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# NEWS AND PRAYER

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WEEK OF PRAYER SPECIAL EDITION  
5-12 NOVEMBER 2017



ANSWER THE  
**CRY!**

Thanksgiving for Answered Cries

## WEEK OF PRAYER GUIDE

This year our Day of Prayer has become a whole Week of Prayer - which we've integrated into our monthly News & Prayer leaflet so more people can get involved. We want to mobilise prayer for the Middle East and North Africa and give thanks as we bring our Answer the Cry campaign to a close.

### GUIDE TO RESOURCES

The SAT-7 Week of Prayer pack contains a **News & Prayer Guide** (you're reading it!), plus other resources available to download online:

- **PowerPoint slide** for you to adapt to promote your Week of Prayer event(s)
- Set of **PowerPoint slides** to be used alongside the information in this guide
- **Responsive prayer PowerPoint slide**
- **Answer the Cry 16-page booklet** with information about the region and the different cries from men, women and children, for worth, strength, meaning and peace
- **Prayer Points** handout
- **Response Card PDF**
- **News & Prayer Guide PDF**

### RUNNING A PRAYER EVENT

The official Week of Prayer runs from 5-12 November – but you can use these materials during the whole month to help focus your prayers.

Ideally, every person coming to a prayer event should be given a copy of the main prayer points in this guide and encouraged to take them home to continue to pray and learn more about SAT-7. *(You can print the relevant pages from this guide or from the online PDFs.)*

The person leading could read the prayers in this guide (including additional information depending on time). Church or group members can then be invited to pray in small groups or silently in between each section.

The leader could add a congregational response at the end of each section such as, **"Oh Lord – we give thanks for answered cries."** Alternatively, the person leading the prayers in a church service could use the responsive prayer on the back of this guide as part of the time of prayer and reflection.

### GOING DEEPER

Where time permits, consider going deeper by gathering more information to inform your prayers. Check out the latest news stories from across the Middle East and North Africa region by going online or collecting recent headlines from national newspapers.

You can also use the stories, testimonies and information from this and/or the Answer the Cry booklet to set the context. You can then use the prayer points as a starting point to pray into some of the wider issues.

### POWERPOINT SLIDES

Wherever possible we suggest you also use one or more of the PowerPoint slides as a focus for the prayers.

*If you are not used to using PowerPoint, do make sure you run through how you are going to lead your prayer time or event with the person operating the computer and projector. This will ensure everything runs smoothly on the day.*

### FOLLOW-UP

If people would like to continue praying for the work of SAT-7 please ask them to complete a response form so they can stay in touch with SAT-7 and continue to pray over the coming year. Please send the forms to our office.

You may also wish to consider following up the prayer event with one of our other Answer the Cry resources which are available to download from:

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

### WHAT NEXT?

If people in your group are keen to meet again to pray, or to learn more about SAT-7, why not run a **Big Watch** event. Based around the film *Closure*, this is an excellent resource, introducing the issues of persecution within closed countries to small groups and helping raise awareness of SAT-7's ministry.

**Thank you for praying!**

### DOWNLOAD / ORDER RESOURCES

w: [www.sat7uk.org/wop](http://www.sat7uk.org/wop)  
e: [respond@sat7uk.org](mailto:respond@sat7uk.org)  
t: 01249 765865

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**"In my distress I called out to the Lord.  
From his temple he heard my voice,  
my cry came to his ears."** 2 Samuel 22:7

# SYRIAN CHILDREN GIVE THANKS FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

Learning to trust in God's provision helps children in war-ravaged Syria to grow strong in their faith despite the suffering around them. A special SAT-7 ARABIC report showed how one Syrian Sunday school is helping children to depend on God – even when it comes to the toys they dearly cherish – and to give thanks for answered prayer.

In an interview with presenter Dr Yvette Elbayadi Isaac, a Sunday school teacher from the Presbyterian Evangelical Church in Aleppo shared how the conflict has affected the children in her church: "Many of the children lost their toys when their homes were destroyed. Their parents are most concerned with providing their children with food and clothing, and toys are not on their list of essentials. **But we know how much toys matter to children and bring joy to their hearts more than anything else.**"

Amal, another Sunday school teacher, explained that the little ones were encouraged to bring their desires to God. Amal told the children, "If you want a toy, then ask Jesus. The children had specific toys in their minds which they requested from the Lord...[and] three months later, the Lord sent them the toys!" Through God's amazing provision, financial donations flooded in and the Sunday school teachers were able to purchase toys for the children more quickly and abundantly than they had anticipated.




Receiving their longed-for new toys, the Sunday school children recognised God's goodness. "I asked the Lord for a train, and He sent me one!" said one child. Another said, "I asked the


Lord for a baby doll, and I got it." God provided enough toys that there were even some left over. One of the teachers explained: **"We will give the rest of the toys to needy children because we want to give them the message that, even during war, the Lord is with his children."**

  
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## WEDNESDAY 1

 Give thanks for the provision of toys for these children who have so little.


## THURSDAY 2

 Ask that the children receiving these gifts would put their faith and trust in Jesus who provides for their every need.


## FRIDAY 3

 Pray for peace in Syria and a rebuilding of communities and churches in Aleppo.


## SAT 4 - SUN 5

 Give thanks for those who faithfully work to disciple young hearts and minds in the region.


## MONDAY 6

 Pray for children in Syria caught up in the conflict – that they would discover God's peace and love especially through programmes on SAT-7 KIDS.

## TUESDAY 7

 Pray for Dr Yvette Elbayadi Isaac as she leads the relief ministry, Roads to Success, and makes Christian television programmes in the Arab world.


## WEDNESDAY 8

 Pray for the newly-launched SAT-7 ACADEMY channel as it seeks to provide complementary education for displaced and refugee children across the Middle East and North Africa.


# SPEAKING UP ABOUT LIFE AND FAITH

  
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## THURSDAY 9

 Thank God for Farid's recovery and Amira's faithfulness to her fiancé and to God through hard times.


## FRIDAY 10

 Ask for God's clear leading for *Speak Up* producer and director Amgad Shafik as he heads up the programme team.


## SAT 11 - SUN 12

 Praise God for the power of testimonies and pray for many more stories to be shared.


## MONDAY 13

 Ask that SAT-7 programmes like *Speak Up* would help viewers to grow in empathy and understanding of other people's difficulties and to look for ways to help.


## TUESDAY 14

 Pray for women who feel isolated and unsupported across the region to know that they are not alone.

## WEDNESDAY 15

 Thank God for all those providing counselling and advice in response to contact from SAT-7 viewers.

## THURSDAY 16

 Pray for women's voices in the Middle East and North Africa to be increasingly heard – and listened to.

When Amira asked God for a marriage that was "out of the ordinary", her prayer was answered – but not in the way she had expected. She and her fiancé, Farid, had a full and happy life until Farid's sudden kidney failure changed everything.



Seven years of what Farid described as "intolerable pain" followed, worsened by the negativity directed at Amira from people around her. But this only made her more committed to her fiancé and the fight to see him

recover, as she told viewers of *Speak Up*, on SAT-7's ARABIC channel. "I was a fragile person and the Lord used this experience to change this in me and make me stronger in faith," she said. When Farid's condition deteriorated, the couple prayed and fasted until a kidney donor was found. With gratitude and joy, Amira told how Farid's health improved from that day on.

*Speak Up*, which has just aired its first series, gives women like Amira a way to tell others how they have overcome difficulties in their lives, and invites viewers struggling with similar problems to call in and receive counselling. "We don't just want to tell sad stories," says Amgad Shafik, the show's producer and director. "We want to bring cases of women who have overcome their problems – stories of hope, where God has brought healing and solutions in their lives."

By sharing stories in this way, women can draw strength from each other to persevere. Despite the trials of life, women testify to much they are thankful for – as one woman who has survived cancer shared recently, **"God taught me many positive things from this tribulation. I learned to cling to him with all my might. I learned that he is in charge and he is my helper."**





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### FRIDAY 17

Praise God for the openness of so many Iranian people to the gospel, despite immense hardship.

### SATURDAY 18

Pray that viewers of *God and the Persecuted* would be inspired by early Christians and strengthened in their faith.

### SUNDAY 19

Pray for practical provision for Iranian Christians who lose their jobs and livelihoods because of their faith.

### MONDAY 20

Thank God for the SAT-7 counsellors who offer crucial encouragement, prayer and support to isolated Christians.

### TUESDAY 21

Pray that those rejected by families and communities would have a deep and healing experience of the unconditional love of Christ.

### WEDNESDAY 22

Thank God for Sam's courage and belief in the power of prayer, and ask for his protection.

### THURSDAY 23

Ask God that many more would come to faith through Christian programming on SAT-7 PARS.

## STRENGTHENING GROWING NUMBERS OF SECRET BELIEVERS IN IRAN

**"It's been a year since I came to faith and everything has changed. Don't stop with your channel: keep broadcasting programmes. God has used you to save us. We are spiritually fed by your teachings. Wherever I go, I tell people about all that I've learned from your programmes. People warn me not to but how can I keep quiet? I was dead, but now I'm alive."**

This feedback from one new Christian in Iran shows just how important Farsi-language channel SAT-7 PARS is to isolated believers in a country in which converting to Christianity is a crime, and human rights abuses, arbitrary detentions and mass executions are all too common.

Mansour Khajepour, former Executive Director of SAT-7 PARS, explains, "If you accept Jesus Christ in Iran, you keep this between you and your wife or husband. People constantly lose their jobs, are disowned, kicked out of schools and workplaces, and beaten on the streets. I have the joy and honour of saying I personally experienced most of those. When anyone applies for work, the first line asks for your religion. You either have the choice of lying, which is not advised by the Bible, or saying the truth and having no job."



### Growing in numbers and in faith

Despite these desperate difficulties, Iranians are turning to Christ in increasing numbers. According to Operation World, the oppressive regime has the fastest-growing evangelical population in the world. A new series has just been launched to help believers develop maturity, resilience and endurance to persevere through dangers and ill-treatment. Presented by two well-known Iranian-born pastors, *God and the Persecuted* brings encouragement from Scripture and church history to strengthen secret Christians.

Each episode starts with a short look at an aspect of modern-day persecution, followed by 20 minutes examining suffering in the first three centuries of the Church – itself starting as a network of house churches growing rapidly in the face of bitter resistance.

### Addressing isolation

With so many followers of Christ very young in their faith, unable to meet with other Christians, and under sustained threat of violence, poverty and imprisonment, the teaching and encouragement that programmes like *God and the Persecuted* provide is transformational. Equally valuable is the one-to-one support of SAT-7 counsellors, who respond to contact from isolated believers seeking connection, prayer and hope in the hardest of times.

Iranian viewer Sam wrote, "Thank you for your kindness and for supporting me with the Word of Truth. I didn't expect people to react so aggressively when I told them about the Bible. They invaded my shop and assaulted me. They broke the window by pushing me into it. I had no peace when it first happened. But today I'm at peace and have no fear because I truly feel that God is with me. I always pray, and I believe in the power of prayer. To pray in the name of Jesus Christ is mighty."

**"I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD" Isaiah 45:3**



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### FRIDAY 24

Lift believers in the Middle East to the Lord and pray for their protection from persecution.

### SATURDAY 25

Pray that the audience of SAT-7 PARS would grow in number and in faith.

### SUNDAY 26

Ask that people fleeing violence and persecution would find safety and sanctuary.

### MONDAY 27

Pray that believers estranged from their families would have the joy of seeing them come to faith.

### TUESDAY 28

Thank God for those responsible for SAT-7's programmes and pray for their continued inspiration.

### WEDNESDAY 29

Ask God for favour with funders to allow SAT-7 to deepen and widen our witness to Christ in the region.

### THURSDAY 30

Pray for the maturing of new believers through programmes like *God and the Persecuted*.



## Thanksgiving for Answered Cries

Dear Lord Jesus

We give thanks today for the people of the  
Middle East and North Africa.

For women who have found freedom -  
*may they live in light.*

For men who have found peace -  
*may they live in grace.*

For children who have found safety -  
*may they live in hope.*

For families who have found faith -  
*may they live in love.*

Thank you for answering the deepest cries  
of all our hearts and for being with us –  
wherever we are.

**Amen**

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**MAKING GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE  
ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND NORTH AFRICA  
THROUGH CHRISTIAN TV**