

PRAYER DIARY

MARCH 2024



FRIDAY 1 MARCH

ADHAM IN OMAN

As we enter March, we continue our 40 days of prayer for the Middle East. Adham from Oman got in touch following a SAT-7 broadcast of a Christian conference in Egypt: "Thank you for carrying the very important message of the Good News of Jesus Christ to millions." Pray for viewers in places where information about Christianity is restricted.

SATURDAY 2 MARCH

RONZA IN THE UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES

Ronza from UAE got in touch to ask for prayer. Though they are Christians, Ronza realised that she and her husband had been neglecting prayer and reading

the Word. There are no churches nearby, but the SAT-7 support team invited them to join an online discipleship group. Ronza is already feeling more hopeful. Pray that their faith will go from strength to strength as they meet online with other Christians.

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

REDEMPTION

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Pray that SAT-7's programmes will show those in the MENA this precious truth.

MONDAY 4 MARCH

SECRET SAUDI BELIEVERS

In Saudi Arabia, the few indigenous Christian believers must worship in complete secrecy. For these Christians, the SAT-7 ARABIC channel provides spiritual nourishment that they cannot find outside the safety of their own homes. Pray that isolated believers would be strengthened and that more Saudis would come to know Jesus.

TUESDAY 5 MARCH

CHRISTIANS IN SAUDI ARABIA

There are thought to be around 2 million Christians living in Saudi Arabia, most of whom are expatriate workers. Pray that these and the secret Saudi believers will know that God is always by their side.

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

CHRISTIANS IN QATAR

A large percentage of the expatriate community in Qatar are Christians. Congregations must share church buildings, meaning there are often queues as believers line up to attend their services. Pray that these Christians will be strengthened by SAT-7's programmes and for their witness to native Qataris.

THURSDAY 7 MARCH

BAHRAIN

In ancient times, the Good News travelled along the trade routes of the Silk Road. This may have been how the Gospel first reached the shores of Bahrain, an important port along the Maritime Silk Road. Today, SAT-7 is using satellite television to bring the gospel to Bahrain and the nations.

Though the means of carrying the message has changed, praise God that the Jesus we proclaim is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

FRIDAY 8 MARCH

SAT-7 KIDS VIEWERS IN KUWAIT

Children in Kuwait are hearing God's truth through the broadcasts of SAT-7 KIDS. Passant contacted the SAT-7 KIDS team to say "I have a daughter that is three years old. It is difficult for me to send her to Sunday School, so we are watching Family of Jesus regularly and my daughter learns a lot from the programme." Pray that more children in Kuwait would grow up hearing about Jesus in their homes.

SATURDAY 9 MARCH

ANCIENT BABYLON

The land we know as Iraq was once Ancient Babylon, which we read about in the Bible. Babylon was often at odds with the people of Israel, and even took them away into exile. A similar clash of cultures is evident today, as Christians in Iraq face discrimination and harassment

from their neighbours. Though their numbers remain small, thousands of people in Iraq are coming to Christ each year. Pray for their protection and spiritual growth.

SUNDAY 10 MARCH

FIRM STEPS

"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand" (Psalm 37:23-24).

Praise the Lord that He upholds every one of His children in the MENA and across the world.

MONDAY 11 MARCH

DREAMS OF JESUS

Many who have come to the faith in the Middle East report that a dream or vision, often of Jesus, played a significant part in their conversion. A young Iraqi man called Fady told SAT-7, "I saw Christ in a dream, and it made me realise that He has been with me all my life." Pray that those who are granted dreams of Jesus will put their trust in Him.

TUESDAY 12 MARCH

FREE SOULS

Jad from Jordan was seeking answers and got in touch after watching the programme SAT-7 ARABIC programme *Free Souls*. "I left my original background, and I now fear being a person without a religion. I would like to learn about Christianity." After talking with the viewer support team, he decided to become a follower of Jesus. Pray that *Free Souls* would inspire others to ask questions about Christianity.

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

CROSSING THE JORDAN

The phrase 'crossing the Jordan' refers to the Israelites coming into the promised land, and is often used as a metaphor for new beginnings. Pray for new Christians from a Muslim background who are entering into the fullness of life that Jesus promises.

THURSDAY 14 MARCH

DARKNESS DISPELLED

Jenny, a Palestinian Christian, contacted SAT-7 following the outbreak of war in the Holy Land. "When the war first

broke out, I cried and poured my heart before Jesus. He is able to help us stand on our feet again. Right now, we need God's presence over our lands. When His presence comes, all darkness will be dispelled." Pray for protection for Christians in the Holy Land.

FRIDAY 15 MARCH CHILDREN OF WAR

Rudy and Ghadi participated in the live show *Behind the Door* on SAT-7 KIDS. They prayed for children in the Holy Land, with faith that "God can bring happiness to those facing hardships and protect those living in fear." Pray with Rudy and Ghadi for the children caught up in this war.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH ENDURING STRENGTH

Lebanon's rich Christian heritage is as strong and enduring as the cedars that the country is famous for. Yet the country faces economic insecurity, political unrest and conflict along its borders. Pray for stability to return to the country and that SAT-7 will bring hope to both Christians and non-Christians seeking answers.

SUNDAY 17 MARCH LOVE AND KINDNESS

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3).

Give thanks for the kindness of God, and His everlasting love for His people. Pray that Christians in the MENA will know the nearness of God in their hardships.

MONDAY 18 MARCH BEAUTY FROM ASHES

SAT-7 KIDS presenter Marianne Awaraji's grandmother's home was reduced to ashes during the war in Lebanon in the 1980s, but since then it has been rebuilt into a studio for SAT-7 KIDS. Praise God that he has brought beauty from ashes and made Marianne's family home a vessel for God's glory in the region.

TUESDAY 19 MARCH REFUGE FROM WAR

Aline, a 13-year-old from Syria, called into *Behind the Door*. "I've personally experienced the hardships of war, and there were nights when fear kept me awake. To the kids facing difficult times, my prayer is to always hold on

to your faith in Jesus. He will give you the strength to go on, and I encourage you to never stop praying, because it was my only refugee during war times." Let us echo Aline's prayer for children experiencing war and displacement.

THURSDAY 20 MARCH DAILY BREAD

The SAT-7 ARABIC programme *Daily Bread* provides spiritual teaching and guidance to those in countries like Syria, where churches are few and far between. Pray that Christians watching *Daily Bread* will be nourished.

WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH A CHANGED HEART

Gülsüm first heard God's voice during a tour of Cappadocia, Türkiye. She recalls, "I saw myself in a church and I was praying and making the sign of the cross with my hand. I felt so relieved and peaceful at that moment." She started to read the Bible again – "but this time with a changed heart". She committed her life to Christ and now works as the Production Manager for SAT-7 TÜRK. Pray that God will continue to bless Gülsüm in her life and her work.

FRIDAY 22 MARCH

THE SONG IN MY HEART

After watching the programme *The Song in my Heart*, Zeki from Türkiye contacted SAT-7 to say “Your programmes have contributed greatly to the strengthening of my faith, to my understanding of the moral values of the Christian life, and to my knowledge of the Lord and myself. Please pray for me and my spiritual life.” Give thanks for Zeki’s faith and pray for him and others who encounter Jesus through *The Song in my Heart* and other programmes.

SATURDAY 23 MARCH

PLEASANT CHAT

The Azeri programme *Pleasant Chat* discusses Biblical topics and how they intersect with Azeri life and culture. Pray that Christians watching will be equipped to share their faith with joy and boldness.

SUNDAY 24 MARCH

PALM SUNDAY

“The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna

in the highest heaven!’” (Matthew 21:9). As we enter into Holy Week, let us bless the Lord and proclaim what He has done.

MONDAY 25 MARCH

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Queen Esther knew what it meant to be a persecuted minority in Ancient Persia, which is now Iran. The churches in Iran face pressure from many sides, and have little recourse to justice from the state. Pray that SAT-7 will be able to advocate for and encourage Christians in Iraq in ‘such a time as this’, just as Queen Esther did for her people long ago.

TUESDAY 26 MARCH

WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN IRAN

‘Woman. Life. Freedom.’ is the call sounding on the streets of Iran. Following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, whose crime was wearing the hijab incorrectly, women in Iran have been standing up against encroaching restrictions on their freedom. Pray that SAT-7 PARS programmes like *Insiders* will give Iranian women a voice.

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH

AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, and have implemented sweeping restrictions on freedoms, education and human rights. “The situation here in Afghanistan is very difficult for believers, and if the Taliban find out about us, they will certainly kill us,” said one Afghan Christian. He asked that we keep him and other secret believers in our prayers.

THURSDAY 28 MARCH

THE LAST SUPPER

At the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples spent precious time together in the upper room, hidden, for the time being, from those who were seeking His life. In Afghanistan, Christians worship in the secrecy of their homes, afraid that at any time the Taliban could come to their doors. Pray that the Lord would strengthen these believers and for the hard hearts of extremists to be turned to God.

GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH

RADICAL FORGIVENESS

On Good Friday, we remember that forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel. Alborz, a young man from Tajikistan, shared with SAT-7 how he was able to forgive those who had killed his brother for being a Christian. 'I was reading the Sermon on the Mount in the Bible, and it deeply impacted me. My tears flowed, my heart softened, and I forgave the extremists.' Praise God that, because we have experienced God's forgiveness, such extraordinary forgiveness is possible.

SATURDAY 30 MARCH

WAITING

After the sorrow of Good Friday, but before the joy of Easter Sunday, we wait in expectation of what is to come. Across the MENA, Christians are living in dark and difficult circumstances, with the light of Jesus sustaining them as they await the fulfilment of their hope. Pray that SAT-7 will encourage believers, amplify their voices and proclaim the gospel to their nations.

EASTER DAY 31 MARCH

HAPPY EASTER!

'He is not here; he has risen, just as he said' (Matthew 28:6).

Today we celebrate the fulfilment of God's promises to us through the resurrection of Jesus. Pray that Christians everywhere will be filled with the joy that Easter brings.

Names of viewers throughout have been changed.

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