INSIDE AFGHANISTAN: "GOD IS OUR ONLY HOPE"

SERVING A DIVIDED REGION

TOGETHER
As I write this, we have just left behind the warmest day in British history when the mercury soared beyond 40°C. It’s the time of year when beaches beckon and we suddenly become a little more conscious of our bodies.

While we tend to think of the body in an individual way, the Bible is just as interested in us as part of a communal body. Paul writes in Romans (12:5), “…in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others”. This is the theme of our Summer Insight as we explore how SAT-7, as a ministry with studios in 7 countries and staff from at least 15 nationalities, seek to build the body of Christ across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) – with your support.

We all play different but vital parts, whether in front of a camera, or praying for and giving to the work. There’s a hint in Paul’s writing (12:3) that some parts may be stronger than others, and we share how stronger Christian communities, in countries like Egypt and Lebanon, strengthen emerging ones in North Africa through SAT-7.

Our Breaking News article reminds us of one part of Christ’s Body that is currently suffering immensely – in Afghanistan. Daanesh, a pastor among secret believers there, has a word for us: “My message to our brothers and sisters across the world is to play your part for your fellow believers in Afghanistan, whether through prayer or anything else that is in your power.”

May I thank you for all you are doing, through your support for SAT-7, for our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and the 24 other MENA countries that we serve.

Rachel Fadipe
Executive Director, SAT-7 UK
One year on from the capture of Afghanistan by the Taliban, SAT-7 viewers there are describing the disastrous impacts of tyranny, unemployment, and food shortages.

A questionnaire sent by our viewer support team to those with whom we are in regular communication asked what life is now like for them on the ground.

“An atmosphere of fear and intimidation rules society,” replied Arman, a 30-year-old lawyer who has been dismissed from his job and is currently unable to support his family. “Every moment we live with the possibility of physical violence, arrest, humiliating and insulting treatment, and even summary executions.” Worried about his young family, he said his sister, who is on a “meagre income”, has become their sole breadwinner.

Several viewers spoke of intense pressure to follow religious practice. “People have to attend at least three prayers [a day],” said Amin. “Staff in government departments who have not been expelled from their duties have been ordered to grow beards, wear traditional clothes and turbans. Those who fail to are removed.”

“Girls may not attend school after sixth grade,” said Basset, a teacher himself. “Christians have to stay underground. Opportunities for work and travel across town are limited and no one can travel with confidence.”

SUPERNATURAL PEACE

What is remarkable, however, is how viewers say God is supporting them.

“The only hope we have is in the true God who is the supernatural power who grants us comfort and grace,” said Arman. “This faith in the power of God has caused me to live with peace in my heart and mind, without anxiety and fear.”

Amin is alert to the dangers he faces as a Christian believer, but said, “My hope is in the Lord who will never leave me and is always there alongside me.”

Daanesh, a leader among local Christian families, said sometimes they are still able to meet in a home for prayer. He said they feel safe “as long as no one reports us or makes false accusations against us”.

He is looking beyond the current situation to what God has in store for Afghanistan: “Our hope is that the Lord will touch the heart of the people ... and we will be able to build a church. Truly, the opportunities for sharing the Gospel in Afghanistan are very great, if only the work can be done.”

These faithful believers are walking with the Lord through the hardest times, and SAT-7’s programming and viewer support team are playing a crucial role in strengthening them. “Thank you for shining the light of faith into our hearts every day,” Daanesh said. “May you always know the grace and blessings of the Lord, walk in His peace, and be complete in Him.”
IN A DIVIDED WORLD

In 1996 SAT-7 became the first indigenous Christian satellite TV station in the Middle East. More Christian channels have taken to the air since then, often serving a specific denominational or geographic audience. But SAT-7 remains unique in a number of ways. Chief Executive Rita El-Mounayer shares about the reach and unity of SAT-7’s ministry.

Not least, this is shown in its mission to serve all the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) by broadcasting in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, and drawing together an 850-strong multinational team including freelancers and volunteers. With our other supporters around the world, you stand alongside them as a global expression of the Body of Christ and His love for the people of this region.

In the West, we sometimes think of the MENA as a single place and culture. Rita is quick to correct this: “It’s crucial that people know that the MENA is not homogenous,” she stresses. “Serving over 20 Arabic-speaking countries plus Turkey and Iran; some with a Sunni Muslim majority, some with a Shia majority; countries with a Christian presence and some with other religious minorities – this is not easy.”

Not easy but vital. In much of the region, she says, “People have lost all hope for the future”. The failed Arab Spring has left millions disappointed and even in countries where there has not been serious unrest, they are facing economic difficulties. SAT-7 comes alongside viewers and attempts to address these issues but, most importantly, it offers them hope and security in Christ.

COUNTER-CULTURAL

The unity of SAT-7’s Arab, Iranian and Turkish teams sends a strong counter-cultural message in a divided region with a troubled history, Rita believes.

“It is really remarkable that Arabs, Turks and Persian-world people are working together,” Rita says. “It’s something I rejoice in.” Several years ago, SAT-7 changed its process whereby individual channels annually assessed their programmes and planned new ones. Instead, Rita gathered all the channel directors to do this process and “dream together”.

It was a game changer, resulting in a new level of trust and cooperation. When there was a budget shortfall, for example, Melih Ekener, Executive Director of SAT-7 TÜRK, asked that $100,000 of his channel’s budget be transferred to the then new SAT-7 ACADEMY project. He saw the overwhelming need to offer Arabic language education programmes to millions of children affected by war.

*“It’s crucial that people know that the MENA is not homogenous,” says Rita El-Mounayer*
One way that you can partner in SAT-7’s ministry is by becoming a joy bringer with a regular gift. See how on page 15.

SAT-7’S DIVERSE TEAM

Programme-makers in 7 COUNTRIES

224 STAFF

625 FREELANCERS

15 NATIONALITIES

3 MAIN BROADCAST LANGUAGES

COOPERATION

Filming the first Persian version of Bedtime Stories is an example of cross-channel cooperation happening this summer. This enduring series originated on the Arabic SAT-7 KIDS channel and has already been made for SAT-7 TÜRK. In late August, a SAT-7 PARS team with Iranian presenters is travelling to SAT-7’s Beirut studio to record their own version of the programme on the Bedtime Stories set.

Meanwhile, an animated children’s series is being produced collaboratively by SAT-7 PARS, SAT-7 TÜRK and SAT-7 KIDS. For 2023, there are ambitious plans for a cross-channel TV drama that will be available in all three languages.

An essential benefit of cooperation is that larger Christian communities in the region can support smaller or hidden communities of believers. SAT-7 PARS, produced by ex-pats from the Persian world, has always done this for those who cannot practise their faith freely in their own countries.

Since the August 2021 Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, SAT-7 has begun recording additional programmes by expatriate Afghan Christian leaders. Iranian believers are also reaching out to Afghans in fresh ways. In Sanctuary of the Heart, a prayer programme streamed on Instagram, Iranian pastor Revd Kamil Navaei recently apologised for the discrimination Afghans receive in Iran.

He said, “I want to ask the people of Afghanistan for forgiveness because we did not look at you in the right way. Tonight, we lift you up before the Lord and pray that the Spirit of God moves over Afghanistan. Regardless of the Taliban or whoever, they can do nothing to you, the dear people who are seeking the Lord Jesus.”

MULTIPLYING

Training, advising and offering SAT-7’s broadcast platform are further ways that support smaller Christian communities in the region. In 2012, SAT-7 Lebanon staff trained Algerian producers after Christians there approached us. Since then, Algerian-produced programmes have been a vital source of encouragement to believers in that country and across North Africa. Inspired by their example, two years ago, Christians in Tunisia asked SAT-7 to help them establish a studio and begin programme-making. This year, SAT-7’s Lebanon Executive Director visited Tunisia to train Algerians, Tunisians and Moroccans in on-location filming.

Rita hopes that the first Moroccan dialect programmes to be produced in-country will begin next year. One of the producers is expected to be a believer who came to faith himself through watching SAT-7 KIDS many years ago.

“His story is one beautiful example of the fruit of one part of the Body of Christ serving another through SAT-7’s ministry,” Rita smiles.

Members of an Algerian choir joined by Lebanese presenters Marianne and Rawad Daou in a Beirut Easter special
“For eight years I hid my problem because I was afraid of being different from a society that will not accept me if I was not like them. For eight years I felt alone, until one day I decided to come here.”

This is how 11-year-old Leen Abou Jaoude (pictured above) bravely opened up about her struggle with dyslexia, sharing her story on SAT-7 programme, You Are Not Alone.

She explained how she asked God to be able to read and write but came home from school crying every day because it was so hard. “Sometimes I used to act like I’m still asleep to avoid going to school,” Leen said. But, through the SAT-7 show, she discovered she wasn’t alone.

Leen was introduced to Mohammad Faour, a 23-year-old student with dyslexia who was about to graduate. She was shocked to discover the achievements of someone with the same problem as her.

Speaking later about the episode, Leen said, “You Are Not Alone made my voice heard along with the voices of others. This episode changed my life.” She added that she began to trust her mother who had been telling her to pray and that Jesus would help her: “Jesus changes our life forever, in a moment, when He puts people in our path that reach us through Him… And I, through Jesus, say to each one of you today, do not be afraid, you are not alone.”

You Are Not Alone began as a series to accompany viewers during the pandemic lockdowns but it has continued to connect viewers who feel isolated in various ways through story-sharing, prayer and support. As Leen’s story highlights, when people open up about their situations and struggles, about their faith and how it helps them, it gives other people hope for a way forward.

In an episode about suffering, young wheelchair user Rita Khachaneh asked Revd Suheil Saoud, a pastor from Lebanon, if he could put himself in her shoes. With honesty and bravery, he shared openly about the heart-breaking loss of his daughter to cancer at the age of just 22. “I am hurt too, the same as you,” he said, adding: “Pain encircles people that are hurt together.” Revd Saoud’s example of holding onto faith and testifying to the Lord’s work in his life was an encouragement to both the studio guests and the many thousands watching at home.
"I need to know the real God. I’m seeking to know the truth."

This was the first thing Youssef said to our Arabic viewer support team. The 20-year-old student from Yemen had found our Daily Bread Facebook page, which shares discipleship videos and content.

In response, a SAT-7 viewer support team member told Youssef more about who Jesus is and spent time answering his questions. At the end of the conversation, they sent Youssef a digital Bible so he could read more for himself. He soon got back in touch with us and shared, “I am convinced that Jesus is God!”

Youssef felt afraid about how his community would react, but – through tears – shared that he wanted to accept God’s love and salvation. He prayed with the SAT-7 team member, saying, “I can’t hold back the tears of joy!”

Like many people in Turkey, Bahri had negative feelings towards Christians. But as he watched SAT-7 TÜRK, he was moved. “You have an honest and caring community,” he said. “My prejudice was completely destroyed. Your channel makes me see the truth.”

Bahri’s is one of several stories in which viewers have shared how the channel has overturned their misconceptions about Christianity. This is an important goal for SAT-7 in Turkey, where Christians are in a tiny minority and face much hostility.

Now Bahri says, “I take joy in watching your channel. Because I am watching, my entire household has turned against me.” But even as the members of his household shun him, he is encouraging them to watch SAT-7 TÜRK too.

“No matter what happens, I will continue to watch,” he says.
SAT-7 is the only “church” that many viewers from non-Christian backgrounds in Iran and Afghanistan can access. Ashraf, the viewer support team supervisor for SAT-7’s Persian channel, SAT-7 PARS, is a listening ear to many of them.

“This is something that is very close to my heart,” Ashraf explains. “Our viewers refer to me as ‘sister’, they know me, and they open their hearts to me.”

“I speak quietly and this has helped me build a relationship with viewers, as they are able to feel comfortable with me and share their struggles,” she added.

This takes close listening, Ashraf says, and often digging beyond what viewers are sharing to identify what their real needs are.

Coming from a Muslim background herself, she also knows how viewers often compare themselves and believe that others are more deserving of God’s love. “But God loves everyone,” Ashraf insists. “I tell this to viewers: ‘God loves you!’”

The number of viewers in Afghanistan who contact SAT-7 PARS are second only to those in Iran. Many responded to a survey sent to them this summer. Ashraf admits, “I was wondering what we could do for them because we can’t provide physical assistance. But the responses showed how happy they are because someone outside Afghanistan is thinking about them and cares for them. One word can give hope,” she says.

**INSTAGRAM SANCTUARY**

Encouraging personal prayer is an important part of the viewer support team’s work. So Ashraf is now hosting Sanctuary of the Heart, a new programme that airs on Instagram, one of the few social media channels that isn’t currently blocked in Iran.

“Within the Iranian context, prayer can be formulaic,” she says. “Through Sanctuary of the Heart we show what prayer means in Christianity. Broadcasting live on Instagram also allows for conversations they can’t have in countries where there are no churches for them.”

Ashraf with two guest pastors on Sanctuary of the Heart
I always feel like I am worshipping when I take part in Church4Kids. I am so grateful to you, my lovely auntie, for teaching me and helping me to know God and His Son Jesus Christ.”

MARAL FROM IRAN

Also on Instagram is SAT-7 PARS’ Church4Kids programme, an interactive form of junior church where many viewers send in video messages. One of them is Manizheh, who comes from the same small Turkish Kurdish village where Ashraf lived for several years.

“She joins the programme on her phone and brings worship songs, Bible verses and prayers that mean something to her. She says she knows about God but wants to know Him more. Where else can she find such a community?” Ashraf asks.

At the end of a recent video message, Manizheh added these words:

“Thank you, auntie. I am in tears. I am so happy to be a part of the Church4Kids family. I thank God so much that I have you. If it wasn’t for you, I wouldn’t have come to faith in Jesus Christ and I am so happy to have Him and to have you.”

ALL ONE, ON ONE PLATFORM

Streaming four SAT-7 channels on the SAT-7 PLUS platform is an exciting expression of SAT-7’s unity in Christ, explains SAT-7 IT and Broadcast Director Antoine Karam (above right).

From day one, in late June 2020, Lebanon-born Antoine was tasked with developing SAT-7 PLUS, the first streaming platform for Christian television in the Middle East.

Antoine welcomed the challenge and felt the vision of gathering together all four SAT-7 TV channels – in Arabic, Persian and Turkish – made practical sense and opened new possibilities.

“SAT-7 PLUS is different from the satellite channels which are bounded by their geographical coverage,” Antoine says, “Everyone knows there is no separation on the internet. It’s accessible to everyone everywhere.”

He points out the cost and time-saving benefits but adds that bringing the channels together in this way also expresses the heart of SAT-7. “They all share the same vision and the same message, so why not unite?”

To make the programmes accessible, SAT-7 PLUS explains its listings in all three languages as well as English. Programmes can be filtered by channel or by genre. A future development will be to provide automatic translation for programmes.

For Antoine personally, working for Christian ministries has opened his eyes to the worldwide body of Christ. Born into a committed Maronite Catholic family, he once saw his identity as a Lebanese Maronite. But travelling to other countries when he worked for World Vision and working alongside believers of many nationalities and denominations there, and at SAT-7, changed that.

“Today I see myself as a follower of Jesus,” he says, “and I always look for a place to be in mixed cultures.”

Antoine laughs when asked about his large beard that could lead people to mistake him as a Muslim. “I use this as a living example that it’s not acceptable to judge by appearance. The way you change people’s perceptions is by the life you live before them.”
A Christian vision of God’s world looks beyond the artificial barriers raised by modern nation states, says guest writer Brent Hamoud.

Borders have a way of treating people very differently. Some individuals pass through them easily on their way to new and exciting places while others can never dream of crossing these concrete lines drawn on the ground. Political borders cut through territories and encircle every individual to create a world where human beings are not all equal, not all the same. The global reality is a rigid form of human division and a dilemma for biblical faith.

Our current global nation-state system was crystallised in the 20th century to make the world a more organised place. But is it a fitting place? Such ordering may gather humanity into meaningful political communities of rights, provisions, and protections but nation-states have also created severe means of separating people in highly technical and consequential ways. Like millions of displaced Syrians, increasing numbers are finding themselves outside of their “appropriate” borders with no place to belong.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

For the global minority enjoying privilege and prosperity within good states, the necessity and morality of borders seems justified. However, the world often fails to look upon the global majority stuck within unkind states. The plight of millions from Afghanistan to Lebanon to Iraq seeking to escape their borders goes unnoticed, as does the inability for many to access closed-off locations. Borders are too often insurmountable barriers for Christian outreach.

Christ’s followers have every reason to scrutinise nation-state borders. The kingdom of God is supremely transnational and unencumbered by any politicised territorialism. Its Gospel is a universal proclamation that heavenly citizenship trumps all earthly affiliations. Biblical visions of the world must reach for something much higher than a collection of bounded populations and territories.
Unfortunately, Christians can be tempted into troubling theological impulses that view themselves and others through a lens of borders. Blanket presumptions circulate about how God wants certain people to remain in certain geographic locations, how churches can embody national identities, or how some nationalities hold special standing in God’s divine plans.

Let us not fool ourselves: human divisions will never disappear this side of the new creation. A fallen world always manufactures barriers. Even so, we must wisely discern ways in which our current world of borders is dividing humanity in unprecedented ways. Returning to Scripture can help us keep borders in their proper places.

WALL-BREAKING

The Bible is a grand revelation of God’s desire to break down walls between people. This is witnessed vividly in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the Spirit-filled testimony of the early Church. The Acts of the Apostles proclaims the Holy Spirit’s commitment to demolish human divides by gathering people into a newfound body of believers. The examples are telling:

- At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled disciples to speak in a multitude of languages, amazing “God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven” (2:4-6).

- The Spirit-filled community of believers bridged socioeconomic gaps by living “one in heart and mind” and sharing their possessions (4:32-35).

- Leading apostles in Jerusalem reconfigured historical Jewish-Samaritan relations when people of Samaria accepted the word of God. They prayed for the new believers, the Holy Spirit was received, and preaching continued throughout Samaritan villages (8:9-25).

- The Holy Spirit worked through visions and friendship between Cornelius and Peter to realign the Gentile-Jew divide thus ushering a new paradigm for what it means to be the people of God (10 & 11).

- At a gathering of faith leaders in Jerusalem to discuss the plurality of people coming to Christ, Peter declared that God shows no distinction between Jews and Gentiles as evidenced by the giving of the Spirit to all (15).

Christ’s Gospel is not passive about human divisions. It compels us to critique our world by acknowledging borders for what they are: unspiritual. Life in the Spirit has a way of problematising national boundaries even while diligently working within them to magnify Christ and the kingdom. People of faith have a heritage of loving their neighbours regardless of the national divides drawn around them.

Even as the world increases the weight of borders, new opportunities, such as SAT-7’s growing media and digital platforms, are allowing people to reach out globally and collaborate in diverse teams. Such engagement gives hopeful glimpses of a time and place where all human divisions will cease when “the old order of things has passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Christ’s Gospel stirs anticipation for the passing of this old nation-state order, and any other worldly orders still to come. For now, a simple hymn can help us navigate these complexities in faithful ways:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the national borders of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace

Brent Hamoud leads the Master of Religion Programme at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut, Lebanon.
Exclusion from society is often the biggest challenge for people with disabilities in Turkey. This year, SAT-7 TÜRK’s programme Obstacle Overcomers is providing a space for them and their loved ones to help change this story.

Obstacle Overcomers has for several years provided a platform for people to share their experiences of living with disability. But it also shows their strength, resilience, and potential.

In a recent episode, viewers met 31-year-old Harun Koçaralı, who lost his lower body in an accident. Despite this, Harun shared how he lives a fulfilling life defined by gratitude and stressed the importance of being included in everyday life.

**MISTAKEN**

“There are people with similar difficulties who are locked in their homes,” Harun said. “This is a big mistake. They should be free to mix with other people. This is the way for them to become more confident, and to prompt other people to accept and promote their inclusion in society.”

The latest season of the programme also hears the perspectives of family members, friends and colleagues. In one episode, hotel and rent-a-car manager Osman Şahin explained how his workplace supports colleagues with disabilities.

“They have as many skills as any of us,” he said. “We work in ways that don’t let their disabilities hinder us from doing things together. We do activities together outside of work, too, like basketball.”

The programme also hears from advocates in this field. Hacer Altuntaş, president of the Canik Child and Families with Disabilities Solidarity Association, stressed how integration starts with families. “We organise activities for children to attend with their families and peers, to promote integration. We try to support every effort to create a world without barriers,” she explained.

**Challenge Accepted**

Challenge Accepted is a new, fast-paced SAT-7 KIDS game show that combines learning about the Bible with teamwork and valuing others.

Each episode is set in a different biblical location, where questions about Bible events and context are mixed with creative problem-solving activities.

“We want children and young teens to understand their identity in Christ. And, from that, to see the important place they have in their community and how they can contribute to its future,” says Andrea El-Mounayer, SAT-7 KIDS Manager.

“The young people see that good communication and accepting the other are precious values,” adds Petra Charabaty, the programme’s producer. “They begin to understand the importance of listening to one another, making their voices heard, and appreciating their differences.”
Dare to Believe! events in Bristol and Bromley, Kent this summer offered the first opportunity to hear SAT-7 Founder and President, Dr Terence Ascott, tell some of the stories behind his inspiring book of the same name.

Dare to Believe! Stories of Faith from the Middle East combines the birth and growth of SAT-7 with Dr Ascott’s exciting personal story of living through civil wars, kidnappings, detentions, and deportation, and also the courageous witness of Middle East Christians.

Speaking in Bristol, Terry explained how the arrival of satellite television in the Arab world at the start of the 1990s was “too good an opportunity to miss”. Television was no longer entirely controlled by national governments and the possibility of a Christian channel would allow the Gospel to travel across borders and into the homes of millions.

The dream began to come true with the launch of SAT-7 in May 1996. Since then, from broadcasting two-hours weekly in Arabic, SAT-7 has since grown to four channels producing 3,000 hours of programmes a year in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, as well as a number of dialects.

“When we began, we might have imagined one 24-hour channel with segments from the different languages, but we would never have imagined four 24-hour channels,” Ascott said. “And I haven’t started talking about the digital platforms we could never have dreamed of. When I think about how this happened, it is all through God’s faithfulness.”

The next Dare to Believe! event in conversation with Terry will be at First Bangor Presbyterian Church in Bangor, Northern Ireland on 8 October. Book now at sat7uk.org/daretobelieve

Informative and inspirational.”

BRISTOL ATTENDEE

GRAND DESIGNS

First Bangor Presbyterian Church recently embarked on a new building project – one entirely made of miniature bricks!

The First Bangor Brick Show offered a full day of family fun and fundraising for SAT-7 as the congregation prepared to become a SAT-7 Church Partner.

Associate Minister David Stanfield said they hit upon the idea of using plastic bricks, a favourite children’s toy, because they wanted the focus of their first event to be the SAT-7 KIDS channel. He said, “We love their holistic approach and the way they seek to shape the values, attitudes, and character of the next generation in the Arab World.”

To find out more about partnering your church with SAT-7, visit sat7uk.org/church-partners

OUR MAN IN IRELAND

Alan Cousins is SAT-7’s Regional Engagement Coordinator in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

He would love to speak to your church or group. Contact acousins@sat7uk.org
I became a follower of Jesus the first day I visited a church. I was lost but Jesus has found me. Unfortunately, my family found out that I had become a Christian. My brothers forbade me from returning to church and even threatened to kill me if I went back. But I discovered that the church service is broadcast on SAT-7. I’m so blessed! Now I’m able to attend the church service in my room.”

NABILA
SAT-7 VIEWER FROM ALGERIA

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion,”

states Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet this right is denied to many across the Middle East and North Africa, where believers can face harassment, isolation, imprisonment, violence and even death.

But SAT-7 is standing in the gap. Our teams are on the ground, creating powerful, faith-filled television and digital media programmes that bring life-changing moments of joy and take a stand against the negativity and despair that so often surrounds the region.

Now, through our Free to Believe campaign, we are inviting people to add their voice to the End The Persecution initiative, led by The Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fiona Bruce MP. This aims “to propel continued advocacy, education and action, for international freedom of religion or belief”.

End The Persecution is connected with the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), hosted by the Foreign Office in London in July. The Ministerial was attended by 600 politicians, faith leaders and civil society activists from over 100 countries.

SAT-7 UK’s Free to Believe campaign was launched at New Wine and rolled out at Christian conferences across the summer, including New Horizon and Bangor Worldwide in Northern Ireland. Archbishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Chairman of SAT-7’s International Council, and SAT-7’s founder Dr Terence Ascott addressed New Wine attendees on the subject in a seminar titled, ‘Free to believe? Perspectives from the Middle East’.

Speaking ahead of New Wine to SAT-7 UK’s Director for External Engagement, Martin Thomas, Archbishop Angaelos said that religious freedom is a “God-given right” for all. He said, “God directs us to love our neighbours and even our enemies, so as long as the rights of others do not entail the violation of others’ rights, then we should stand with them.” Watch the full interview at sat7uk.org/interview

“I want to add my voice to End the Persecution, so that people can be free to believe, wherever they are.

We’ll tell the UK government that these issues matter to you and send you updates on the impact of your voice and the lives that are being changed. Thank you for standing with believers in the Middle East.”

www.sat7uk.org/campaign

YES!”
You’ve been reading in this edition of Insight how SAT-7’s ministry is a result of the cooperation of Christians across the Middle East and around the world. It is only possible thanks to the generosity and partnership of supporters like you.

Now, you can make twice the impact by giving monthly – as new regular gifts towards SAT-7’s ministry will be DOUBLED* this year, thanks to a generous donor. It means your donations will share God’s love with more people who need it.

People like Heba from Algeria:

“I had no self-confidence and I became weaker and weaker. I even contemplated suicide,” said Heba, who was in despair over her husband’s drinking and adultery. One day, Heba was browsing Facebook when she came across SAT-7 through our Facebook Family page. Bravely, she reached out for help.

“That same day, Marianne arranged to call me,” said Heba. “She lovingly gave me her time, and I shared my struggles. Marianne gave me advice and prayed with me. I finally felt released from the trap of a deep well that had closed on me.”

But we didn’t leave it there. Like so many people who call SAT-7, Heba needed further support. Marianne, from our viewer support team, connected her with an online discipleship group.

“Since then, my life has gone from misery to joy,” Heba said, beaming. “I learnt how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. I can even see changes in my husband. I thank SAT-7 because it was the main reason for the change in my life.”

This is the difference you make when you support SAT-7 with a regular gift – you become a joy bringer!

With your regular support, SAT-7 will reach millions of people in 25 countries, 365 days a year. In a region marked by discord and trouble, you will bring joy, show love and strengthen faith.

Your committed support is vital for three reasons.

• Your gifts in the coming year are worth DOUBLE. Your support will go further and have twice the impact.
• Donating monthly means you prioritise your giving. And it makes your financial planning easier.
• You make a difference when it really matters. We’re in a challenging economic situation. SAT-7 is free to view – but we don’t sell commercial advertising. The generosity of people like you is the only thing that keeps SAT-7 on air and online.

What’s more, giving through Direct Debit is the most effective way to support SAT-7. It allows us to plan ahead and cuts admin costs.

Please, could you bring joy across the Middle East by giving monthly?

• £10 a month provides support and counselling to women in distress.
• £25 a month provides education and discipleship programmes for children and families.
• £60 a month supports isolated believers, so they can be free to believe wherever they are.

It’s easy to set up a Direct Debit; use the form in this magazine or call us on 01249 765865.

*New regular gifts will be matched for a year.
YES, I WANT TO BECOME A joy bringer WITH A REGULAR GIFT.

Title            Name
Address
Postcode
Phone
Mobile
Email

Fill in this form to become a joy bringer or visit sat7uk.org/joybringer

☐ I would like to set up a new Direct Debit
☐ change my existing Direct Debit
☐ £10    ☐ £25    ☐ £60

My preferred gift of £

To be taken on the 1st / 15th / 25th of the month (please circle) until further notice.

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to:
SAT-7 UK, PO Box 3941, Chippenham, SN15 9HQ

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society
Name(s) of account holder(s)
Branch sort code
Bank/building society account number
Reference

Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay SAT-7 UK Trust Limited Direct Debit from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with SAT-7 UK and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

[Signature(s)]

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

All Instruction Forms DDI6

To: The Manager

Bank/building society

Postcode

Signature(s)
Christians across the Middle East are silenced because they follow Jesus. They can’t celebrate His birth freely and openly like we can. But through SAT-7, Christians in the region have a voice to proclaim His love. Pray for them this Advent.
Silent Night

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They can’t celebrate His birth freely and openly like we can.

But through SAT-7, Christians in the region have a voice to proclaim His love.

Pray for them this Advent.

VOICES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

PRAY FOR IRAN, EGYPT, ALGERIA AND TURKEY THIS ADVENT

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