

WIFI GIVES IRANIAN YOUTH A STRONG CONNECTION TO GOD

Wifi, a new show on SAT-7's Persian-language channel, hopes to help young Iranian adults connect more strongly to each other and to God.

"The idea of *Wifi* came when I was thinking about how we can attract young people who spend a lot of their life online," says Dariush Golbaghi, a producer and pastor who disciples Farsi-speaking believers both inside and outside of Iran. "The wifi is their connection point. So the idea is that it's a metaphor for connecting with God and relationships."

"In Iran, you can't say God is your father, because God is far from you," Dariush explains. "How can you say that God is your baba, your father?"

"But if you know Jesus, you can connect with God," he adds. "And if you have a peaceful relationship with the Father, you can have a peaceful relationship with others in society, at school, in work. We try to bring that vision to the programme."



Each episode of *Wifi* is 30 minutes long, and features a discussion between Dariush and four other young Iranian presenters, followed by a worship song.

Starting with a Bible story, the presenters, who are all aged between 19 and 22, discuss topics like forgiveness, temptation, and taking responsibility, as well as sharing honestly about their own lives and relationships with God. "For youth, it's important to see other youth on TV sharing their testimony, their lives," Dariush says. "If they hear from people the same age, it goes much deeper."

Through *Wifi*, Dariush hopes that young Iranians will discover the truth that God is with them, and that the Bible is relevant in whatever challenges they face.

"The main message is having a strong relationship with God – to encourage them to turn on the 'wifi' of their hearts and connect them to heaven," Dariush says. "He is not far from you, you can talk with him and share your life with him." ■



Thursday 24 January

Thank God for Dariush Golbaghi's creativity and vision, and pray God's blessing on his ministry to Farsi-speakers.

Friday 25 January

Pray for the four Iranian young adults who co-present the show, that God will give them wisdom and courage as they share their lives on screen.

Sat-Sun 26-27 January

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (1 Timothy 3:16). Thank God that the Bible is relevant to the everyday challenges in our lives.

Monday 28 January

Pray that, through the programme, young Iranians will feel more connected to God.

Tuesday 29 January

Thank God for SAT-7's Persian-language channel. Pray that many more Iranians will tune in and learn more about Jesus.

Wednesday 30 January

Pray that *Wifi* viewers will experience the Holy Spirit through the worship song segments on the programme.

Thursday 31 January

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10). Thank God that He is always with us, and pray that Iranian young people will learn this truth too.



NEWS AND PRAYER

January 2019

"THIS SAT-7 ARABIC CHANNEL CHANGES LIVES"



For Christians in North Africa, hearing the Gospel in their own dialect is a priceless gift. Sarah, an Algerian viewer, is witnessing first-hand the impact of SAT-7's Algerian-dialect shows. "This channel changes lives," says Sarah.

Before she became a Christian, Sarah's life was a mess. "God saved me from darkness and hell," the 60-year-old says. But Jesus has transformed her life. "Now I'm a believer, I feel great," Sarah says. "I love God, and I see His hand at work. I'm free in Christ."

SAT-7's Algerian-dialect shows are a lifeline to Algerian believers, as Christian resources can be hard to come by. Sarah and her friends love watching SAT-7's Algerian-dialect shows – although Sarah can understand other forms of Arabic, she only actually speaks the local tongue.

"I'm so happy with the Algerian programmes, because I understand them," she says. "Programmes in our dialect are very easy for us, and they touch our hearts."

Sarah explains that stories of Algerian Christians also touch the lives of viewers who don't come from a Christian background. "They change when they hear these testimonies," she says. She explains that seekers often watch SAT-7 in secret, for fear of how their families and friends would react. Sarah herself is unable to live with her two sons because of her Christian faith.

Yet despite being separated from her family, Sarah has found joy and purpose from being a mother figure to others in her church.

"I am the eldest sister in my church, I'm like a mother to them," she says. "I ask God to work in my heart, so I can be a mother to all of them. Everything is for the glory of Jesus Christ." ■



Tuesday 1 January

Happy New Year! Pray that God will guide and bless SAT-7 in the year ahead.

Wednesday 2 January

Thank God that SAT-7's Algerian-dialect shows are making the Gospel accessible.

Thursday 3 January

Pray for SAT-7 ARABIC viewers who don't come from a Christian background, that their lives will be changed through watching the channel.

Friday 4 January

Thank God for Sarah's faith and passion for Jesus, despite the challenges of being a believer in Algeria.

Sat-Sun 5-6 January

Sarah and her friends especially love the SAT-7 women's programmes presented by Samia Kessai, a local producer. Pray that God will continue to speak to Algerian women through Samia.

Monday 7 January

Many Middle Eastern Christians are celebrating Christmas today. Pray God's blessing on them and their families.

Tuesday 8 January

Pray for Sarah's family, particularly for her two sons, that they too will come to know Jesus.

Wednesday 9 January
Praise God for this special Jordanian episode of *Keep on Singing* and for the powerful impact it had in people's lives.

Thursday 10 January
Hany, a SAT-7 viewer, told us: "I would like to thank the programme *Keep on Singing* because it has been a real blessing personally in my life." Thank God that He has brought such joy and hope into viewers' lives through the show.

Friday 11 January
Less than 2% of Jordan's population are Christians. Pray that God will strengthen the small Christian community – and that it will grow!

Sat-Sun 12-13 January
King Abdullah II of Jordan has expressed solidarity with the Christian minority in the country on several occasions, and has promised to protect them. Pray he will remain committed to this promise.

Monday 14 January
Pray for Karak Evangelical Church, that they will be a light to their community and nation.

Tuesday 15 January
Thank God for the diversity of cultures, countries, ethnicities and dialects that are shown on SAT-7's channels.

Wednesday 16 January
Pray that SAT-7 ARABIC will continue to seek out ways to help all its viewers across the Arab world to feel included and represented.

KEEP ON SINGING BRINGS WORSHIP HOME TO JORDAN

When worship programme *Keep on Singing* broadcast a special episode from Jordan, God used it in a very powerful way. "You have made history for Jordan," one musician said – and SAT-7 ARABIC viewers agreed. Many shared how the programme showed a new vision of Jordanian Christian identity and encouraged them to return to the Lord.

The special show featured worship songs by the band from Karak Evangelical Church. Afterwards, band member Mawiyah Halasa was brimming with excitement about the show and the audience response.

"Words are not enough to express all I want to say," she said. "For us, it was an unforgettable time as we found ourselves representing Jordan."

COMING BACK TO JESUS

SAT-7 ARABIC received hundreds of comments from *Keep on Singing* viewers who were moved by this episode – and the church has, too.

"We have received so many calls and messages about what the Lord did through this episode," Mawiyah shared. "And, large numbers of brothers and sisters who used to come to church called us to express their passion to return to the Lord."



RECLAIMING A PLACE

Although Jordan has been known for its relative religious freedom, in recent years, Christians in the country have been increasingly under pressure.

By reflecting the local culture and singing in the Jordanian dialect, the musicians were able to send a profound message about the legitimacy of an identity that is both Jordanian and Christian.

"The effect of this episode goes far beyond the people involved," Mawiyah said. "It is much bigger than that. The episode included a rediscovery of Jordanian identity. This has been missing in our churches."



AN IMPACT NEAR AND FAR

The video of the episode has been shared hundreds of times, and viewer comments came both from locals and from those further afield. One wrote:

"I want to thank SAT-7 for broadcasting this wonderful episode from my church, which I love and where I met my Lord Jesus, the saviour of my life. May the Lord bless my brothers and sisters in the church."

Another said, "May the Lord bless you, wonderful people of Karak. Greetings from Palestine."

Ameen, a teenage boy from Jordan, said, "SAT-7, I thank the Lord for your ministry and pray He uses you for the glory of His name. The Lord comforted us through the songs of the programme *Keep on Singing* and filled us with joy."

A third simply wrote, "I request that SAT-7 rebroadcast these songs continually." Mawiyah has also received many requests for audio recordings of the songs.

A RICH HISTORY

Before they played, the band introduced viewers to Karak. Once the capital of ancient Moab, the city in western Jordan is home to many historical sites. Christian missionaries arrived in this area in 1867, and the church they started there has continued to this day.

After watching the episode, one viewer shared this powerful prayer: "Karak and Amman are the oldest cities in Jordan. May the Lord set a fence of protection around them, revive all of Jordan, and protect His servants for the glory of His name." ■

Thursday 17 January
Thank God for the musical skills and talents of the Karak Evangelical Church band. Pray for your own church band or musicians today!

Friday 18 January
Whilst most Christians have relative freedom in Jordan to practise their faith, converts to Christianity can face serious opposition. Pray that God will protect and bless Jordanian Christians who are under pressure because of their faith.

Sat-Sun 19-20 January
Pray that the people of Jordan will realise it is possible to be both Jordanian and a Christian!

Monday 21 January
One in every four residents of Jordan is a refugee, mostly from neighbouring countries like Syria. Pray that God will provide for them, and that they will have opportunities to learn about Jesus.

Tuesday 22 January
Praise God for those who have been in touch with Mawiyah following the episode to say that they want to return to the Lord.

Wednesday 23 January
"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music" (Psalm 98:4). Thank God that we can worship Him through music – of every language and culture!