



INSIGHT

30TH ANNIVERSARY
EDITION 2026

30 *Years*
OF MEDIA MINISTRY



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THE SAT-7 BOOKSHOP

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SAT-7 is an international Christian media ministry, bringing life changing joy to the people of the Middle East and North Africa through powerful, faith-filled television and digital media programmes.

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Some names have been changed for security reasons and some images are for illustrative purposes only.



AT A GLANCE

Dear friends,

When you look back on your life so far, has it unfolded the way you expected? I began my career in engineering, never imagining that God would one day call me to lead a ministry. Yet, by God's grace, here I am, celebrating 20 years of leading SAT-7 UK in the same year that SAT-7 marks its 30th anniversary!

Sometimes, life takes us in directions we could never have planned. For Marianne Awaraji, a childhood dream of leading others in worship became greater than she could have ever imagined: singing God's praises on-stage at the Royal Albert Hall! Read more of her inspiring reflections on p4.

While life can bring unexpected joy, it can also bring unforeseen suffering – something many of our viewers know all too well. When we met 10-year-old Myriam in an Iraqi displacement camp in 2014, she had been driven from her home by terrorists. But despite her unimaginable loss, Myriam was able to say: "I thank Him because He provided for us." Read Myriam's story, and more powerful testimonies, on p10-13.

And of course, through SAT-7's three decades of ministry, we have had to adapt to the unexpected – through crises, conflicts and even a global pandemic – while continually pioneering new technologies to best serve our viewers. Read more about our Viewer Support journey on p8-9.

As I reflect on SAT-7's story so far, and the unexpected twists and turns of life, I'm reminded of a line from a very old hymn: **"We'll praise Him for all that is past; and trust Him for all that's to come."**

That's what this edition of *Insight* is all about: praising Him together for SAT-7's journey over the past 30 years, and trusting Him for the future. Whatever our own stories have held so far, and whatever the coming decades have in store, we can look back at God's faithfulness and trust in His goodness for what's to come – for ourselves, for the people of the MENA, and for SAT-7's ministry.

With every blessing,

Rachel Fadipe

Rachel Fadipe
Executive Director, SAT-7 UK



A NIGHT OF WORSHIP AND WITNESS

SAT-7 CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT PROM PRAISE

Three decades of God's faithfulness were celebrated in spectacular fashion this June as SAT-7 partnered with Langham Arts for Prom Praise: To the Ends of the Earth at London's Royal Albert Hall.

The evening brought together musicians from communities and cultures across the world, echoing Jesus' final commission: "You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth." It was a night of joyful celebration, as we gave thanks for all God has done through SAT-7 across the MENA over the past 30 years.

Featuring the renowned All Souls Orchestra, a massed choir, and international guest artists and speakers, Prom Praise celebrated the diversity of God's people while shining a spotlight on the challenges and opportunities facing Christians across the MENA today.

The night's celebrations provided a unique opportunity to share the impact of SAT-7's ministry with new audiences, while thanking supporters whose

prayers and generosity have sustained SAT-7's work over the years. Throughout the evening's livestream, viewer stories filmed in SAT-7's Beirut studio highlighted how God is transforming lives through satellite television and digital media, often in places where access to church communities and discipleship can be limited. SAT-7 International CEO Rita El-Mounayer also shared her story on screen, offering reflections on faith, perseverance and hope that powerfully affirmed the impact of SAT-7's ministry.

Marianne Awaraji – SAT-7 presenter, Viewer Support Director and singer-songwriter – performed several times throughout the evening. A particular highlight was Marianne's performance of her own song, "Because God So Loves You," in Arabic and English – a song which has revealed the love of Christ to countless children across the Middle East.

"Given all that we have been living through in Lebanon and the whole MENA region, it was such a beautiful experience that made me feel

connected with God and His people," Marianne reflected (*turn to p5 to read more of Marianne's reflections from the evening*). "As I stood there singing, my thoughts turned to the children, families and believers finding hope through SAT-7 across the MENA."

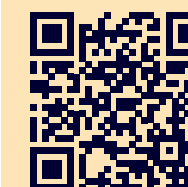
As SAT-7 looks to the future, that hope remains at the heart of our mission. Prom Praise was a joyful celebration of God's faithfulness over the past 30 years – and a reminder that the story He is writing through SAT-7 is far from over. ■

WATCH



You can watch the full Prom Praise livestream or highlight clips at:

sat7uk.org/prompraise



**"Standing on that stage...
there was only one thought
in my heart: Jesus, I want
your name to be known."**

Marianne Awaraji

A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Growing up in Lebanon, Marianne Awaraji dreamed of using her musical talents to lead others in worship. As she stood on stage at the Royal Albert Hall for Prom Praise, that childhood dream became part of something even greater: a moment of visibility, encouragement and celebration for believers across the Middle East.



BY MARIANNE AWARAJI

As a little girl, I spent hours sitting at my piano. I would write songs, sing them over and over again and imagine myself one day sharing them with people. Like many young girls, I had dreams. I dreamed of stages, music and using my gifts somehow. Looking back now, I realise that some of those desires were not random dreams at all. God was quietly planting seeds.

At the time, I thought the dream was about singing. Years later, I discovered it was about something much bigger. God inspired me through SAT-7, then led me to be part of this ministry to share the songs he had given me with thousands of children from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). I heard many times how their faith was sustained during hard times through these melodies.

Standing on the stage of the Royal Albert Hall during Prom Praise was one of those moments that felt as though time stood still. It is difficult to put into words what I felt. Thousands of people from different nations were gathered together. Voices were united in worship; hands were raised; the atmosphere was filled with joy, gratitude and awe. For a few moments, it felt like I was catching a glimpse of heaven. The lights were shining so brightly into my eyes that I could barely see the audience. Instead, my eyes were drawn upward. And in that moment, there was only one thought in my heart: Jesus, I want Your name to be known.

As I stood there singing, my thoughts travelled thousands of miles away from London and back home to the MENA. I thought about the viewers who watch SAT-7 alone. The young boy secretly

watching Christian programmes from his bedroom; the believer who has no church community; the mother searching for hope; the young woman asking questions about faith; the child learning about Jesus through SAT-7 KIDS. I found myself wishing I could somehow carry all of them onto that stage with me. I wanted the world to know their stories. I wanted the global Church to remember that behind every screen is a real person whom God loves deeply. I wanted to be a voice for those who cannot freely gather and worship with thousands of others.

And suddenly, standing on that famous stage was no longer about a childhood dream coming true. It became about God's heart for people. One of the most moving moments of the evening was hearing Rita El-Mounayer, SAT-7's CEO, share her story. She spoke about growing up as a child of war and how she chose to find hope in Jesus despite the pain and uncertainty around her. Listening to her, I was reminded once again why SAT-7 exists.

“

Seeing you at the Royal Albert Hall made me feel as though we were there with you. It felt like a breakthrough for all of us.”

A SAT-7 VIEWER

For 30 years, SAT-7 has been sharing stories like hers. Stories of people finding hope in Christ. Stories of perseverance and of faith. Stories that remind us that God is alive and at work in the MENA. Throughout the evening, we heard viewers' stories about God's work in their lives through SAT-7. As I listened, I felt overwhelmed by the realisation that what we were celebrating was not an organisation. We were celebrating the faithfulness of God and His calling on SAT-7.

Again and again, He takes ordinary people and does extraordinary things through them; He uses weak and imperfect vessels to reflect His glory; He proves that the story is not about us. It is about Him.

After the event, messages started pouring in. Many of them brought tears to my eyes. One young woman wrote to me and said, "You may not know me personally, but I grew up watching SAT-7 KIDS and singing along to your songs. Seeing you standing on that stage worshipping before thousands of people made me so proud. Thank you for serving faithfully all these years."

Another viewer told me, "Seeing you at the Royal Albert Hall felt as though we were there with you. It felt like a breakthrough for all of us." Someone else wrote, "I have been watching you since I was a child. Seeing you there gives me hope."

As I read these messages, I realised that the most beautiful part of the evening was not standing on the stage. It was discovering how God had been quietly working through SAT-7 for years in ways I could never have imagined.

What moved me most was knowing that across the MENA, young girls were watching. Girls with dreams, prayers and questions about their future. Girls who may feel unseen, limited by their circumstances or unsure whether God has a purpose for their lives.

If my standing on that stage meant anything, I hope it reminded them of this truth: God is still a God of miracles. He is faithful to every promise He makes. He sees the dreams hidden deep within our hearts, and when we place our lives in His hands and walk in His will, He often does "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

As a little girl, I dreamed of singing on a stage. I could never have imagined that God would use that dream as part of a much bigger story: one that would point people to Him, encourage believers across nations and remind others that nothing is impossible with God. ■

Marianne Awaraji is the Viewer Support Director for SAT-7's Arabic channels, and has also presented and produced a variety of programmes for SAT-7. She lives in Beirut, Lebanon with her husband and son.

1995

Founding meeting held
by Dr Terence Ascott

1996

Weekly broadcasts
begin

1997

SAT-7 studio in
Lebanon opens

1999

Partner-operated
telephone counselling
centres open

2000

Start of daily
broadcasts in Arabic



2002

Cairo studio opens;
destroyed by arson in
September; reopens
March 2003

2005

First live broadcasts



2006

SAT-7 PARS launched

2007

SAT-7 KIDS launched

THANK YOU FOR THIRTY YEARS

FROM RITA EL-MOUNAYER

From presenting during SAT-7's first-ever broadcast in 1996 to leading the organisation today, international CEO Rita El-Mounayer has been part of SAT-7's journey from the very beginning. Here, Rita reflects on God's faithfulness over the past three decades, and gives thanks for your faithful support.



BY RITA EL-MOUNAYER

Thirty years ago, people across the Middle East and North Africa were living through conflict, uncertainty and fear. And for many today... not much has changed. Yet in the middle of pain and instability, something extraordinary continues to shine: faith.

“

I thank my God every time I remember you... I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

Earlier this year, a young woman named Gaëlle lost both of her parents in a missile strike in a town near the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Can you imagine carrying that kind of grief? And yet, despite her heartbreak, she said these powerful words:

“His will be done. Not a single hair falls without Him knowing. Jesus, I trust in You.”

Her faith reminds me of Psalm 34:18:

“The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Stories like Gaëlle's are why SAT-7 exists. What started 30 years ago as a two-hour Arabic satellite broadcast from Beirut has now become a multi-language, multi-platform ministry reaching millions across the region. Through wars, persecution, crises and uncertainty, SAT-7 has continued sharing the hope of Jesus — crossing borders, touching hearts, and changing lives.

The Gospel is reaching people who may never walk into a church. Believers are being strengthened. Churches are being encouraged. And people are discovering they are not alone.

Earlier this year, a woman named Mondana contacted SAT-7 from inside Iran during a rare moment of internet connection. She wrote:

“Life in Iran has become very difficult... but I am standing firm in my faith and my eyes are on God alone.”

Then she said something unforgettable:

“We are waiting for a miracle... waiting for the walls to fall, waiting for the sea to split, and waiting for God to perform miracles.”

Her message reminds us that even in the depths of darkness, hope is alive.

Over the last three decades, countless people of all ages and backgrounds across the Middle East and North Africa have reached out asking for prayer, encouragement, and truth.

And because of you, our faithful supporters and partners, SAT-7 has been able to answer those cries for hope. Your support reminds me of Paul's message to the Philippians (1:3–6):

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Thirty years later, SAT-7 remains committed to making God's love visible wherever it's needed most. And as we step into the future together, we continue praying that hearts will encounter Jesus, lives will be transformed, and hope will rise across the region.

Because even in the hardest places... God is still moving. Amen. ■

WATCH



Watch this message as a video from Rita — and discover seven ways to get involved in our anniversary year at:

sat7uk.org/anniversary



“

Because of you, our faithful supporters and partners, SAT-7 has been able to answer those cries for hope.”

RITA EL-MOUNAYER



2010

SAT-7 TÜRK is launched

2011

Start of the Arab Spring and year of special live broadcasts

2012

SAT-7 TÜRK moves to new studio in Istanbul

2017

SAT-7 ACADEMY is launched

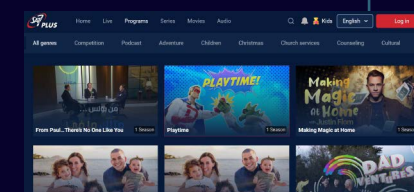


2019

Rita El-Mounayer becomes SAT-7 CEO; Dr Terence Ascott becomes Founder & President

2021

SAT-7 PLUS streaming platform goes live



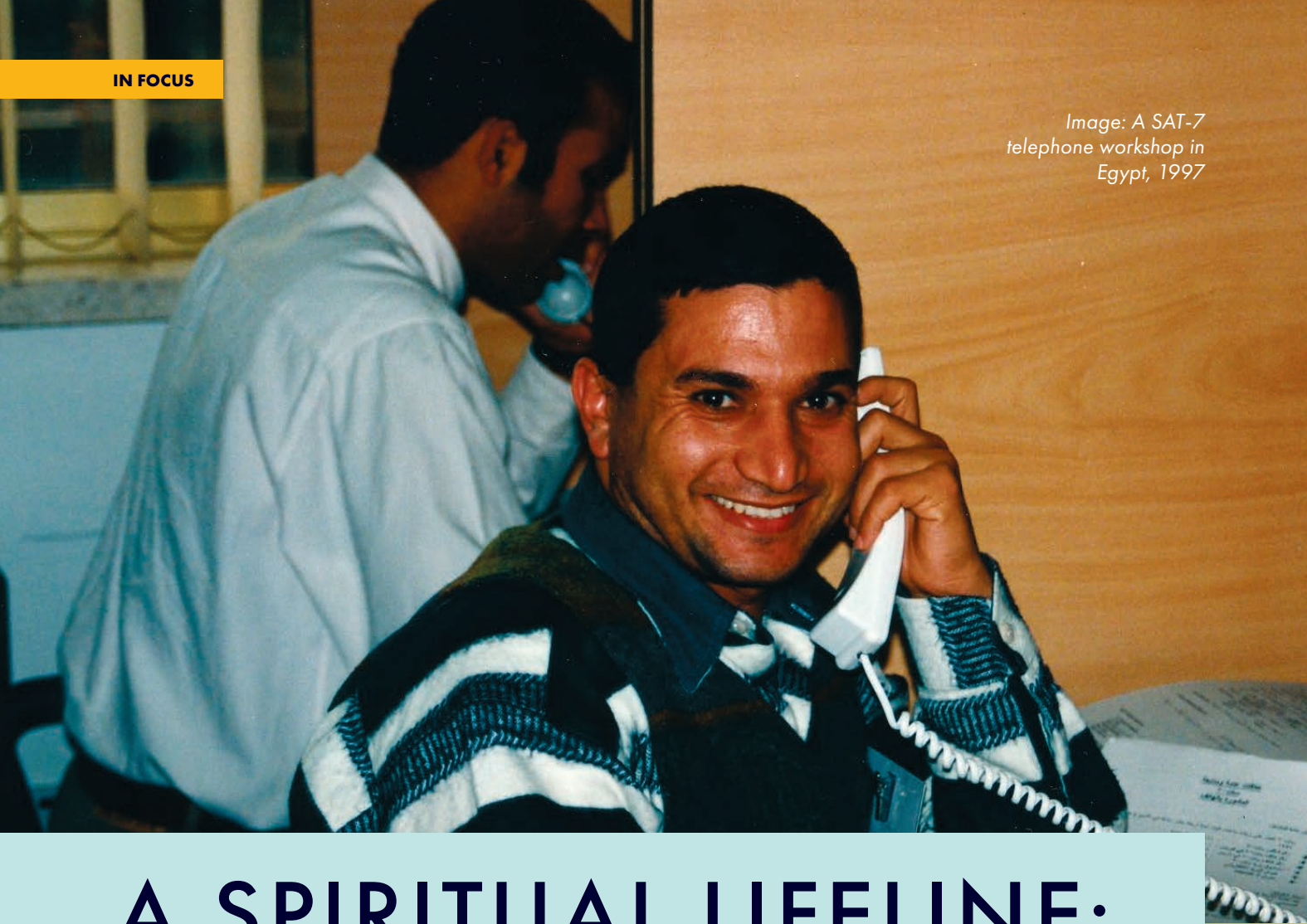
2025

Between 2023 and 2025, three SAT-7 films win a range of international awards

2026

Happy 30th anniversary!

Image: A SAT-7
telephone workshop in
Egypt, 1997



A SPIRITUAL LIFELINE:

THE CHANGING FACE OF VIEWER SUPPORT FROM 1996 TO TODAY

When SAT-7 began to air its first broadcast in 1996, the team were not expecting an immediate response from viewers. They thought it would take time for people to find the channel. And when they did, would anyone accept the risk or expense of making an international phone call to get in touch?

But within minutes, the phone rang. It was a man in the Arabian Peninsula who had just seen the SAT-7 presenter on television. "What is this channel?" he asked in astonishment. "I just saw

a woman wearing a cross around her neck and speaking Arabic!" He had no idea before that Arabic-speaking Christians even existed.

And in the days that followed, the calls kept coming...

Even before those first programmes, SAT-7 had realised that interaction with viewers would be an important part of its work. Post office boxes had already been rented in various countries, and six phone and fax lines installed – an unusual offering at the time.

"Up to this point, none of the international radio ministries had offered a phone number to their audiences and instead relied on mail," recalls Terry Ascott,

A drawing from one of SAT-7's earliest young viewers



SAT-7's Founder. "In the coming days, we were astonished at the number of people who were willing and wanted to make international calls to speak to us."

**"What is this
channel? I just saw
a woman wearing
a cross around her
neck and speaking
Arabic!"**

AN EXPANDING MINISTRY

February 1997 saw SAT-7's first workshop for its call handlers, and in 1999 the ministry began to open counselling centres across and beyond the region, initially managed by SAT-7's partners. By 2001 the number of these had risen to 12.

Written communications from the audience also increased rapidly. Adults sent fax messages from the very beginning. Rita El-Mounayer, now SAT-7's International CEO, was the channel's first children's presenter in 1996. A month after broadcasts began, she was astonished to be presented with a large box of letters and drawings from young viewers in Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon and North Africa.



SAT-7 launched a text messaging service in 2003

DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY

In those early days, almost all of the thousands of responses to SAT-7's programmes came by phone, letter and fax. But the last 30 years have seen extraordinary changes in communication technology, and SAT-7 has embraced these strategically.

In the 2000s, email messages to the channel began to surge, and in 2003 SAT-7 launched its SMS text messaging service. New and improved websites further encouraged audience engagement.

And as social media platforms such as Facebook and messaging apps such as WhatsApp were developed and became popular, SAT-7 increasingly used them to interact with viewers. If authorities in certain countries intercepted mail, monitored calls or blocked the internet, the wide range of available technologies helped us to stay in touch.

SUPPORTING VIEWERS TODAY

Now, thirty years on, each of SAT-7's channels has developed a dedicated and experienced Viewer Support team composed of Persian, Turkish or Arab believers, who are ready to receive our viewers' comments, concerns, questions, prayer requests and testimonies. In 2025 we had 75,100 conversations with viewers – on the phone, on social media and through direct messaging.

"Every day we receive many messages from viewers asking for advice, or needing someone to listen to them," says Marianne Awaraji, SAT-7 Arabic Viewer Support Director. "We also receive an enormous amount of theological questions, mostly from non-Christians who want to know more about Jesus."

As our team members build a strong foundation of trust with viewers, they are able to offer an appropriate form of loving support, whether that be prayer, counselling, daily encouragements, Christian resources, practical advice, or signposting to other services.

YUNUS' STORY

Our Viewer Support teams include people who have been through similar experiences to those calling in – like Yunus, Viewer Support Coordinator for SAT-7 TÜRK. Yunus began to have serious questions about the religious writings that he followed when he was told that music – his passion – was sinful and forbidden. He contacted a Christian society in Türkiye, was given a Bible and also started watching SAT-7 TÜRK. He was stunned by Jesus' words. He found a church and later joined the channel's Viewer Support team.

SAT-7 HAD
75,100
CONVERSATIONS WITH
VIEWERS IN 2025



Sharing the Bible in messaging app Telegram

Many young people who get in touch with SAT-7 TÜRK are from a similar background to Yunus and are asking similar questions. He can tell them, "I was once where you are. I had the same conflicts, the same questions. I understand."

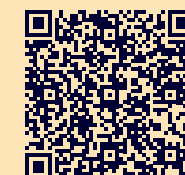
From that first unexpected phone call in 1996 to tens of thousands of conversations each year, supporting viewers has remained at the heart of SAT-7's ministry. Thanks to your support, across the MENA, our teams can continue to offer a listening ear, a compassionate response, and the hope of Christ to viewers who may have nowhere else to turn. ■

LISTEN



For more stories of God at work through our Viewer Support team, listen in to a powerful conversation with Marianne Awaraji on our *Around the Table* podcast at:

[sat7uk.org/
god-at-work](https://sat7uk.org/god-at-work)



GOD AT WORK

CHANGING LIVES

DURING THREE TURBULENT DECADES



Images (top to bottom): Israeli airstrike in Gaza, 2021 (Alamy), a bullet-riddled mural of Jesus in Qaraqosh, Iraq, 2014 (SAT-7), Syrian refugees arrive in Greece, 2015 (Shutterstock)

Over the last thirty years, headlines from the Middle East and North Africa have been dominated by conflict, persecution and upheaval. But behind the scenes, God has been changing lives...

Even a brief glance at the last three decades makes for very bleak reading: Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; the largely dashed hopes of the Arab Spring; the rise of so-called Islamic State; church closures in Algeria; civil wars in Syria, Libya, Sudan and Yemen; the refugee crisis; the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict; the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan; human rights violations; recent violence in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran... The news has seemed to bring a relentless stream of coups and crises, invasions and instability.

Yet through it all, in ways seen and unseen, God has been at work. In the midst of their pain and in their darkest moments, people across the MENA have been seeking answers – and turning towards Jesus. Through our TV programmes and digital media, we have responded to the unfolding events of the region with care, comfort and the eternal assurance found in Christ. Viewers in their millions have turned to SAT-7 and found the joy and the peace of the Gospel.

And lives are being changed. Against the dark backdrop of pain, their stories of hope shine all the brighter.

Here, we share some of our most-loved testimonies from the last thirty years. These stories represent just a brief snapshot of the lives that God has been transforming across the region – stories of transformation that have been made possible through your faithful gifts, prayers and support.

Thank you!

Salah, Morocco

Salah from Morocco, one of SAT-7's earliest young viewers, shares his remarkable story of finding faith despite opposition from his family...

“ I started to learn about Jesus when I was only 12. Strangely enough, I used to pray in my own way to God without even knowing about Christianity. One day during my prayers Jesus appeared to me, but I did not know it was Him. He said, 'Come into my house.' I asked, 'Where is your house?' He answered, 'The Church.'

"I went around looking for a church until I found one. Everyone there was a foreigner except for me, so the priest asked me to come and meet with him. He wondered what brought me there, and I told him my story. One Sunday I was late getting back home, and my parents hit me hard when they knew that I was at church. I was forbidden to leave the house except for school.

"After some time, we bought a satellite dish, and as I flicked through the channels, my eye was caught by the 'First Arabic Channel for Christians in the Middle East and North Africa'. It was SAT-7. 'This channel is for me,' I said to myself.

"The programme was the kids' show *As Sanabel* (Ears of Wheat) with Rita and Sanboul. There was a quiz question about the founder of the Scout movement, and I knew the answer.

"But then my mother walked in and saw me watching the programme. She turned the TV off and forbade me from watching TV on my own. But anyway, I wrote to *As Sanabel* without anyone knowing.

“

My mother walked in and saw me watching the programme. She turned the TV off and forbade me from watching.”

SALAH, MOROCCO

"One afternoon, I came back from school and no one was at home. I turned the TV on, but after a short while my mother came in and started screaming at me. But at that moment, Rita was announcing the names of the winners, and she clearly said my name. We were startled! After that, my mother did not stop me from watching TV again.

"I received a package from SAT-7, and we opened it and found a t-shirt and a copy of the Gospel of John. My mother gave me the t-shirt and hid the Gospel. I kept searching until I found it and began to read it eagerly. The first words I read were, 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God...'

"Suddenly everything was clear to me; it needed no more explanation. He who appeared to me in prayer when I was younger is Jesus Christ, and He is the Way."





“

I know from the people here that SAT-7 is the channel that blessed their lives the most... You have stood with us during times of difficulty, during times of war, and you still pray for us and share our prayers. We are so encouraged by your ministry, and pray that the Lord would continue to advance the work of SAT-7. You have been reaching our peoples with the love of Christ.”

REV. DR. JACK SARA, PRESIDENT,
BETHLEHEM BIBLE COLLEGE



Myriam, Iraq

In 2014, young Iraqi Christian girl Myriam (pictured left) captured hearts around the world when she publicly forgave the militants who had driven her family and community from their homes.

Following the takeover of Qaraqosh – the largest Christian town in Iraq – by the so-called Islamic State (IS) terrorist group, SAT-7 spoke to the ten-year-old in a camp for displaced people in Erbil.

She loved watching SAT-7 KIDS and was delighted to talk to presenter Essam Nagy on camera. He asked how she felt towards the perpetrators who had driven her and thousands of others from their homes. In an interview that went viral, Myriam movingly said, “I won’t do anything to them. I will only ask God to forgive them.”

She said she felt sad about leaving her home but wasn’t angry at God, adding, “I thank Him because He provided for us.”

Myriam was forced to leave behind many precious things: her home, her school, her friends. But despite her great loss and traumatic flight, she sang a beautiful worship song about how her joy was made complete in Christ. Sitting in a refugee camp far from home, she smiled and sang of her love for God.

Months later, the video clip of Myriam’s interview and song had been watched by millions and picked up by several international news outlets who were inspired by the young girl’s choice to forgive her enemies.

“She spoke from her heart and communicated something very precious,” Essam said. “It was a wake-up call for the whole world.”

Myriam prompted many people around the world to work towards forgiveness themselves. It impacted Essam’s own spiritual life. “You can sense that the Bible is true when you see something like this,” he said. “Since then, I have seen life in a completely different way.”

Five years later, Myriam’s family were able to return to Qaraqosh. In a follow-up SAT-7 documentary, *Sequel of Hope*, Myriam shared how her faith sustained her during their years of displacement. She believes God protected her family home, which, unlike many others, was left standing.

“God is always protecting you, and you can count on Him,” she said. Then, with a light in her eyes, she spoke about Jesus. “He is my friend, my brother... my everything.”

Elmira, Iran

“Being a woman in my world hurt so much,” Elmira from Iran told SAT-7. Forced to marry at just 11 years old, she had two children by her 15th birthday. Her husband was a drug addict who forced her into prostitution to fund his habit. Over the next 14 years, Elmira became HIV-positive and lived as a virtual slave, before eventually escaping.

“I felt like I was nothing, lost! I didn’t know how anyone would reach me, but then one day I heard on your television service that I really was loved and that God could help me. I wish my life had been different, but what I heard on your programme that day changed everything. I continued to watch your channel and learned that God loves me, despite all that I had done. I gave my heart to Jesus.”

Elmira led ten relatives to Christ, and they now watch SAT-7 and worship God together. Later, Elmira met and married another believer who, she said, “loves me and treats me with respect”.

“Thank you for all you do to share God’s love with people like me,” Elmira added. “Please pray that I will serve Him to the best of my ability.” ■



30 STORIES OF HOPE



from the Middle East and North Africa
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MEDIA MINISTRY

FREE
Just pay P&P

FOR MORE STORIES...

...ORDER YOUR FREE COPY OF 30 STORIES OF HOPE TODAY!

Here at SAT-7, we have tens of thousands of conversations every year with people across the region – many of them facing war, persecution and pain, but still finding hope and joy in Jesus. From Morocco to Tajikistan, we bring you 30 of their real stories.

We pray their testimonies will fill you with hope as you witness God at work in the MENA. Order today at:

sat7uk.org/30stories



**"IN ALL
HARDSHIPS,
THE LORD
NEVER LEFT US"**

AN AFGHAN FATHER'S LEGACY OF FAITH

The faith of Farid* from Afghanistan survived persecution, danger, exile and even the murder of his own son. A refuge in times of fear, a light in seasons of darkness, this generational faith shaped not only the life of his children, but also the lives of his grandchildren – a legacy that endures to this day. Farid's surviving son, Alborz, recently shared the family's remarkable story with SAT-7 PARS.

*All names have been changed and images used for representation only

"As I write these lines, I am 47 years old," Alborz said. "But the story of my faith begins with my father's life in Afghanistan..."

"My father Farid was a man who served the people. You could say he was like a doctor. Anyone who was in pain, he bandaged their wounds, gave them medicine. It didn't matter to him whether that person was a friend or an enemy; my father brought them home, showed them kindness and treated their wounds."

Long before Alborz had his own children – years before they would grow up watching SAT-7 PARS children's programmes – his father, Farid, lived a life of quiet dignity. And, yet, at that stage, Farid's kindness was not rooted in Christian faith. That came later, through an unexpected encounter that altered the course of the family's future forever...

BELIEF BEGINS

One day, Farid met a Russian soldier who spoke Persian. The soldier handed him a Bible. "My father began to read it," Alborz explains. "And from that moment he came to faith in Jesus Christ."

Danger followed this newfound faith, and Farid had to flee. But during his escape, armed men accosted him. "While he was kneeling on the ground, someone pointed a gun at his head to kill him," Alborz says. "At that moment, his little son – my brother – ran and put his finger inside the barrel of the gun. The man started crying. And my father survived."

Understandably, Farid moved his young family to Iran.

From his earliest days Alborz recalls his father speaking of his faith: "My father always told me, 'Jesus Christ is the true and real way,'" Alborz adds, "But I never listened to him." Instead, the young man looked elsewhere for fulfilment: "In search of the right way, I tried everything. But I found no peace," he said.

Eventually, when Alborz was 17, everything came to a head.

"I was helping people at my house of worship, distributing food. I saw they had prepared a full dish for an important person. But for a poor person,

they prepared a dish with very little. I couldn't stand it. I smashed both dishes. Everyone got angry and beat me severely, to the point where I was about to die."

Alborz fled home, straight into the arms of Farid. "He embraced me and said, 'Jesus Christ knows your pains. He is a God who loves everyone equally.'" In that moment, years of searching suddenly gave way to certainty. "Right there, at 17," Alborz recalls, "I gave my heart to Jesus Christ."

A DEVASTATING COST

Later, the family returned to Afghanistan, determined to serve others despite the danger: "We built roads, houses and baths for people, dug wells and provided places for those who had no money to marry."

But their faith came at a devastating cost. Alborz's brother – a 25-year-old engineer who openly shared the Gospel and gave half his earnings to the poor – was kidnapped by the Taliban after his faith was discovered. He was brutally tortured. "In the end, they killed him," Alborz said.

Understandably, the grief consumed Alborz. For a long time, forgiveness felt impossible. "Feelings of hate became my constant companion," he admits. "The anguish and bitterness that filled my being took its toll and soon I found myself with no friends. Even at home I did not speak with kindness to those around me."

For three years Alborz struggled to accept his brother's death. "My father told me that I must forgive my brother's killers or it would destroy my life," he said.

Then, one day, while reading Matthew 5:4 – "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" – the Lord touched Alborz. "After that, I cried, knelt down, repented and forgave my brother's enemies."

The compassion that Farid had shown to others was taking root in his son.

REBUILDING FROM SCRATCH

Violence and threats eventually forced the family to flee once more – this time to Tajikistan, where they built home churches, distributed Christian materials, and continued serving others quietly.

0.02%

of Afghanistan's population is Christian – about 7,000 people, the fewest in the region.



It was also there that Alborz's three children grew up watching SAT-7 PARS. The eldest child, Armita, wrote regularly to her favourite children's programmes, developing a deep connection with presenters. Again and again, SAT-7's Viewer Support team prayed alongside the family through uncertainty and fear.

"Our life was rebuilt from scratch," says Alborz. "But God was always with us."

SAFE AT LAST

Today, after years of hardship and threat, Alborz and his family are finally safe in a western country. And the faith that began with one man being handed a Bible in Afghanistan has now travelled across countries and lives: from father to son, and from Alborz to his own children.

"We will continue to serve and share the word of God with others," Alborz says. "In all hardships, the Lord never left us."

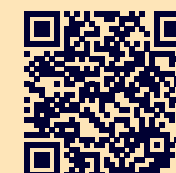
The story of Farid and Alborz stands as a reminder that faith is the strongest of legacies: a refuge in fear, a light in darkness, and a hope strong enough to carry entire families through the hardest of times. ■

PASS IT ON



Like Farid, you could pass on the greatest news ever told to future generations when you leave a gift to SAT-7 in your Will. Find out more, including how to write a Will for free, at:

sat7uk.org/giftsinwills



YOUR SUPPORT BRINGING JOY

THEN...

...AND NOW

One of our first ever regular givers, Marion Osgood, explains why she first caught the vision for SAT-7 back in 1996...



Hello, I'm Marion and I've lived in London all my life. For many years, my husband Hugh and I pastored a church here in Bromley. We've always had a strong overseas focus, and have arranged and taken part in many mission and vision trips.

I first heard about SAT-7 back in 1996. Terry Ascott, SAT-7's founder, held a promotional meeting at Crofton Baptist Church, where his family had been based. It was amazing to hear his vision firsthand – I never doubted it would be a success. We started supporting the ministry from that very first meeting, and still support SAT-7 today.

From the beginning, SAT-7 has identified both the spiritual needs of the people of the MENA, and the direction of technology within its cultures.

I have travelled extensively in the region, so I have learnt this first-hand. Perhaps the best example of this was when I did a SAT-7 sponsored trek in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco in 2009. As we trekked through many remote villages, we could not miss the forest of satellite dishes across the rooftops in even the most isolated communities!

Looking back over SAT-7's thirty years, it's been a privilege to see how the ministry has grown. We visited the SAT-7 studio in Lebanon in 2016, which was the first time I had ever seen the inner workings of a TV studio. I was totally impressed watching a live children's show, and an international phone-in taking place. By then, SAT-7 was also broadcasting in Turkish and Persian, which was way beyond the original 2 hours a week in Arabic.

I pray that SAT-7 will continue moving forwards, and that it will remain both culturally relevant and spiritually vital – as it has since that first meeting over thirty years ago.



Above: Marion takes part in a sponsored trek for SAT-7 in the Sinai Desert, Egypt, 2007

...And one of our newest joy bringers, Phil, shares why he felt prompted to start giving regularly to SAT-7 earlier this year...



Hi, I'm Phil. I'm married to Deb and we live in Cheshire. We have two adult children and one grandchild. I'm retired from paid work but still very much not retired from serving the Lord! At present I'm helping lead an Alpha course, and have just got involved with an organisation that distributes Bibles in the UK and further afield.

We've known about SAT-7 for many years, after visiting stands at various Christian events over the years. We recently felt a prompt from the Holy Spirit to start supporting SAT-7 financially, as we know that many people in the MENA have no access to a church, but do have access to satellite TV and other technology.

We also know that throughout church history, God's people have always made use of the latest technology – such as the printing press – to reach

people for Christ. So we love that SAT-7 is utilising the newest technologies to transmit the Gospel even more effectively.

What has most excited me about SAT-7's ministry is that, although the countries it works in may be hostile to the Gospel, the work knows no borders. The programmes SAT-7 produces can share the Gospel to those who have never heard it before, as well as building up those who already follow Christ. The [SAT-7 TÜRK youth discussion programme] *Around the Campfire* has especially appealed to me – I can really see the value of mentoring younger generations.

Looking ahead to the next 30 years, my prayer for the Middle East is that Jesus will continue to "build His church" in the MENA and that "the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). I pray that God will help and provide for SAT-7, and continue to be at the heart of everything it does. And I pray that more countries in the MENA will be able to say, "Blessed in the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). ■

COULD YOU BE OUR NEWEST JOY BRINGER?

Thanks to regular givers like Marion and Phil, SAT-7 has the strength and stability to stand with viewers for the long-term, reminding them they are not alone.

300 GIVERS
× **£30 A MONTH**
× **3 YEARS**
= **£300,000+**

To celebrate 30 years of SAT-7, we are calling for 300 new joy bringers to pledge to give £30 a month for the next three years and beyond, which could generate an extra £300,000 for SAT-7.

Scan the QR code or visit sat7uk.org/joy to join the challenge!

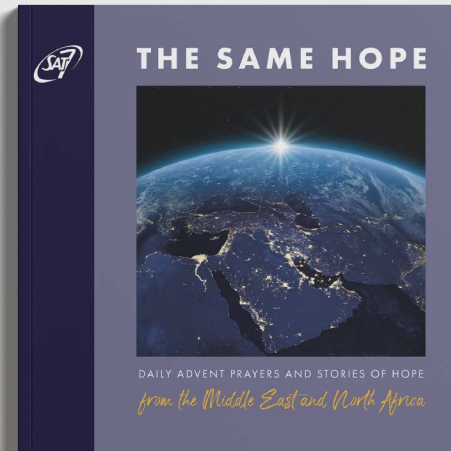


THE SAT-7 Bookshop

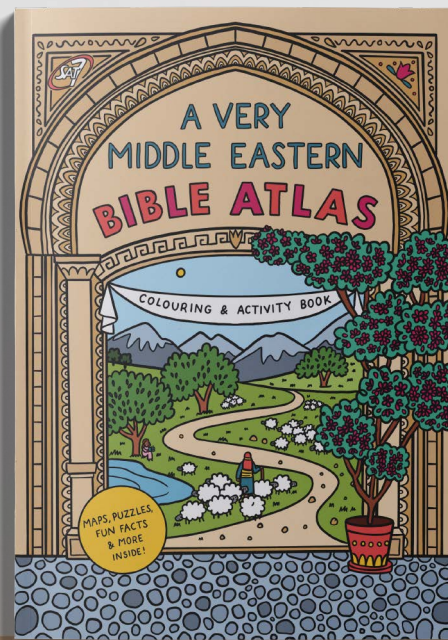
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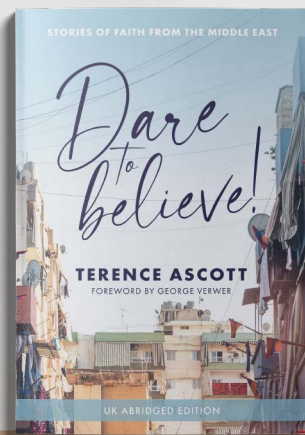
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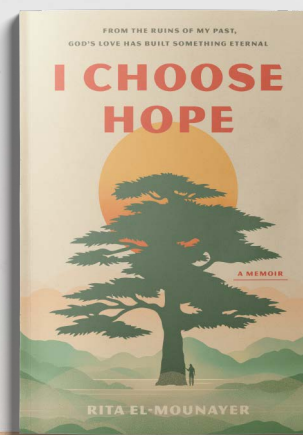
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5



Whether you're looking for your next inspiring read, an uplifting daily devotional, or something fun for the kids, SAT-7's bookshop has a resource for you...

1

30 STORIES OF HOPE (FREE)

Here at SAT-7, we have tens of thousands of conversations a year with people from across the MENA and from all walks of life. We bring you 30 real stories from SAT-7 viewers – from Morocco to Tajikistan – showing how God is at work in people's lives across the region.

3

DARE TO BELIEVE! BY TERENCE ASCOTT (£7)

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

5

I CHOOSE HOPE BY RITA EL-MOUNAYER (£TBC)

Rita tells the extraordinary story of how a child of war became the CEO of SAT-7. From growing up in war-torn Lebanon to sharing the Gospel with millions, *I Choose Hope* reminds us that even in the ruins of war and personal loss, God's love can still build something eternal. ■

2

ADVENT 2026: THE SAME HOPE (FREE)

Whatever we are facing, whether we are in the MENA or the UK, we all have access to the same hope through our coming Messiah. Join us for daily reflections with real stories from the MENA, to fill your heart with hope during the Christmas season.

4

A VERY MIDDLE EASTERN BIBLE ATLAS (£5)

Join us on a journey to the lands of the Bible with our brand new children's colouring and activity book! You'll meet the real people who live in the real lands where your favourite Bible stories took place, with stickers, maps, codebreaker puzzles and more.

SHOP



For all these resources and more, visit our web shop! All profits will go towards SAT-7's ministry.



shop.sat7uk.org

Prices don't include postage and packaging, which will be calculated at checkout. Some items are available for pre-order and will be shipped at a later date.

CONTINUE SAT-7'S STORY WITH A GIFT TODAY

Your faithful support has helped shape the Church across the MENA, and the impact will be felt for generations to come.

Yet our story is far from finished. Millions of people are still longing to hear the life-changing truth of the Gospel. And with your continued help, our programmes can meet this need.

As we look to the future with hope and faith, would you prayerfully consider a gift today, so that many more hearts and homes can be reached in Jesus' name?

Thank you, from all of us at SAT-7 UK and across the MENA region. You are continuing SAT-7's story – making God's love visible today and for generations to come.



BE THERE FOR SAT-7 VIEWERS TODAY

£18

provides an hour of vital follow-up support for viewers.

£27

supports one hour of powerful, faith-filled broadcasting on SAT-7.

£45

supports one hour of broadcasting and one hour of prayer or biblical guidance as needed by not-yet believers.

TO GIVE

Scan the QR code or visit sat7uk.org/insight



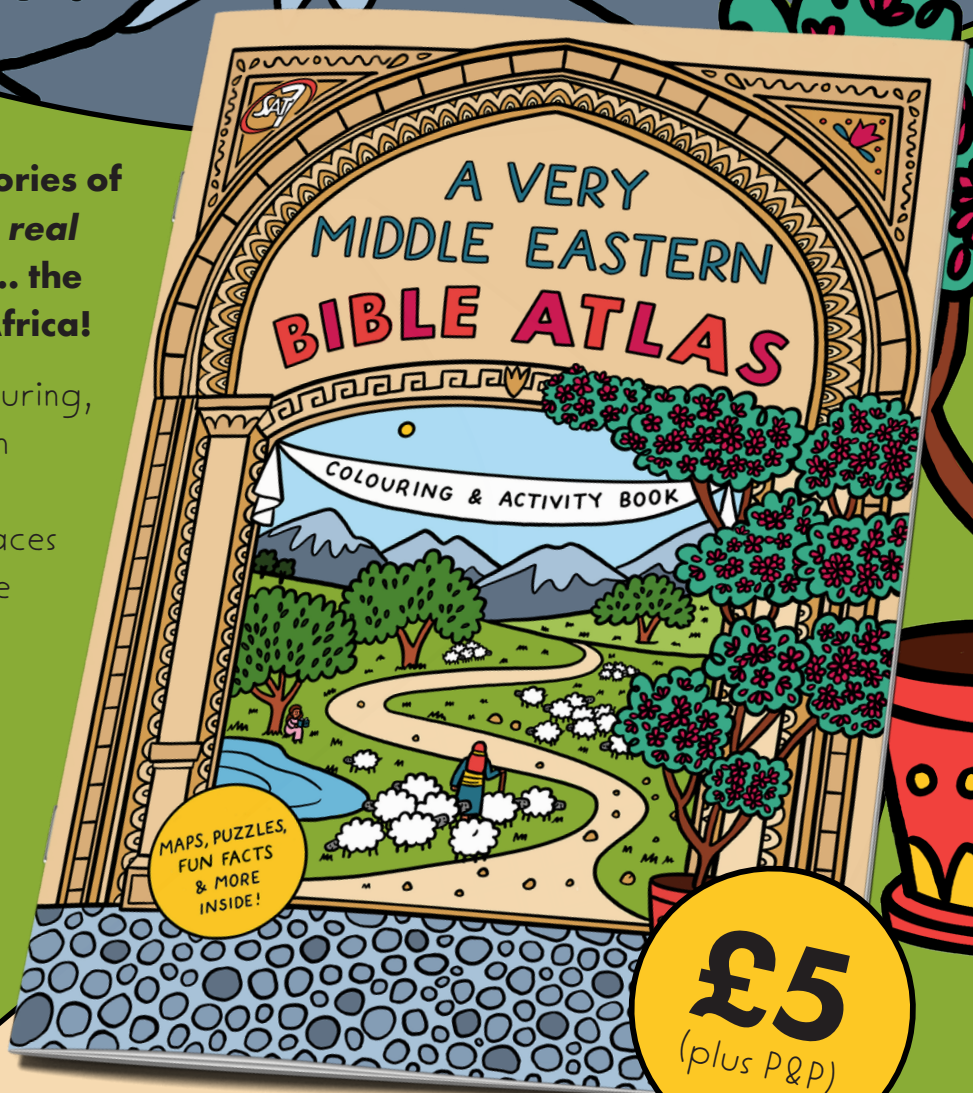
A VERY MIDDLE EASTERN BIBLE ATLAS

COLOURING & ACTIVITY BOOK

The Bible tells the *real* stories of *real* people who lived in *real* part of the world called... the Middle East and North Africa!

With plenty of maps, colouring, puzzles, codebreakers, fun facts, prayers and more, you'll discover the real places where your favourite Bible stories took place – and meet the real people who live there today.

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£5 (plus P&P) at:
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£5
(plus P&P)