



# PRAYER DIARY



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

April 2024



*On set of SAT-7 PARS youth programme, Hashtag*

Dear Friend,

**Welcome to your SAT-7 Prayer Diary for April to June.**

After a hope-filled Easter weekend, we take the promise of the resurrection with us as we begin our new Prayer Diary. The short days and dark evenings are starting to give way to the brightness of spring, and with it comes renewed hope and fresh eyes to see the ways God is building His Kingdom.

With the eyes of faith, we can see God's glory in the lives of believers in the MENA, even in the darkest of circumstances. We'll be praying for SAT-7's work in troubled regions like the Persian world and Türkiye, praising God for the courage of believers and remembering those who are often overlooked and on the margins of society; the elderly and refugees. May God give us eyes to see them as Jesus does.

You can find out more about the work of SAT-7, as well as news and articles at **[sat7uk.org](http://sat7uk.org)**.

Thank you so much for your prayers!

In His love,

*Annabel Moule*

Annabel Moule  
Communications & Resources Officer

## MONDAY 1 APRIL

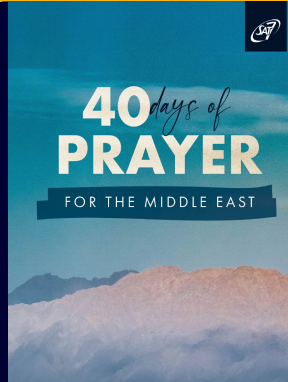
### ALL THINGS NEW

This Easter Monday, praise God that He makes all things new. Pray that SAT-7 will reach viewers across the MENA with the hope and renewal that Jesus' resurrection brings.

## TUESDAY 2 APRIL

### 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

Praise God for all those who prayed through the new SAT-7 devotional book, *40 Days of Prayer for the Middle East*, during Lent. Pray it continues to inspire, inform and immerse supporters of SAT-7 with the rich Christian history of the MENA region.



## WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL

### DARA FROM IRAN

Dara, a young man from Iran, says: "I don't know how to speak about my faith. All I can say is that I have become a Christian. The love of Jesus has taken root in every fibre of my being."

Praise God for Dara's new-found faith and pray that SAT-7 will continue to feed his love for Jesus.

## THURSDAY 4 APRIL

### CONFLICT ON THE BORDERS

Pray for those caught up in the ongoing conflicts along Lebanon's borders, and that the tide would turn towards peace rather than further escalation.

## FRIDAY 5 APRIL

### MY JESUS

*My Jesus* is a unique worship programme on SAT-7 KIDS presented by children. Each episode features worship music from churches across Egypt. Pray that the children watching will encounter the love of Jesus.

## SATURDAY 6 APRIL

### SAT-7 PARS

SAT-7's Persian channel, SAT-7 PARS, broadcasts into Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. With so many challenges facing the Persian world at the moment, yet so many encouragements from steadfast believers in the region, pray that the messages of the channel will reach the hearts of those watching.



## SUNDAY 7 APRIL

### WITH ALL YOUR HEART

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

Pray that SAT-7 PARS will show God's love to seekers in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

## MONDAY 8 APRIL

### LIVE CALLERS

Pray for viewers calling in live to the SAT-7 PARS studio to ask questions about Jesus. They often have to change their SIM cards after calling in, to avoid being identified by the authorities. Pray for their safety and that they will receive answers to their questions.

## TUESDAY 9 APRIL

### HOMA FROM IRAN

Homa contacted the PARS team to say, "My husband has been arrested. They have also taken our smart phones. For the time being we will not be able to take part in the live programmes. Please pray for my husband, for my daughter, and for our family." Let's lift up this faithful family in prayer.

**WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL****QUESTION MARK**

Pray for viewers of *Question Mark*, a programme which seeks to answer questions from isolated believers and those from other backgrounds. Pray that faith will be strengthened and curiosity sparked.

**THURSDAY 11 APRIL****SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN IRAN**

The epidemic of substance abuse in Iran is causing widespread despair and hopelessness. Pray that SAT-7 PARS programmes like *Our Neighbourhood* will point viewers in a better direction, and help those caught in addiction to find freedom in Christ.

**FRIDAY 12 APRIL****JAMIL FROM AFGHANISTAN**

"After the Taliban took over Afghanistan, my family and I lost hope. As we came across your programmes I decided that I wanted to become a Christian. Now so many things have changed in my life and my family and I are very happy." Pray for the people of Afghanistan, and that more people would discover the hope of Jesus through watching SAT-7 PARS.

**SATURDAY 13 APRIL****JESUS IS OUR ALL**

Taraneh from Iran said, "Pray for Iran, Afghanistan and all the believers in Christ who are experiencing persecution. Jesus is our all, so I pray that He may be our help in all the storms of life." Give thanks for persecuted believers who can say "Jesus is our all", enabling them to weather whatever storms they face.

**SUNDAY 14 APRIL****GLORIOUS THINGS**

"Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world" (Isaiah 12:5).

Pray that the glorious things that God has done will be known in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

**MONDAY 15 APRIL**  
**AISHA FROM ALGERIA**

Aisha, a 40-year-old woman from Algeria, contacted SAT-7 to say, "I would like to know what Christ said about eternal life. How can I find inner peace?" The viewer support team shared the Gospel with her and Aisha said, "Yes, this is what I need!" Pray that she will grow in the love and knowledge of the Lord.

**TUESDAY 16 APRIL**  
**ROSHANAK FROM IRAN**

Roshanak is a Christian in her teens from a Muslim family. She faces the prospect of being pressured into an arranged marriage. She reached out to SAT-7 for reassurance: "I am increasingly feeling depressed. I am fighting to be happy and smile, at least for the sake of my family." Pray for Roshanak and her family, and for other young girls facing forced marriage.

**WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL**  
**ARAB-BERBER RELATIONS**

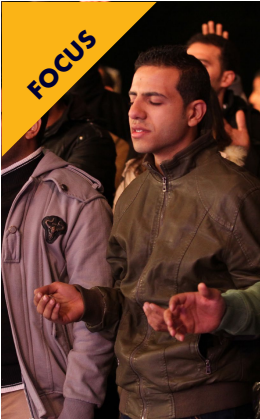
In North Africa, there have long been tensions between Berber tribes like the Amazigh and their Arab neighbours. Praise God that SAT-7 is a powerful example of different cultures and languages working together, and is helping to improve cultural relations.

**THURSDAY 18 APRIL**  
**ONLINE ENGAGEMENT**

Praise God that SAT-7's viewer support teams had 103,345 one-to-one conversations with viewers in response to our programmes in 2023. Many of these conversations led to viewers putting their faith in Jesus.



FOCUS



## FRIDAY 19 APRIL COURAGE

In many parts of the MENA, following Jesus requires immense courage and personal sacrifice. Our next few prayer points will therefore focus on the theme of courage. Pray for believers in difficult and dangerous circumstances, and praise God that He is the source of their courage.

## SATURDAY 20 APRIL

### ONLINE DISCIPLESHIP IN AFGHANISTAN

Seeking to deepen his faith, Jamil joined an online discipleship group facilitated by SAT-7. He said "I thank God for SAT-7 providing these classes for us. We have no one here in Afghanistan apart from you." Even after being imprisoned for a few days by the Taliban, Jamil reconnected with the online teaching. Praise God for such courage and determination.

## SUNDAY 21 APRIL

### STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Pray that, like Joshua, surrounded by those who were hostile to God's people, Christians in the MENA region will live courageously for Christ.

## MONDAY 22 APRIL

### SIGNAL

The SAT-7 PARS programme *Signal* features testimonies of brave Iranian Christians around the world who are serving the Church, despite the dangers. Pray that *Signal* will show believers that they are not alone.

**TUESDAY 23 APRIL**  
**NEVER ALONE**

Pea, a teenage girl from Egypt, participated in the live SAT-7 KIDS programme *Behind the Door*, saying, "I taught myself not to be afraid and to go and pray. I shouldn't feel alone if Jesus is with me. And even if I do, I pray and don't let myself remain in that place." Pray that Pea's words will resonate with other young people who feel afraid.

**WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL**  
**COURAGE IN THE HOLY LAND**

Christians like Bilal in the Holy Land are contacting SAT-7, requesting prayers for peace and courage. "I ask you, Lord, to give us peace in our homes and families. We desperately need it. Help us to see one another with Your heart of forgiveness and to shine with Your light in such dark times. Let us make way for peace and joy, and teach us to overcome our differences." Let's pray with Bilal for protection, strength and courage for believers in the Holy Land.

**THURSDAY 25 APRIL**  
**NOT ASHAMED**

Kaled from Jordan told SAT-7, "I had no religion for the majority of my life. Then I saw Jesus in a dream. After 10 years of hesitation, I became convinced that Jesus came to me to show me the way. I am not ashamed now to say that I follow Him. All fear is gone, and I can say that Jesus is my Saviour." Pray for Kaled and others who have taken the courageous step to follow Jesus after seeing Him in a dream.

**FRIDAY 26 APRIL**  
**RURAL CHURCHES IN EGYPT**

Coptic Christians living in rural areas of Egypt are vulnerable to attacks and harassment. Pray for resilience as these believers live out their faith with boldness, and that the authorities would uphold their rights in cases of local persecution.



**SATURDAY 27 APRIL****WE WILL NOT FEAR**

Patrick, a viewer from Lebanon, sent SAT-7 a courageous prayer: "I would like to offer prayers for peace to prevail in the whole world. I want to ask the Lord to pour His healing balm on every heart in pain and to heal the sick, for He is almighty. Lord, so long as we are with you, we will not fear. Amen!"

**SUNDAY 28 APRIL****NOT AFRAID**

"The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 118:6).

Pray for those who are imprisoned, attacked, harassed or discriminated against on account of their faith. May God's presence shield them from fear and despair.

**MONDAY 29 APRIL****HEART TO HEART**

The SAT-7 ARABIC programme *Heart to Heart* discusses topics related to marriage from a Christian perspective. Many viewers tell us of strained and sometimes abusive family situations that require a great deal of courage from day to day. Pray that they will be supported by the biblical wisdom they hear.

**TUESDAY 30 APRIL**  
**STANDING THEIR GROUND**

In Sudan, attacks on churches and monasteries amid a brutal ongoing conflict have left Christians afraid and discouraged. Though many have fled, the believers who have stayed are caring for the displaced and suffering. Pray that their love will draw others to Christ and for God's protection as they serve him in Sudan.



## IRAQI CHURCH DOCUMENTARY BRINGS HOPE AMID CONFLICT

**As regional tensions provoked by the war in Gaza continue to escalate, people in the Middle East feel increasingly hopeless. But the resilience shown by the people of Iraq – especially the Christian community – tells a story that can bring hope to others.**

This was the purpose of two special SAT-7 documentaries filmed in Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, in December. The documentaries featured the stories of Iraqi Christians, interviews with Christian politicians and church leaders, the filming of church services, the opening of a brand-new church complex, and an inspiring project that is helping refugee women.

“

**The paradox of faith – being hopeful even when troubled – was best presented by the experience of the Church and believers in Iraq.”**

**GEORGE MAKEEN,  
SAT-7 PRODUCER**

This year will mark the tenth anniversary of the takeover of large parts of Iraq – including historic Christian heartlands in Mosul and the Nineveh Plain – by the so-called Islamic State (IS).

Conflicts and targeted persecution against the Christian community have prompted waves of displacement and emigration. Before 2003, the Christian population

of Iraq was around 1.5 million. Today there are just 250,000 Christians left. But their resilience in the face of repeated trials serves as a witness to the whole region.

“The life of a Christian is a true testimony in the Middle East,” said Ano Johar, the Minister of Transportation in Kurdistan and a believer himself. The Church in Erbil was pivotal, as Christians from other parts of Iraq sought refuge there in the wake of the IS uprising.

“We didn’t know the truly effective role of the church until the IS catastrophe,” Mr Johar said. “In one night, we received 150,000 Christian refugees in Ankawa. We had 29 schools, halls, and churches that were used for the refugees to live in. Others lived on the streets and in houses. At that time, we realised that we need every person, every Christian, and every church.”

The Church in Erbil continues to grow and make an impact. A highlight of the documentary was the opening of a new church complex for the Christian Missionary Alliance in Ankawa, a suburb of Erbil. Its pastor, Malath Baythoon, said that the new building was the result of an increase in the church’s activities.

“As our church grew after the IS crisis, an urgent need for a new building came up... In this new place, believers get to worship and socialise with others. Children have room to play and learn the Word of God. The building emphasizes our presence for both Christians and non-Christians.”

Reflecting on the filming of the Erbil documentaries, George Makeen said, “Every time I go to Iraq, I am touched by the stories of people who witnessed so much pain and suffering, yet are determined to move forward and find meaning. I was inspired and challenged, and I am really looking forward to SAT-7’s being a key partner to the church there.”

### **PLEASE PRAY:**

- For the life and witness of the Church in Iraq, as they bring hope to their communities
- For the new church complex in Ankawa and its growing congregation
- That SAT-7’s support will help the Iraqi Church to grow and flourish.

# SAT-7 UK PODCASTS

**We're excited to announce the launch of two new SAT-7 podcasts!**



On the go or short on time? We're excited to offer a new, 7-minute audio version of our monthly Briefing. Listen now and subscribe for a monthly round up of latest news and issues from the region, read aloud for you, as well as conversations with staff and friends from the region.

Look out for our upcoming *Voices of the Middle East* podcast. We're used to hearing stories of conflict, persecution and despair. In this podcast, we'll share some of the powerful stories of strength and faith from SAT-7 viewers in the MENA, to give you hope beyond the headlines.



## LISTEN



You can listen to both of these podcasts at [\*\*sat7uk.org/listen\*\*](https://sat7uk.org/listen)

The podcasts are currently available on Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts. To listen along, follow the link from our webpage or just search for "The Middle East Briefing" or "Voices of the Middle East" in your podcast app.

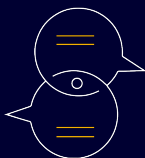


**SAT-7 broadcasts 24/7 in Arabic, Persian and Turkish**



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

**SAT-7 had 103,000 one-to-one viewer conversations in 2023**



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

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



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