemic, Egypt's lockdown, and his father's life-threatening illness.

The coronavirus pandemic came very close to home for me. My father, who is a pastor in Upper Egypt, contracted the virus, and he got very sick and was hospitalised. My father is 83 and has diabetes, hypertension, and heart problems.

For many weeks, we waited as doctors gave us conflicting news.

WORKING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

During this difficult time for me and my family, I insisted on going to work every day. SAT-7 is a haven for many spiritually thirsty souls in the Middle East and North Africa who are searching for the truth. As a member of this media ministry on the frontline, I already understood the responsibility we have to our viewers.

And during the pandemic, this responsibility had become even more clear to me. The fear and uncertainty the virus brought with it has taken a toll on our viewers, and it was our role to be there, to proclaim

the truth despite the high, relentless waves of doubt many experienced.

BROADCASTING HOPE

But even before my father's illness, fulfilling this role had not been smooth sailing. From the start, the pandemic brought with it more work and fewer people to do it. While many understandably decided not to go out, I personally chose to continue to go to work, operate the studio, and film our weekly worship programme *Keep on Singing* while taking all necessary precautions.

We wanted to make sure our viewers all over the MENA each received a personal message of hope and faith during this time. This meant many international calls and online meetings that allowed singers in Egypt and other Arab countries to participate, which required more staff, not less. Curfew was also challenging for me, because I had to run after work for home-related errands before the shops closed.

A TEST OF FAITH

Then, my whole family faced the challenge of my father's illness on top of these other pressures. It was very difficult – one day there was good news, the next disturbing news. We prayed for him and after 22 days of uncertainty, a miracle happened. He was finally healed.

The doctors involved in the case marvelled. They saw God's hands on my father.

I believe our response to the God who works miracles must be to live what we preach. We must be a living example of faith – and for that reason, I still feel driven to keep working as long as I can stand on my feet. ■



To make a change from programmes filmed from people's homes and empty studios, Andrew Gamal's team recently filmed Ava Makary choir (above) in a sunflower field in Upper Egypt. After many weeks of isolation, the choir were uplifted to be able to sing together!



PRAY

Monday 16 November

The pandemic has disrupted the education of children around the world. Thank God that SAT-7 ACADEMY programmes are plugging the gap for Arabic-speaking children.

Tuesday 17 November

As churches across the MENA begin to tentatively open up again, pray that God will keep worshippers in full health.

Wednesday 18 November

Pray for anyone you know of who has coronavirus, that they will make a full recovery.

Thursday 19 November

Pray for wisdom for governments around the world as they continue to grapple with the pandemic.

Friday 20 November

Pray for the Ava Makary choir, who were recently filmed for SAT-7. Several members have had coronavirus and have since recovered – pray for their total healing and protection.

Sat-Sun 21-22 November

"Thank you for all your efforts in creating excellent programmes that helped me come to faith. I am a doctor and in the midst of the coronavirus situation, I am grateful that you are keeping us in your prayers."

AZADEH, SAT-7 VIEWER IN IRAN

Pray for Azadeh and others in the medical profession, that God will be their strength.

STUDIO SPOTLIGHT

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The next studio to feature under the Spotlight is in the vibrant metropolis of Istanbul – home of SAT-7's Turkish language channel.



SAT-7 has broadcast programmes in Turkish since 2006, but SAT-7 TÜRK officially became its own satellite channel in 2015. Over that time, the team has marvelled at God's faithfulness. No longer a tiny operation producing a few hours' output a day, the channel is available 24/7 on the country's national satellite TV platform.

“Five years ago, SAT-7 TÜRK began broadcasting God's love in Turkey with a staff of 20,” says David Middleton, Development Manager at SAT-7. “Today, they are a team of 40 individuals that God has brought together from across the country.”



The premises itself houses two studios, where around three hours of live broadcasts are filmed every day, along with pre-recorded programmes. SAT-7 TÜRK's programmes explore Christian culture

and Christianity in Turkey, as well as diverse programmes about women (like *Homemade*, above), health, food, children, cinema, arts and culture.

As the team has grown, so too have the responses from viewers. In 2015, the audience relations team received 1,211 contacts; four years later, this number had reached over 18,000. The audience relations team is also based in the Istanbul studio, taking phone calls and helping viewers find out more about Jesus.

“Non-Christians are more comfortable reaching out to the channel than they are in approaching a church directly,” says Cem Erçin, pastor of a church in the city. “SAT-7 TÜRK serves as a starting point and a foundation in their search for answers about Christianity.” ■



PRAY

Monday 23 November

Pray God's blessing on everyone who works at the Turkish studio and ask that He will guide them in their work.

Tuesday 24 November

Thank God for every person who gets in touch with the Audience Relations team. Pray that they will find the answers they seek.

Wednesday 25 November

Pray that the programmes on SAT-7 TÜRK will bring joy, hope and wisdom to viewers.

Thursday 26 November

Pray that God will provide the channel with the equipment upgrades they urgently need to continue to broadcast high-quality television.

Friday 27 November

Pray God's blessing over Istanbul, and thank Him for the faithful Christians and churches in the city.

Sat-Sun 28-29 November

Pray for the country of Turkey and ask for wisdom for the Turkish government.

Monday 30 November

Please pray that the SAT-7 team will be protected from coronavirus, particularly those who have to take public transport to get to work.

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

SAT-7 UK

It's time to shine the spotlight on the unsung heroes of SAT-7 UK – our tireless Admin team. If you ever ring, email or write to the office, it will usually be one of the four friendly faces below who helps you with your enquiry!

Admin Team



From left to right: Kathy, Catherine, Funsho and Maria

From processing your donations, adding new people to the database, sending out thank you letters and resources, managing the finances, answering your questions and so much more, the Admin team are the beating heart of SAT-7 UK's operations. In Kathy's words: "We keep an eye on all those things that happen in the background which allow everyone else to do what they do!"

Perhaps most importantly, the Admin team make sure that your donations reach the right projects and television studios in the MENA so that SAT-7 can continue making God's love visible across the region.

Please join us in praying for the Admin team:

Father in heaven,

Thank you so much for each member of the Admin team and for their steadfast hard work, patience and dedication. We pray that in each of their tasks and projects, they will "do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Please give them strength and joy in their work, and peace to rest.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

It's your turn in the Spotlight, Admin Team! What does your role involve and what do you love about it?

Kathy

My job involves the day-to-day 'bookkeeping', making sure the bills are paid on time. There is a routine and order to what I do, and I enjoy the satisfaction when everything balances as it should – you know you can put it away and do it all again the next month!

Catherine

Hello, I'm the Donor Services Administrator. I've been with SAT-7 for 12½ years! I'm responsible for processing gifts and sending receipts, as well as producing mailing lists and other admin tasks. I really enjoy looking after our donors on their journey of support with SAT-7.

Funsho

I'm an accountant, and I help to ensure the integrity of the accounts. I derive satisfaction from using my experience and expertise to add value and make a difference.

Maria

Hi! I'm the Admin Support Officer and my responsibilities include answering the telephone, working on our database, signing up new supporters and sending out their resources. I love interacting with people on the telephone, hearing their stories and their involvement and interest in SAT-7.