

PRAYER DIARY

MAY 2021



Behind the scenes

SATURDAY 1 MAY

BEHIND THE SCENES

Over the next few days, our prayers focus on the internal operations of SAT-7 – such as staff, studios and finances. Give thanks for all those who work for SAT-7 – the 221 staff members and 206 freelancers, of 17 different nationalities, in 13 locations worldwide!

SUNDAY 2 MAY

ON-DEMAND SERVICE

Praise God that in February, SAT-7 launched the Middle East's first on-demand Christian video streaming service. Pray that the new SAT-7 PLUS platform will bring the life-changing message of the Gospel to a wider audience in the region, including a growing younger demographic engaging via mobile devices.

MONDAY 3 MAY

INCREASED VIEWER CONTACT

Over the last year, there's been an incredible 30% increase in the number of people contacting our teams, and on average more than 1,000 people got in touch every day. Thank God that viewers are opening up and asking their questions and pray that each one will find the answers they are looking for.

TUESDAY 4 MAY

FINANCES

"My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19, NIV). Pray that God will meet every financial need for SAT-7's programme production, staffing, satellite time and other costs.

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY

SUPPORTERS

Give thanks for the individuals, churches, foundations and other groups that generously support SAT-7 with prayer, donations, grants and voluntary services. Ask that SAT-7 UK will find creative and effective ways to gain new and committed supporters who are excited about what God is doing in the MENA.

THURSDAY 6 MAY

PRODUCTION STAFF

Pray for the crew involved in TV production, including camera operators, sound technicians, writers, producers, directors and editors. Thank God that they are using their skills and training to serve Him and pray they will know His closeness and blessing in their work.

FRIDAY 7 MAY

SOCIAL MEDIA

SAT-7's TV channels (ARABIC, KIDS, PARS and TÜRK) have begun a strategic shift in the way they use social media to reach existing and new followers. Facebook pages on specific themes, such as worship, women, family and youth, have replaced the individual programme pages, allowing those who like one show to keep engaging with other similar content even when a programme is not broadcasting.

Pray this shift helps to create loyal and active followers and SAT-7 to connect with them more effectively, in order to have the greatest impact in their lives.

General

SATURDAY 8 MAY

BEIRUT

It's been over nine months since the devastating explosion in Beirut's port – pray for the ongoing efforts to rebuild the city and rehome residents and ask God to heal and comfort those still suffering from longer-term injuries and trauma.

SUNDAY 9 MAY

JOIN THE PRAYER OF SABRY, SYRIA

"Jesus, protect Syria and solve all the problems in it. God, I know you have wisdom in what is happening. I hope you make the crisis pass without further damage and the situation returns as it was. Amen."

MONDAY 10 MAY

UK VOLUNTEERS

Thank God for the many UK Ambassadors and volunteers who give their time and energy in support of SAT-7. Ask Him to bless them in their roles.

TUESDAY 11 MAY

SEVEN LETTERS

SAT-7 PARS documentary *Seven Letters* teaches viewers how the letters of Revelation are relevant to persecuted churches today. Pray this series will encourage viewers to go deeper in studying the Bible and understand its relevance to their lives.

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY

MENA CHURCHES

Lift to God in prayer the needs of both house churches and established churches for trained leaders, teaching material, physical protection and freedom.

THURSDAY 13 MAY

FROM DANA, A VIEWER IN EGYPT

"Thank you so much for your prayers. I asked you to pray for my husband who had some heart complications and he is much better now and there is no need for an operation. God bless you and praise the Lord."

Praise God for this answer to prayer.

FRIDAY 14 MAY

BACKSTAGE

Praise God that new SAT-7 ARABIC drama series *Backstage* is promoting diversity and tackling common stigmas in the Middle East, such as infertility, skin colour, disability or being adopted, a lone parent or a member of a minority faith. The show immerses viewers in the lives of a diverse cast of characters who work at a fictional advertising agency in Egypt.

Pray that *Backstage* teaches viewers to treat all members of society with equality and compassion.

SATURDAY 15 MAY

LEBANESE PROJECT

Praise God that the Danish Government has granted funding to a major SAT-7-led project, called *Lebanon – Our Story*. The project aims to drive social cohesion by helping young people from a variety of backgrounds, including Syrian refugees, to develop a shared narrative of hope for the future.

Turkey

SUNDAY 16 MAY TURKEY

Over the next few days, we will lift up our prayers for the nation of Turkey. Praise God that SAT-7's Turkish-language channel, SAT-7 TÜRK, has been broadcasting on the national satellite platform for over six years.

"It would be impossible to explain our faith to 81 million people one by one," says Melih Ekener, Executive Director of SAT-7 TÜRK. "But over the past six years, through television we have been able to reach hundreds of thousands of people and now we are starting to see the fruits of the seeds we planted when we started."

MONDAY 17 MAY REPRESENTING CHRISTIANS

Praise God that SAT-7's Turkish channel represents Christians in Turkey, who make up just one per cent of the population and are frequently under-represented and misunderstood. The fact that a Christian channel is being broadcast on a Turkish government-regulated satellite is very important to the small number of Christians living in the country.

TUESDAY 18 MAY FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

"I just learned from your channel that there is a lot of Christian history in Turkey. Pray for my family and friends to learn that too."

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY YOUTH DAY IN TURKEY

Young people between 15 and 24 make up 15.6 per cent of the Turkish population. Pray that they will have the opportunity to learn of God's love in Christ. Ask God's blessing on Turning Point, a SAT-7 TÜRK show that allows young Christians to discuss the issues confronting them in modern society.

THURSDAY 20 MAY DROUGHT

Pray for rainfall in Turkey, where severe drought earlier this year has led to critically low levels of water across the country. "In a reservoir where fish used to swim, sheep are now grazing," stated a newsreel on SAT-7 TÜRK.

FRIDAY 21 MAY WORLDVIEW

Praise God for SAT-7 TÜRK current affairs programme *Worldview*, which has responded to viewer's concerns about the drought by exploring climate change and the role of faith in caring for the environment. Pray that SAT-7 TÜRK programmes will help raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage viewers to care for God's creation.

SATURDAY 22 MAY FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

"There are no Christian youth nearby to be friends with my son. He is lonely. I worry about the influence of drug-using friends. Pray for his protection."

SUNDAY 23 MAY VIEWER INTERACTIONS

SAT-7 TÜRK viewer interactions with staff increased 120% in 2020. Give the Lord thanks for this growth.

MONDAY 24 MAY

HOMEMADE

Give thanks for the talk show *Homemade*, which addresses some of the big issues facing Turkish women. One recent episode focused on the prevalent problem of domestic abuse and femicide in Turkey, where at least 300 women were killed by male relatives or ex-partners in 2020. Pray urgently for an end to violence against women in Turkey.

TUESDAY 25 MAY

FROM AKAY, A MALE VIEWER IN TURKEY

"I wish you a good broadcast. We are watching *Homemade* with great joy and coffees at hand. Again, you add colour to our lives with important and meaningful issues. You make the best programmes in all the Middle East and the Balkans. I hope to meet one day, face to face."

Ask that more men will tune in to shows like *Homemade* and start to view women through God's eyes.

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY

EXPULSION OF FOREIGN CHRISTIANS

Around 70 Christian foreign nationals in Turkey have had their residence revoked since 2019, having been labelled a "threat to national security". Pray against this worrying trend and for foreign Christians to be allowed to remain in Turkey.

THURSDAY 27 MAY

PRAY FOR DIDEM, A VIEWER IN TURKEY

"May the Lord protect you and bless you. SAT-7 TÜRK is such a beautiful channel. I follow your channel all day when I work from home, and I no longer watch other channels. This channel helped me find my purpose in life – I am no longer without hope and I am full of life. May the Lord bless your services. I love you very much." Thank God that SAT-7 is helping viewers find purpose and meaning.

General

FRIDAY 28 MAY

PRAY FOR SABRA, A VIEWER IN PALESTINE

"A couple of months ago I had a miscarriage. This was our first baby, that we have been longingly waiting for with joy. The miscarriage was so shocking to me – it made me really struggle in my faith and I felt like I was drowning in a sea of sadness. Now I'm accepting it and I'm able to see the goodness of the Lord. I am full of hope, but I need your prayers so that I will be able to face this battle."

SATURDAY 29 MAY

GOD'S PEACE

"The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:7 NIV). Pray for believers across the MENA who are facing hardships (like Sabra, above), that they would know God's divine peace and strength.

SUNDAY 30 MAY

ASK DR MAHER

Thank God for SAT-7 ARABIC programme Ask Dr Maher, which unpacks robust theological responses to key spiritual questions. Pray for presenter Dr Maher Samuel, a well-known and respected Christian voice.

MONDAY 31 MAY

VIEWER SUPPORT TEAMS

Our Arabic-language channels have developed a new strategy to give greater support to viewers. It includes offering prayer, counselling, online courses, sending resources and connecting them to churches where they can grow in their faith. Pray that the Holy Spirit will greatly equip and use our support teams. (Read more in our special feature, overleaf!)



**Names of viewers
throughout have been
changed.**

SAT-7 UK

Registered Charity No. 1060612
PO Box 3941, Chippenham
SN15 9HQ
01249 765865
respond@sat7uk.org

SEEN, HEARD AND ENCOURAGED PRAYING FOR SAT-7 VIEWERS

In this blog post, Marianne Awaraji, a beloved SAT-7 presenter for almost two decades, shares her thoughts and hopes for her new role as Arabic Channels Audience Relations Manager and tells us how we can pray for her and SAT-7's viewers.

I have been a presenter on SAT-7 since I was 10 years old, and I have always been passionate about following up with viewers. I feel a sense of responsibility for them – to pray for them, reply to their questions, to share my own personal life experiences, and show how Jesus can change all sorrows into victories and help us through life's struggles. I even take their names home with me to pray for them!

Becoming the Audience Relations Manager has been a true blessing from God. I am so grateful to be in the position to build engaging relationships with our viewers and connect them to hope, and to Christ's love, which they so desperately yearn for.

Follow-up is a journey - we don't just answer their questions and then abandon them. We are building a wide network of partner churches from different denominations to whom we can connect our viewers, so we can make sure they are disciplined and surrounded by a community of believers.

I want to share with you the story of Mariam, a Syrian lady from a non-Christian background, who contacted us asking about Jesus. She told me:

"I am currently pregnant with a baby girl, and my dream is that from childhood she would know the amazing God who gave her to me. I saw some beautiful values in you on SAT-7 that I hadn't seen before in my community – how you love each other, how you pray for each other, the way you talk to each other. This channel was a door of light to me."

Since we were unable to send any gifts to her in Syria, I contacted a partner church there and we were able to connect her with them. She got back in touch to say:

"Marianne, I visited the church today for the first time, and the pastor welcomed me and gave me a Bible."

I pray that God will help us provide more of the right support for our viewers, so they can feel seen, heard and encouraged. Please pray for special wisdom for me as I train, empower and guide my team. May He lead us as we guide people on a journey – one of allowing Christ into their hearts to heal their pain, joining God's family and growing into strong disciples, and becoming able to serve their communities themselves. ■

**Name changed for security purposes*