

INSPIRING YOUNG SYRIAN WOMAN IS PROOF OF SAT-7'S IMPACT



A young Syrian woman who grew up with SAT-7 KIDS is living proof of the channel's lasting positive impact. Sarah, 21, who devotes her time to serving children, credits the Christian broadcaster with helping her develop her faith – even as she spent her entire adolescence in a warzone.

“Everything I do today, I learned from SAT-7 KIDS,” says Sarah. Today, Sarah works in a centre for displaced and orphaned children in Damascus, Syria, and uses SAT-7 in her teaching.

Sarah was only 10 when the war started in Syria. Her family felt that God wanted them to remain in Damascus despite the dangers, and SAT-7 KIDS, particularly the singing programmes, helped her through a very scary time. “I still remember the songs,” Sarah recalls. “I heard songs of hope, joy and love – which was so helpful to keep my mind in a safe place. I’ve kept them with me as I’ve grown up.”

Today, Sarah shows Christ-like love to the children she works with at the centre, who like her have grown up with war all around them. “These kids are full of fear, trouble and trauma,” she says. “So through the cartoons and songs, we talk about it. We try to express that when we pray, God hears us and we feel peace.”

Sarah has noticed a huge difference in the children’s demeanour compared to when they arrived at the centre. “They came to the centre fearing God, and thinking that He will punish them,” she says. “But they are changing in the way they speak about Him – they are filled with joy.

“The parents notice this change and ask us what we are teaching their children – because they want to learn it too!” ■



Thursday 1 October

Praise God for Sarah and her passion for serving Him.

Friday 2 October

Thank God for SAT-7 KIDS, and pray its messages of hope and joy will continue to have a lasting impact in Middle Eastern children’s lives.

Sat-Sun 3-4 October

The children’s centre in Damascus had to close during the lockdown, but is now opening up for smaller sessions. Pray that God blesses this ministry.

Monday 5 October

Pray that God brings healing to Syrian children whose lives have been shaped by war.

Tuesday 6 October

Pray for the children Sarah works with at the centre, that they will learn about Jesus through SAT-7’s programmes.

Wednesday 7 October

Thank God that parents at the centre have noticed a difference in their children, and ask that they too will learn about Jesus.

Thursday 8 October

Thank God that even in scary or difficult situations, we are completely safe in Him.

Friday 9 October

Thank God for singing programmes on SAT-7 KIDS like *Let’s Sing Together*, which teaches children biblical truths in fun and memorable ways.



PRAY

Sat-Sun 10-11 October

Give thanks for the example of the young volunteers who joined in Beirut's massive clear-up effort.

Monday 12 October

Pray for those who still feel devastated and hopeless after the explosion, that like Juliana they will find hope and joy again.

Tuesday 13 October

Pray for the many churches, NGOs and others who are seeking with limited means to respond to urgent housing, food, physical and mental health needs.

Wednesday 14 October

An estimated 300,000 people were made homeless by the blast. Pray that they will be able to find shelter and rebuild their lives.

Thursday 15 October

Pray particularly for refugees in Beirut who have now been displaced twice and for all residents of Beirut who have previously lived through war, for whom this will have brought up old traumas and fears. Pray that God will comfort and protect them.

Friday 16 October

Pray for those in severe poverty brought on by Lebanon's economic crisis and worsened by the COVID-19 lockdowns. Estimates indicate that more than 55% of the country's population are struggling for basic necessities.

THE YOUTH OF BEIRUT – A LESSON IN RESILIENCE

In the aftermath of Beirut's devastating explosion on 4 August, many residents hit rock bottom, feeling devastated and hopeless. Juliana Sfeir, SAT-7 ACADEMY Brand Manager, shares how she was one of them – until she witnessed the response of the youth of Beirut, whose resilience and unity filled her with hope.



Juliana reports from the scene of a youth-run food distribution point

“I am a child of war, I lived through the war in Lebanon, and I know how to differentiate the sounds of explosions, shrapnel, and bombs landing,” Juliana says. “What happened at the port was something that I had never experienced in my life.”

The whole building – located around 10k from the port in the hills of Beirut – shook from the explosion as Juliana and a guest sat in a meeting in the SAT-7 Lebanon studio. The second explosion threw them both out of their seats and onto the floor – while at the same time, in other parts of Beirut, glass windows shattered, walls and ceilings came down, furniture and cars turned upside down.

After the blast, the phonelines were jammed, as well as the Internet. For 20 minutes, Juliana could not reach her parents who live and work close to the port.

ROCK BOTTOM

When she finally reached her parents, she thanked God that they were both safe, but their home and shop were damaged and almost all their neighbours had been injured. As other stories of injury and death poured in from her friends, Juliana says she hit rock bottom.



PRAY

“I thought, ‘I don’t believe in hope or life anymore. What are we doing here? Why do we still believe in this country? Why do we keep hanging on?’” she shares.

“I have spent 50 years in this country, experiencing one thing after another, and we have kept saying, ‘Tomorrow is a better day.’ But we have at the most two to five years of peace, and then – bam! All over again. I’d had enough and was ready to take my family and leave the country.”

AN ASTONISHING SIGHT

Two days after the incident, Juliana went to the site of the explosion to film a video for SAT-7. Fighting back tears, she described the devastation and the hopelessness that surrounded her.

But as they were filming, Juliana saw hundreds of young people walking in the streets, carrying brooms and shovels. The youth, from all religious backgrounds, were working together to clear the streets of Beirut.

“I had never seen anything like this before. We saw youth cleaning, distributing food, helping the elderly. They recognised we were from SAT-7 and offered us food and water. They kept saying, ‘God keep you safe, thank you for the work you do. We love SAT-7!’

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

“I first thought, ‘Why are you doing this? It is pointless,’ but slowly, my bitterness and hopelessness melted away,” Juliana says. “I thought to myself that if the youth of Lebanon are willing to contribute, to help each other and their community, why should I be depressed or discouraged? If they are willing to work to rebuild their country, who am I to give up, or say it’s not worth it?

“The future lies in the hands of these resilient young people. Seeing these kids reacting to the crisis by helping each other and being full of hope, it reminded me that yes, a future is possible – thanks to them!” ■



Sat-Sun 17-18 October

Thank God for SAT-7 programmes which have brought encouragement and hope to those who are struggling in the aftermath of the explosion.

Monday 19 October

Praise God for SAT-7’s brilliant staff in Lebanon – both those in front of the camera and behind the scenes. Pray that God will be close to them and their families.

Tuesday 20 October

Pray for healing for those who were injured in the blast, and ask that God will give supernatural strength and energy to those in the medical profession.

Wednesday 21 October

Pray for healing for Lebanon as a country, and pray that all political parties will put the common good of the Lebanese people above their own interests.

Thursday 22 October

Many church leaders have told us they are physically and mentally exhausted. Pray for God’s strength and refreshing for them and their congregations.

Friday 23 October

Praise God that He can turn hopelessness to hope, devastation to restoration, and death to life.

SERVING GOD IN AN IRANIAN PRISON



Mojdeh*, an Iranian Christian woman, recently endured forty days in prison for her faith. In an Instagram live chat with *Insiders* presenter Hengameh

Borji, she encouraged SAT-7 PARS viewers with how God’s “utterly tangible presence” sustained her there.

Mojdeh was in Tehran for a house-church leaders meeting when she was arrested in her friend’s home.

“We were still asleep when four or five officers burst into the room,” Mojdeh recalls. “I opened my eyes to see these strangers standing over me. It felt completely unreal, like I was in a film.

“I asked an officer why I was being arrested, and he responded, ‘You know what you have done. Are you not a Christian?’ I responded that I was. I was falsely accused of activities against the Islamic Republic, but the real reason for my arrest was my faith in Jesus.”

Mojdeh’s life in prison was very hard. “I always felt very vulnerable and unsafe. At 6:30 every morning, whatever the weather, we had to go out into a small yard to do forced exercises and sing revolutionary songs,” she says.

She was also subjected to interrogations, and a full physical search on her return. “It was an ordeal that was highly insulting and humiliating,” she remembers. “On one occasion I burst into tears. I said that they were insulting me when I had not committed any crimes, and that it was only for my Christian faith that I had been sent to prison. The prison guard herself was moved to tears.”

But through all she endured, Mojdeh’s faith in God sustained her.

“When I entered prison, I was overwhelmed with feelings of anxiety, fear, and uncertainty,” she shares. “Yet every minute of every day, I was aware of God’s utterly tangible presence wherever I was. I was not permitted to have a Bible, but I shared the good news of Christ with many people.” ■



PRAY

Sat-Sun 24-25 October

Thank God for Mojdeh’s story and for her faithfulness even through her terrifying ordeal.

Monday 26 October

Thirteen Iranian Christians were recently arrested in three different cities in Iran, and at least four women were among them. Pray for these believers, that they too will feel God’s tangible presence.

Tuesday 27 October

Pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world who have been imprisoned for their faith, and ask God to draw close to them and fill them with hope and joy.

Wednesday 28 October

Women play a significant role in Iranian house churches, often becoming leaders. Praise God for their ministry and pray it will have a great impact on their churches, families and country.

Thursday 29 October

Pray for prison guards and officers in Iranian prisons, that they will see Jesus through the witness of faithful Christian prisoners.

Friday 30 October

Thank God for SAT-7’s Persian channel, SAT-7 PARS, which shares stories like Mojdeh’s and encourages, teaches and equips the Iranian Church.

Saturday 31 October

Pray for SAT-7 women’s chat show *Insiders* and its presenter Hengameh Borji.