

## OLIVE PROJECT BRINGS HOPE TO REFUGEES



When a couple living in Turkey saw local olive groves being destroyed to make way for new housing developments, they felt called to start a creative community project and bring fair labour to the growing Syrian refugee population.

"We have 700 refugees in the town," the couple, Debrah and Manfred, explain. "They are usually underpaid and overworked. So we wanted to model a way of employing them under fair conditions."

The workshop started in their home, but soon outgrew it and moved into an empty business in the town. Today, they employ two full-time Syrian brothers who have been trained in woodworking. The project has also provided a much-needed employment opportunity for Syrian women, who polish the finished pieces with olive oil.

For the Syrian workers, the olive wood project is so much more than just a job. "For them to come to the shop and have creative work, it's not only mechanical labour, it's really helping them to overcome some of those difficult memories they have to deal with," Manfred says.

"When I first got to know the two brothers they were very traumatised. Now we have seen a change in their personalities. To work in an environment that is almost like a family – it really makes them feel at ease and safe. That definitely makes a difference in their lives."

**SAT-7 has commissioned some special decorations from this inspiring olive wood project. "Peace", "Hope", "Faithful" – or all three – which will you choose? Visit [www.sat7uk.org/gifts](http://www.sat7uk.org/gifts) to buy decorations for yourself or a friend.**

**SAT-7 News & Prayer articles are available in full at: [www.sat7uk.org/pray](http://www.sat7uk.org/pray)**

SAT-7 UK, PO Box 3941, Chippenham SN15 9HQ  
Email: [respond@sat7uk.org](mailto:respond@sat7uk.org)  
Phone: 01249 765865

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## PRAY

### Monday 24 September

Thank God for the Debrah and Manfred's vision to start an olive wood workshop, and pray the business will flourish and grow.

### Tuesday 25 September

Pray that the couple will be given opportunities to share about Jesus with their employees.

### Wednesday 26 September

Pray for the two Syrian brothers and the women who work for the project, and ask God to be with them and heal them from their trauma.

### Thursday 27 September

Turkey is home to the highest number of Syrian refugees. Ask that they will find safety and peace in Turkey until they can return home.

### Friday 28 September

"He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work..." (Exodus 35:35). Thank God for the creativity and skill of the woodworkers, and pray they will encounter the Creator God through their work.

### Sat-Sun 29-30 September

Pray for "Peace" and "Hope" for the Middle East, and thank God for the "Faithful" witness of Christians in the region!

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



# NEWS AND PRAYER

August/September 2018

## YASIMIN'S STORY: FROM FEAR TO FREEDOM

For most of her life, Iranian viewer Yasimin\* lived in fear of God and death. Her life changed forever after witnessing a miraculous transformation in her niece's life. Now, through SAT-7 PARS, Yasimin and her family are growing in their faith daily.



*\*Name changed and image used for representation only*

"No amount of fasting or prayer dispelled my fear of God and death," Yasimin remembers. "When I prayed I didn't have any joy in my heart. It was all fear."

Everything changed when Yasimin's niece, Nasim, became very ill. En route to the hospital, with her body paralysed and organs failing, Nasim was ready to face death. But she heard God saying that it wasn't her time and she still had a purpose to fulfil.

Nasim experienced miraculous healing and was discharged from the hospital. Intrigued by the miracle and Nasim's strong faith, Yasimin experienced her own transformational encounter with God.

"Learning about Jesus brought joy into my life. It banished my fears because now I know that God loves me very much," explains Yasimin. "I was set free, and now I finally know the true meaning of life with God."

As new believers, Yasimin and her family are in need of encouragement and teaching, but they struggle due to a lack of Christian resources and churches in Iran. SAT-7 PARS is helping to fill this gap with 24/7 Christian programming in Farsi, the language of Iran.

"Thank you for your great programmes, which I watch daily. They are helping me to grow in faith and answering my questions," Yasimin says. "I pray for the people of my country to experience, and be transformed by God's love, just like me." ■

## PRAY

### Wednesday 1 August

Thank God for the miracle of healing he performed in Nasim's life, which in turn inspired Yasimin to believe in Him.

### Thursday 2 August

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear" (John 4:18). Praise God for this truth, and thank Him that Yasimin has been set free from fear.

### Friday 3 August

Pray for anyone you know who is in need of God's miraculous healing touch.

### Sat-Sun 4-5 August

Thank God for the freedom and joy that can be found only in Jesus.

### Monday 6 August

Ask for boldness for believers, like Nasim, to share their faith with their friends and families.

### Tuesday 7 August

Thank God for discipleship programmes on SAT-7 PARS which bring teaching and support to isolated believers like Yasimin.

### Wednesday 8 August

Pray, along with Yasimin, that the people of Iran will experience and be transformed by God's love.



**Thursday 9 August**  
Thank God that SAT-7 is meeting the needs of young people in culturally relevant ways.

**Friday 10 August**  
Almost half of the population of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is under 25 years old. Thank God for this precious generation and pray He will strengthen them in the many challenges they face.

**Sat-Sun 11-12 August**  
This Sunday is International Youth Day, which raises awareness of the issues young people face. Thank God for initiatives like this which aim to build up young people and promote their rights.

**Monday 13 August**  
Pray for SAT-7 TÜRK and for the show *Turning Point* as it brings a much-needed biblical perspective to young Turkish viewers.

**Tuesday 14 August**  
One in four young Turkish people are not in education or employment. Pray for them and ask God to give them hope and purpose.

**Wednesday 15 August**  
SAT-7 recognises the importance of reaching even more young people with the Good News. Pray that we will have the funding and resources to make this happen.

**Thursday 16 August**  
Pray for MENA's young people, that they will embrace their potential to change the future of the region.

## TALKING YOUTH ISSUES OVER COFFEE

**Socialising over hot drinks has been an integral part of Middle Eastern culture for centuries, long before cafés first gained popularity in the Western world. SAT-7 is now showing two new youth programmes that follow this tradition.**

### SAT-7 TÜRK'S FIRST LIVE YOUTH SHOW

"Young people need practical advice," says Uygur Duzgüner, producer of the new SAT-7 TÜRK show *Turning Point*. "That is why we wanted to make this programme – this kind of Christian resource isn't available in Turkey." As the youth pastor of a church in Istanbul, the 28-year-old is acutely aware of the limited Christian resources available to young Turks.

"The most important issues are discussed across coffee tables, so we wanted to recreate this safe, comfortable environment on-screen to encourage youth to open up," he explains.

*Turning Point* is the first ever live youth show on SAT-7 TÜRK. In a café setting that creates a relaxed and homely atmosphere, the presenters address youth issues from a Christian perspective.

The programme aims to help young people address behaviours such as lying, gossiping, and unfaithfulness in relationships.

"We want viewers to be engaged – to have a sense of familiarity and see their daily struggles reflected and discussed on screen," explains Duzgüner.

### ENGAGING DRAMA FOR PERSIANS

Meanwhile, SAT-7 PARS has produced a new youth drama series that demonstrates how to deal with everyday problems through drama and storytelling. *Café Bahar* is the first Farsi programme of its kind to be broadcast on SAT-7 PARS.



The show's format reflects a typical scene from an Iranian coffee shop in the seventeenth century, when it was common for actors to explain moral lessons to customers through drama.

In the corner of the programme's coffee shop sits a young woman – *Café Bahar's* narrator – who speaks directly to the camera about the conversations she observes around her, and offers biblical advice.

"We wanted to produce something that is relevant and relatable to all young people," explains Nader Taghizadeh, the show's director and producer. "This is why we chose to appeal to youth through drama and entertainment."

*Café Bahar* is fresh not only in its chosen genre but also in its location – it is set in Paris. "Many young people in Iran think that if they were in another country, their problems would not exist," Taghizadeh explains. "We want to show them that young people across the world face similar problems."



### GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE HOPE IN GOD

The hope is that as young viewers watch these programmes, they will feel less isolated and more equipped to deal with their own challenges and problems. Cuneyt Arıkan, SAT-7 TÜRK's Programming Manager, says:

"We want to give youth hope. We're presenting them with a God that they've never known – a God who wants a relationship with them. We want to tell them about a God who loves them, cares about them, and can save them from their troubles. We want to make programmes to help them live in happiness despite the chaos around them." ■



**Friday 17 August**  
Young people in the MENA face a huge amount of challenges due to war, unemployment, and social pressure. Pray that they will be given a spirit of hope instead of despair.

**Sat-Sun 18-19 August**  
Thank God for SAT-7 PARS and its ministry to Farsi-speaking youth. Pray especially for the *Café Bahar* team as they seek to help young people through the show.

**Monday 20 August**  
Thank God for the Christian young people of the MENA. Pray they will be a bold witness to their generation. "Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life" (Philippians 2:15-16).

**Tuesday 21 August**  
Pray for any teenagers you know who are struggling, that they will find their hope in God.

**Wednesday 22 August**  
Pray for the parents of teenagers you know, that God will help them to parent well in these formative years.

**Thursday 23 August**  
Ask that shows like *Turning Point* and *Café Bahar* will help young viewers feel less isolated and more equipped to deal with their problems.

**Friday 24 August**  
Pray that young people across the MENA will find their identity in Christ.

## SURVEY REVEALS SAT-7 PARS' LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT

A recent survey of SAT-7 PARS shows that large numbers of viewers are growing in their personal relationship with God by watching the channel. Almost one in four viewers said they had committed to following Jesus, and over 60 per cent said that SAT-7 PARS helped them grow in their faith.

The survey results showed that SAT-7 PARS is providing valuable spiritual guidance for viewers at every stage of their faith journey.



"We bypass censorship and borders to present God's life-changing message," shares SAT-7 PARS Executive Director, Panayiotis Keenan. "We know that although we only represent one thread in people's journey to faith, we are an important part of the great story that God is weaving in people's lives."

The majority of respondents to the survey were from Iran and Afghanistan, where believers are isolated and access to Christian teaching is severely limited. Over 60 per cent of viewers reported having a better understanding of Christianity, and over half felt more confident in their faith. Nearly 40 per cent of viewers communicated that SAT-7 PARS helps them feel connected to God and other Christians – many of them do not have access to local churches.

Naturally, the survey secured only the opinions of a very small portion of the channel's audience and therefore does not necessarily represent the opinions and experience of all SAT-7 PARS' viewers. However, it offers valuable insight into some of the positive effects of the channel.

One viewer from Iran wrote: "Every day the programmes give me energy, strengthen my faith, and bless me – especially the teachings such great people provide. They give me a ray of hope in this darkness." ■

## PRAY

**Sat-Sun 25-26 August**  
Praise God for the one in four surveyed viewers who made a decision to follow Jesus after watching SAT-7!

**Monday 27 August**  
Thank God for the hope He brings to people's lives, whatever they are going through.

**Tuesday 28 August**  
Pray that SAT-7 will be able to reach and connect even more isolated viewers, so they don't have to feel alone.

**Wednesday 29 August**  
Pray for viewers in Iran and Afghanistan, whatever stage of their spiritual journey they are at, that they would hear God's voice and draw closer to Him.

**Thursday 30 August**  
In the survey, viewers chose teaching programmes as their favourite genre and asked for more to be shown on the channel. Pray that God will help SAT-7 meet this vital need.

**Friday 31 August**  
"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14)  
Thank God that SAT-7 is proclaiming His name across the Middle East, so that people have the opportunity to hear and believe in Him.

## POINTING CHILDREN TO A PURPOSE-FILLED FUTURE

Nineteen-year-old Joy Basta is a presenter on the SAT-7 KIDS programme *A Riddle and a Story*. He shared his story with us – from going through a tough experience at school in Lebanon, to setting a godly example to others.

"Although I attended a Christian school, it was in a very rough area," Joy reflects. "Everything you could imagine was happening there: drug dealing, sexual abuse, fist fights... it breaks my heart."

Like many Lebanese youth, Joy's peers were frustrated with the corruption they saw around them and started to turn to harmful behaviour in rebellion. Before long, Joy found himself being swept in a dangerous direction.

"The company around me took me to a place I didn't want to go," Joy remembers. "I had no respect any more for the word of God. All I wanted to do was try the things they were trying."

One of Joy's regrets from this time in his life, which spurs him on in his work for SAT-7 today, is that he feels he could have done more to be a godly influence on his friends. "I could have prayed more that they would see God," he says. "I knew that the main problem was that I wasn't standing strong in faith myself."

Having been through this dark time in his life, Joy now wants to share the hope he has found in God.

"We have been going down to the streets, myself and a few friends, to meet youngsters and share our faith," he says. "I invite them to church and to watch SAT-7. I tell them that I know we don't live in the best area and that the future does not seem bright – because I've lived it – but the only hope for the future is in Jesus." ■



## PRAY

**Sat-Sun 1-2 September**  
Thank God for all He has done in Joy's life!

**Monday 3 September**  
Joy presents *A Riddle and a Story*, a show that teaches Arabic-speaking children about the Bible in fun and engaging ways. Pray that it inspires children to love the Bible and learn more about God.

**Tuesday 4 September**  
Thank God for Joy's boldness in sharing His faith with young people in the streets. Pray this will bear much fruit.

**Wednesday 5 September**  
Pray for young people in Lebanon, that they will find their direction and purpose in God.

**Thursday 6 September**  
"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4). Joy watched SAT-7 KIDS as a child and is now a presenter himself – thank God that He is being declared to the next generation.

**Friday 7 September**  
Thank God for the positive impact SAT-7 KIDS has in children's lives, and for the godly role models it provides them with.

Read Joy's full testimony:  
[www.sat7uk.org/joy-basta](http://www.sat7uk.org/joy-basta)

**Saturday 8 September**  
Today is International Literacy Day. Pray for those around the world who lack access to education.

**Sunday 9 September**  
Thank God for Boutros and his grandchildren, and pray that their bond will continue to be strengthened by watching SAT-7 together.

**Monday 10 September**  
Pray for children you know who have gone back to school or started school for the first time this September.

**Tuesday 11 September**  
Pray for teachers at the start of this new term, that they would be full of inspiration, energy and wisdom to pass on to the next generation.

**Wednesday 12 September**  
Remember in prayer the 12 million children across the MENA who are unable to attend school because of armed conflict and instability.

**Thursday 13 September**  
Children who are not in school are particularly vulnerable to child labour, extremist recruitment, prostitution and criminal activities. Pray against this and ask God to protect them.

**Friday 14 September**  
Thank God for the channel SAT-7 ACADEMY as it meets the desperate need for education in the region and promotes lifelong learning.

## “MY SCHOOL BENEFITS ME AND MY GRANDCHILDREN”

Searching for something educational and engaging for his grandchildren to watch on television, Lebanese grandfather Boutros came across SAT-7 ACADEMY’s programme *My School*. Now, watching *My School* together has become a regular family activity that benefits and bonds two generations.

Boutros is a retired carpenter from Lebanon. He looks forward to spending time with his grandchildren – eight-year-old twins Aya and Iwan – who come to visit him twice a week. These days, the first thing they do when they arrive is eagerly ask to watch *My School*.

### LEARNING TOGETHER

The twins are just two of at least 1.3 million children already watching the SAT-7 ACADEMY programme. Their grandfather enjoys watching with them and guides them in following the lessons, helping them with questions if they get stuck. Some of the information and questions are new for him too, so the generations are learning together.

Boutros has already noticed changes in his grandchildren since they started watching. They are ready to learn and are more engaged in the lessons. Television has become a source of learning and education, not just entertainment. “My favourite thing to learn on *My School* is science,” says Aya. “I like experiments and mixing things.”

*Boutros with his twin grandchildren, Iwan and Aya*



*A teacher on the set of My School*

### LEARNING IN CRISIS

Quality education is sorely lacking in the MENA. Schools often rely on rote learning, violence against pupils is common, and numeracy and literacy are low. Furthermore, conflict and instability mean that 12 million children are unable to attend school at all.

To meet this need, *My School* (“Madrasati” in Arabic) broadcasts five days a week, three times a day for children aged four to eight, providing engaging, interactive lessons in Arabic, English, maths and science. Each episode is hosted by three teachers who conduct lessons in an attractive and brightly coloured classroom setting, using fun songs and animation.

### LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

Boutros recognises the importance of education in helping his grandchildren achieve their goals in life, which is why he promotes their learning through watching educational programmes.

“I hope you can attract even more children to watch this programme,” says Boutros, who recommends the show to others. “Honestly, I benefit from *My School* and watch it even when the kids aren’t around.”

Both children already have ambitions for the future – Iwan wants to be a maths teacher, and Aya wants to run her own bakery. For now, they both enjoy the special time they spend with their grandfather, asking questions and learning from him and *My School*.

“I want them to be able to achieve everything they want in life,” their grandfather shares. “I hope they will be able to continue their education and that they will be able to do whatever they want.” ■

**Sat-Sun 15-16 September**  
Thank God for the show *My School* and the impact it is having in young lives.

**Monday 17 September**  
Pray for the 1.3 million viewers of *My School*. Ask that the show will give them not only the education they need, but also hope for the future.

**Tuesday 18 September**  
Thank God that *My School* supports children who are going through trauma. Pray that the Lord will bring them healing.

**Wednesday 19 September**  
Please pray urgently for funding for SAT-7 ACADEMY, particularly that applications to European governments will be successful.

**Thursday 20 September**  
Pray for an end to conflict in the Middle East, so that children can go back to school and live in safety.

**Friday 21 September**  
Pray for the twins, Iwan and Aya, and thank God for their passion for learning. Ask God to be close to them as they learn and grow.

**Sat-Sun 22-23 September**  
Pray that entire families would watch SAT-7 ACADEMY together, like Boutros and his grandchildren, and pray that it will help them grow in wisdom and understanding.