



# **PRAYER DIARY**

**For SAT-7 and the Middle East**

January 2024



## **MONDAY 1 JANUARY**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

2023 was a tumultuous year for the Middle East, and the difficulties across the region continue. Give thanks that we can take it all to God, "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Let's lift the coming year to the Lord.

## **TUESDAY 2 JANUARY**

### **SILENT NIGHT CAMPAIGN**

Give thanks for SAT-7 UK's 2023 Advent campaign, Silent Night, which amplified the voices of believers in the MENA. Pray that the churches and supporters who used the resource will be inspired to pray for and support Christians in countries where they cannot worship as freely.

# **SILENT NIGHT**

VOICES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

AND NORTH AFRICA

## **WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY**

### **ARMITA FROM IRAN**

Armita, a young woman from Iran, contacted SAT-7 to say "I thank God that through you, dear friends, we are able to hear God's Word in our own homes. This is the kindness of the Lord that is being shown to us." Pray for Armita and other isolated believers in Iran.

## **THURSDAY 4 JANUARY**

### **THE HOLY LAND**

Pray for the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land, that the Lord would soften hard hearts and increase a desire for peace.

## **FRIDAY 5 JANUARY**

### **ZOHREH FROM IRAN**

"Things are very difficult here without a church. I have been a believer for the last 13 years and I am only being fed through your programmes." Pray that Zohreh would find the guidance and Christian fellowship she needs to grow in her faith.

**SATURDAY 6 JANUARY**  
**COMFORT MY PEOPLE**

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). Pray for God's comfort as people in the MENA endure ongoing difficulties and seek to rebuild their lives. Pray especially that SAT-7 will be a voice of comfort and strength in the region.

**FOCUS****SUNDAY 7 JANUARY**  
**FLOODS IN LIBYA**

The September 2023 floods in Libya killed more than 4,300 people, swept away entire towns and left massive destruction in their wake. Pray for God's Spirit to move in the midst of disaster.

**MONDAY 8 JANUARY**  
**EARTHQUAKES IN AFGHANISTAN**

The earthquakes in 2023 added to the already tumultuous situation in Afghanistan. Pray for people who are mourning loved ones and struggling to rebuild their lives. Pray that the secret Christians who cannot worship freely will be protected and that SAT-7 programmes can offer them hope and comfort.

**TUESDAY 9 JANUARY**  
**IMPRISONED**

"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3). Just as the early church prayed for their brothers and sisters who were imprisoned for their faith, let's also remember the persecuted church in the MENA, especially those in prison.



**WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY**  
**FAMILIES IN THE HOLY LAND**

Pray that the Lord will comfort the families of those who have lost loved ones in the Holy Land conflict. Pray that the Christians in the conflict zones would be able to offer a message of hope and reconciliation.

**THURSDAY 11 JANUARY**  
**CHURCH CLOSURES IN ALGERIA**

The government of Algeria has closed several churches over the past few years. Pray for strength and boldness among the churches that remain open.

**FRIDAY 12 JANUARY**  
**EARTHQUAKE IN MOROCCO**

After the September 2023 earthquake in Morocco, Joey, a young Moroccan girl, called into the live SAT-7 KIDS show, *Behind the Door*. "I was in the same region of the earthquake in Morocco, and all of my family are now in the streets." The presenters prayed for her and she responded, "God, protect us." Pray for Moroccan families that have lost their homes.

**SATURDAY 13 JANUARY**  
**REFUGEES**

Nasim, a refugee, contacted the SAT-7 PARS team. "As I live in exile and face the hardships and uncertainties of asylum, I sense the Father's embrace. My experience of God is security, peace, comfort and patience." Pray that others facing displacement may find the same comfort Nasim has in God.

**SUNDAY 14 JANUARY**  
**ECONOMIC INSECURITY IN IRAN**

Armin from Iran told SAT-7, "Please pray for relief from the terrible economic situation in Iran. However much we work we still lack, even though we are not among the poorest. Tonight, I saw your programme for the first time and I was thoroughly blessed. I am comforted by prayer." Pray for Armin and for the economic situation in Iran, and thank God that he hears our prayers.

**MONDAY 15 JANUARY****SAT-7 OFFICES**

Pray for those working at the SAT-7 offices in the UK, USA, Cyprus, Canada, Brazil and Hong Kong. Praise God for our partnership and pray that we would continue to make God's love visible in the MENA.

**TUESDAY 16 JANUARY****KNOWN AND LOVED**

Feriyal from Iran said, "I used to think about taking my own life, but since I came to faith I have never again thought about suicide. As I learn more from your teaching, I understand how I am loved by the Lord." Give thanks that Feriyal now knows the love of God.

**WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY****BIBLE HEROES**

Shams from Kuwait wrote in to say, "My daughter is nine and she says *Bible Heroes* is her favourite programme." Pray that the show will nurture many young hearts.

**THURSDAY 18 JANUARY****SAT-7 PARS STUDIO**

Viewers call into the SAT-7 PARS studio as it airs live in London to ask questions about life and faith. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give SAT-7 PARS presenters the words to answer callers' questions.

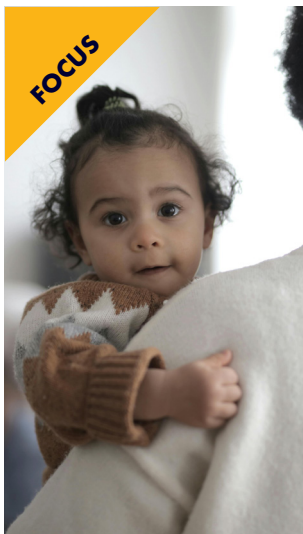
**FRIDAY 19 JANUARY****GOSPEL IN THE GULF**

The economic boom in the Gulf states has led to an influx of Christian expatriate workers. Pray that they will shine the light of Christ before their neighbours. Pray that SAT-7's programmes would both encourage Christian migrants and present the gospel to nationals.

**SATURDAY 20 JANUARY****ALICAN FROM TURKEY**

Alican from Turkey said: "After much research, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord made me a completely different person." Praise God for the change in Alican's life.

FOCUS

**SUNDAY 21 JANUARY**  
**PARENTS AND CHILDREN**

Deuteronomy 6:7 exhorts parents to teach their children about God "...when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Pray that Christian parents in the MENA would bring up their children in the knowledge of God, and that SAT-7 KIDS programmes would be a helpful resource for them to draw on.

**MONDAY 22 JANUARY**  
**CHILDREN IN SUDAN**

As a result of the conflict in Sudan, it is estimated that 13.5 million children are out of school and vulnerable to exploitation, child marriage or recruitment as child-soldiers. Pray that Sudanese parents will be able to protect their children in these terrible circumstances.

**TUESDAY 23 JANUARY**  
**BROKEN FAMILIES**

At SAT-7, we hear many sad stories of parents and children who are estranged from one another, but also stories of reconciliation. Pray that God will "turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents" (Malachi 4:6).

**WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY**  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION**

Since the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in 2021, the right of girls to receive an education has been increasingly eroded. Since girls were banned from attending secondary school, many families have been secretly teaching their daughters at home. Pray that Afghan girls will be granted the opportunity to reach their potential.



**THURSDAY 25  
JANUARY****WITH YOU, LORD,  
SAFETY ABIDES**

Pray for the continued success of the SAT-7 KIDS campaign "With You, Lord, Safety Abides", aimed primarily at 6 to 12-year-olds. Through our children's programmes, SAT-7 KIDS is addressing the traumatic events that many children in the MENA are living through, and giving them the tools they need to process their experiences with God at their side.

**FRIDAY 26 JANUARY****COMPLETION OF MY SCHOOL**

Give thanks for the completion of the final season of SAT-7 KIDS programme *My School*. Many children have benefitted from the quality educational teaching, especially through times when schools have been closed. Pray that many more children will be benefit as the programme continues to be aired.

**SATURDAY 27 JANUARY****PRESSURE TO EXCEL**

Janine from Lebanon reached out to the SAT-7 viewer support team, saying, "My children do not like to study, and I am harsh with them because I want them to succeed academically." The team prayed with Janine that God would give her wisdom to encourage her children while showing them they are loved. Pray for parents and children dealing with the immense societal pressure to excel academically.

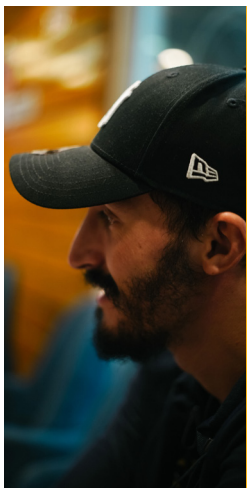


**SUNDAY 28 JANUARY**  
**OF ONE MIND**

Safaa from Kuwait responded to a live episode of *From Heart to Heart*. "If the parents are not in agreement, the children will be lost and confused. Pray for me and my husband, for the Lord to grant us wisdom in raising our children." Pray that Christian parents in the MENA would be of one mind when raising their children.

**MONDAY 29 JANUARY**  
**CHILDREN IN THE HOLY LAND**

Around half of the population of Gaza are under the age of 18. Pray for the children who are caught in the crossfire of the conflict in the Holy Land.

**TUESDAY 30 JANUARY**  
**PRAY FOR MUSTAFA**

Mustafa, a young man from Algeria, shared that coming from a broken family had led him to overly cling to every friend he makes. He joyfully received the God's love after praying with the SAT-7 counsellor. Pray that children who come from similar situations will be drawn to the God who will never leave them nor forsake them.

**WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY**  
**PARENTS WHO PRAY**

Pray for Christian parents who are interceding for their children, especially in countries where culture and social pressure pulls young people in many different directions. Pray that SAT-7's children's programmes on SAT-7 KIDS and other SAT-7 channels will help parents as they raise their children in the faith.

## INSPIRING SYRIAN WOMAN SHARES HER STORY ON SAT-7

**Raped aged 14 and married off to a man 24 years her senior, Hawra' suffered years of abuse. Today, she is an inspirational activist who campaigns against under-age marriage.**

Hawra', from Syria, shared her story on SAT-7's new podcast for women in the Middle East. Hosted by SAT-7 presenter Sirene Semerdjian, *Ana Podcast* features interviews with extraordinary women who have overcome adversity.

Hawra' bravely shared the story of how she was drugged and raped by her own uncle, aged 14. Her family did not believe that it was Hawra''s uncle who had assaulted her. They subsequently arranged to marry her off to a much older man whom she had never met, a common practice to cover up the shame of a rape in the family.

“

**Every time I rescue a young woman from under-age marriage, it gives me a new spirit. It gives me a spirit of strength.”**

**HAWRA', SYRIA**

“I refused and went up to the roof to commit suicide,” Hawra' said. After a family member calmed her down, she relented and returned to the living room, where she met the man's daughter from

a previous marriage. “The child kept asking, ‘Are you going to be my mother?’” Hawra' said. “I could tell from the way she looked that she was an oppressed little girl. I said, ‘Yes, I will be your mother.’”

Despite the awful circumstances, Hawra' enjoyed caring for the four children from her husband's previous marriage, until she was separated from them by her in-laws. She also had two children herself, but her second child, a girl, tragically died aged just 10 months. That was the start of Hawra's standing up for herself, and for other girls.

"I went to my husband and said, 'I either live with your children or I can't live with you,'" Hawra' said. "I wanted to protect the girls." And so they were reunited.

Hawra' later joined a campaign to lower the percentage of under-age marriages in Lebanon. She began sharing her story with families who were making similar decisions and was successful in preventing a number of under-age marriages.

Asked by Sirene why she joined the campaign, Hawra' said, "Because I didn't want anyone to ever experience my pain... I want youth to know that life is beautiful. Live it the way you want to. Get an education, have freedom, make your own choices, don't let anyone force you into anything."

Hawra' remains married to her husband, and he has become supportive of her campaigning work. "Every time I rescue a young woman from under-age marriage, it gives me a new spirit. It gives me a spirit of strength," she said.

Ana Podcast is available on YouTube, Facebook, and SAT-7 PLUS. It is one of a number of SAT-7 programmes that are giving a voice to women across the Middle East and North Africa, advocating for a better future for girls and women in the region.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- for an end to rape and other forms of violence and abuse against women in the MENA
- that girls will be protected from under-age marriage and allowed to make their own choices
- for the continued strength and resilience of women like Hawra', who inspire change
- for the work of SAT-7 in giving a voice and hope to women in the region

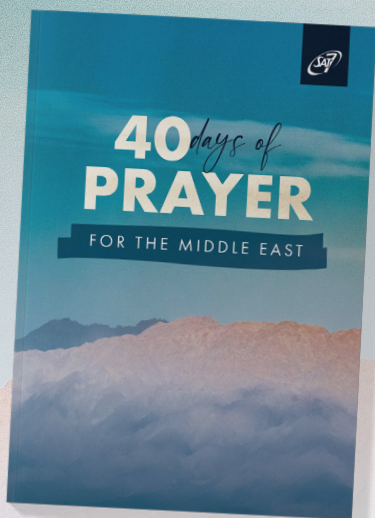
LENT 2024

# PRAY *for the* MIDDLE EAST

**This Lent, join us on a journey of prayer through the Middle East and North Africa.**

When we look at the Middle East today, it can be hard to know how to pray. Yet these are the lands that fill the pages of our Bibles, where Jesus walked among us and the Church itself was born.

In *40 Days of Prayer for the Middle East*, we'll travel from Morocco in the west to Afghanistan in the east, meeting local believers and churches along the way. We'll hear how God is at work through SAT-7, and discover the ancient and often unknown Christian heritage of the region.



**Join us this Lent, as we pray for God's Kingdom to come in the lands where it all began.**

**FIND OUT MORE  
AND PRE-ORDER**



[sat7uk.org/40days](https://sat7uk.org/40days)

**SAT-7 broadcasts 24/7 in  
Arabic, Persian and Turkish**



**SAT-7 is watched by millions  
of people in 25 countries**

**SAT-7 had 107,000 one-to-one  
viewer conversations in 2022**



**Names of viewers throughout have  
been changed and images used for  
representation only.**

Images: SAT-7, Shutterstock.com, Unsplash

Scripture quotations taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version Anglicised Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 Biblica. Used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, an Hachette UK company. All rights reserved. 'NIV' is a registered trademark of Biblica UK trademark number 1448790.

Visit

**[www.sat7uk.org](http://www.sat7uk.org)**

today for the latest news  
on SAT-7's work in the  
Middle East.



**SAT-7 UK**

Registered Charity No. 1060612

Post: PO Box 3941, Chippenham SN15 9HQ

Tel: 01249 765865