

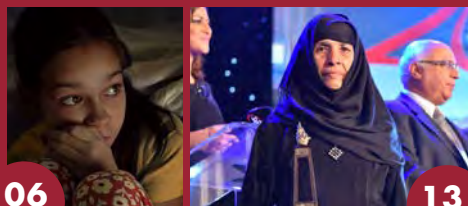
News from SAT-7
June 2026

INSIGHT



CHRISTIAN MEDIA
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA

In this issue



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Insight is produced twice a year by the SAT-7 International Office.

30 STORIES OF FAITH

“Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!” (Psalm 66:5)

For many people, the story of the Middle East and North Africa over the past 30 years has been told through headlines of conflict, poverty, and persecution. While those realities are very real, they are not the whole story.

At SAT-7, we have had the privilege of witnessing another story unfold—one marked by faith, courage, and God's transforming work in the lives of people across the region.

As we celebrate SAT-7's 30th anniversary, we wanted to share 30 stories of faith that reflect how God has been at work through three decades of ministry. These stories remind us that even in the midst of hardship and uncertainty, God continues to draw people to Himself, strengthen His Church, and bring hope where it is needed most.

Reading these accounts has been deeply encouraging to me. They are a powerful reminder of why SAT-7 exists and why we remain committed to making the Gospel available to every person in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Christian community throughout the region is often small, and many believers can feel isolated. Through satellite television, digital media, and evolving technologies, SAT-7 has created opportunities for Christians to connect, be encouraged, and share their faith with others. In fact, every year we reach millions of people with the gospel good news, and we have follow-up conversations with 75,000 of them. As technology continues to advance, we are excited about the new opportunities God is providing to reach even more people with the hope of Christ.

The testimonies in this edition of *Insight* offer just a glimpse of the countless lives God has touched over the last three decades. My prayer is that they encourage you, strengthen your faith, and remind you of God's faithfulness in your own life.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership. Together, we celebrate all that God has done and look forward with anticipation to what He will do in the years ahead.



John Cerniglia
President SAT-7 USA

“THIS CHANNEL IS FOR ME!”

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 program 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 program. She turned the TV off and forbade me from watching TV on my own. But anyway, I wrote to *As Sanabel* without anyone knowing.

“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 while praying when I was younger is Jesus Christ, and He is the Way.”

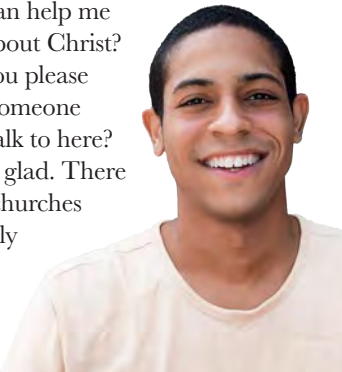
“My parents hit me hard when they knew that I was at church”



BERK | TÜRKIYE**“MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME”**

“I recently got out of prison, but while I was there, I made friends with a few Christians,” said Berk, a man from Türkiye who was seeking the truth. “I started reading the Bible, and after some time, I decided that Christ is credible and close to my heart. When I was reading the Bible, I can’t describe the feelings I experienced. Since then, I have considered myself a follower of Jesus. But outside of prison, I haven’t found a Bible and I don’t have anyone to talk to about these things.

“While changing channels, I came to yours, and I wanted to write to you. Maybe you can help me learn more about Christ? Also, could you please guide me to someone that I could talk to here? I would be so glad. There aren’t many churches here, so I really appreciate your help.”

**WALID | LEBANON****“I EXPERIENCED FAITH IN THE ONE WHO HEALS”**

Walid’s life changed as soon as he met Jesus. “I immediately left everything and confessed my sins,” he said. “Right away, I felt something within my heart: peace and joy beyond words.”

When Walid fell ill with cancer, the doctors told him they would have to operate. But Walid learned through SAT-7 that God heals. He asked his pastor and members of his church to pray for him, and he went into remission.

Then Walid, who worked as a cable TV installer, made a promise to God. “I promised that because SAT-7 had encouraged me to experience faith in the One who heals, I would use the channel as my message to others, so that they – just like me – could experience the salvation of Christ.”

Sadly, Walid eventually died of cancer. But for as long as he could, he used his own money to add SAT-7 as one of the channels at every home where he installed cable TV.

AKRAM | MIDDLE EAST**“I WAS SHOCKED THAT CHRISTIANS PRAY FOR OTHERS”**

Akram described his younger self as “very fanatical” but “tired and desperate.” He thought God was not pleased with him, and he felt empty. Akram had a negative perception of Christians until one day, as he was flicking through TV channels, he came across SAT-7 KIDS. He saw a presenter praying for people from other faiths. “I was shocked that Christians pray for others and wish us good,” Akram said. “This was the opposite of what I had been taught... and so my journey in search of Christ began.” Akram went on to give his life to Jesus!

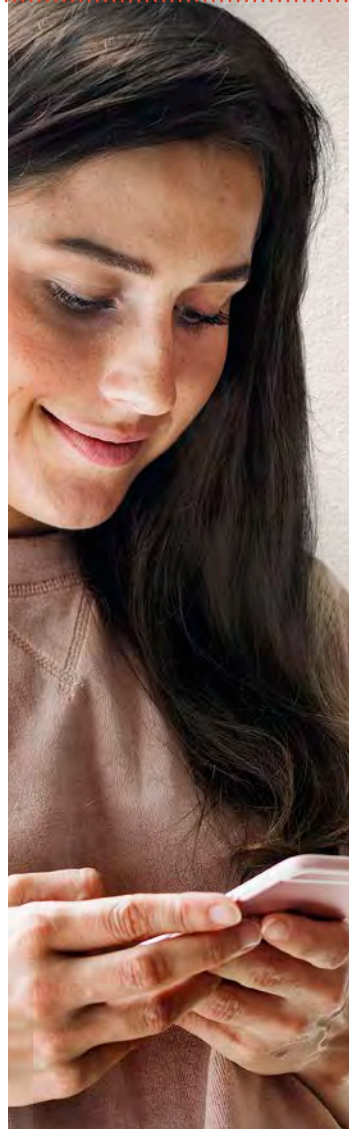
**TAIM | SYRIA****“YOUR MINISTRY BREAKS OUR LONELINESS”**

“I remember when I was a young teenager, you were the reason I came to know the love of Jesus Christ,” said Taim, a man from Syria. “More than 20 years ago, your station broadcast the film *Jesus Christ*. Oh, how I loved watching it! What wonderful memories!

“We who have left other backgrounds from Arab countries are truly blessed by your channel. Thanks to you, we are encouraged and empowered to grow in our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank the Lord for your satellite ministry, which breaks our loneliness, comforts our distress, and encourages us to stand firm on Christ in a context that rejects us.”

**NABILA | ALGERIA****“MY BROTHERS THREATENED TO KILL ME”**

“I became a follower of Jesus the first day I visited a church,” said Nabila, a woman from Algeria. “I was lost, but Jesus found me. Unfortunately, my family found out that I had become a Christian. My brothers forbade me from returning to church and even threatened to kill me if I went back. But I discovered that the church service is broadcast on SAT-7. I’m so blessed! Now I’m able to attend the church service in my room.”



ELMIRA | IRAN

“WHAT I HEARD THAT DAY CHANGED EVERYTHING”

“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 program 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.”



CLICK
FOR ELMIRA'S
STORY



AN INSPIRING AFGHAN FAMILY

A knock on the door once meant possible death for Armita and her family.

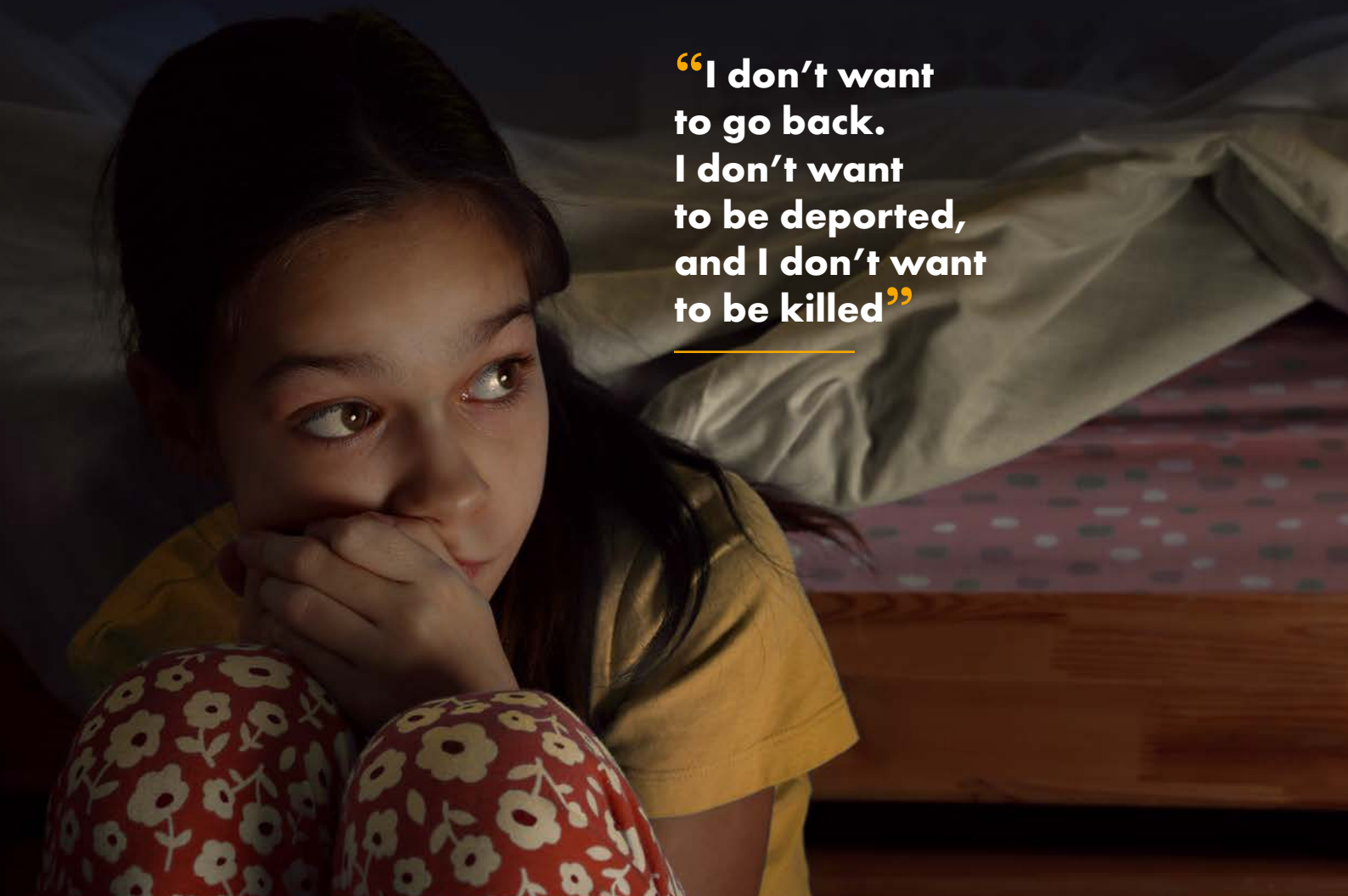
“Today, the police came to our house and knocked violently on the door, and we were really scared,” she wrote to SAT-7 in the summer of 2025. “I don’t want to go back. I don’t want to be deported, and I don’t want to be killed.”

Born in Afghanistan, Armita spent most of her childhood and teenage years in Tajikistan. Her family had fled their homeland due to the violence there; Armita’s uncle had been killed by the Taliban for his Christian faith.

It was a loss that colored the lives of the family, especially for Armita’s father, Alborz. Consumed by anger after his brother’s death, he struggled for years with a desire for revenge. It was only later, through reflecting on the words of Jesus, that he came to forgiveness: a turning point that reshaped not only his own life, but also the spiritual foundation of the family.

Nevertheless, even in Tajikistan, fear continued to pervade their lives. Deportations came without warning. Families disappeared overnight. Friends called to say they had been sent back to a country where faith could cost them everything. There was no safe ground. Only the constant, exhausting vigilance of people who knew they were one knock away from catastrophe.

“20 more families have been deported,” Armita wrote to SAT-7 in December 2025. “I am really tired of this life we have here, always living in fear.”



**“I don’t want
to go back.
I don’t want
to be deported,
and I don’t want
to be killed”**

LOVE IN ACTION

Yet the journey of this family is not one defined by dread. Instead, it is a story of love, courage, and active faith.

They traveled across Tajikistan sharing the Gospel and serving new believers who had no churches or Christian resources. Armita said that even people who had wanted to kill her father started reading the Bible!

Looking back, Armita reflected that although the family longed to leave Tajikistan, “it always seemed as though the Lord stopped us from leaving, like He was saying: now is not the time for you to leave this country.”

Over the years, Armita – the eldest of three children – wrote regularly to SAT-7. She had grown up watching SAT-7 PARS children’s programs and had developed a deep connection with presenters and the Viewer Support Team. And through every challenge, SAT-7 PARS remained present, supporting the family in prayer.

But Armita’s messages were never just about danger. She wrote to share prayers for others and offer encouragement.

“As Christians, we believe that changing the world starts from within our hearts,” she said, responding to a children’s program. “The world becomes a better place when people’s hearts are changed, and this can only happen through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.”

Her theology was anything but abstract. It had been forged under real pressure, in a place where naming your belief could bring violence to your door. “Love is the fundamental basis of our faith,” she wrote, “not just emotional love, but love shown in action: the kind that feeds the hungry, gives hope to the sorrowful, forgives enemies.”

She had seen what hatred could do. Her family’s story held that reality without flinching. Still, she wrote about forgiveness. About loving enemies. About overcoming evil with good.

A NEW LIFE

The family spent years – Armita’s entire young life – living faithfully under pressure, fear a constant companion to faith. But, at the start of 2026, their lives changed completely: Armita and her family were finally able to flee Tajikistan, finding sanctuary in a safe country in the West.

The opportunity came at a crucial time as the risks, especially for girls and young women in Afghanistan, were intensifying. “In Tajikistan, deportations have started again, and we are very scared,” Armita had written to SAT-7 a few months earlier. “Girls like me who have not married yet are being forced into marriages in Afghanistan. I don’t even know how to express the terror we are experiencing.”



Thankfully, the family is now safe and settling into a new life in a country where they can practice their faith freely and see a future. Armita, now age 19, is looking forward to going to college.

“I am so happy and grateful to the Lord,” she said. “I am grateful for each and every one of you and for your prayers. And I am happy that the Lord has said, for now, that our time of serving in Tajikistan has come to an end and it is the beginning of a new chapter, a new life, and a new ministry in a different country.”

And the terror that once followed each knock on the door has fallen silent.

“Finally, after all these years, I can see my family and smile with them without any fear,” Armita said. “When someone knocks on our door, I no longer fear that it could be the police coming to deport us.

“I know that whoever it is can’t harm us anymore.”

“Finally, after all these years, I can see my family and smile with them without any fear”

FROM FAX TO FACEBOOK

THE CHANGING MODES OF VIEWER SUPPORT 1996 – 2026

When SAT-7 began to air its first broadcast in 1996, the team was 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 of the start, 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...

AN EXPANDING MINISTRY

Even before those first programs, SAT-7 realized 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. At that time, it was unusual for Christian media ministries to offer phone numbers to their audiences.

February 1997 saw SAT-7’s first workshop for its call handlers, and in 1999 the ministry began to open counseling centers 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 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.

DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY

In those early days, some 97% of the thousands of responses to SAT-7’s programs 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.

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

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 stay in touch.

SNAPSHOTS FROM TODAY

Now, thirty years later, 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, they had 75,100 conversations with viewers, on the phone, on social media, and through direct messaging.

The teams continue to find innovative strategies for engagement. Recently, SAT-7 ARABIC ran targeted social media messaging campaigns and online challenges for young viewers. SAT-7 TÜRK encouraged new interactions with emerging generations and strengthened its cooperation with churches to facilitate pastoral support.

SAT-7 PARS is providing weekly online teaching and fellowship via Zoom video conferences for Isolated Believers in Iran and Afghanistan, and discipleship webinars with structured, in-depth content for larger groups. As internet access in these countries is often poor and sometimes blocked, the team has devised various creative workarounds, such as sending audio recordings to those who are unable to join live.

Viewer Support has come a long way since that first broadcast. But the feedback we have received tells us that over the years our teams have been a consistent and invaluable source of loving care and spiritual encouragement to the full range of SAT-7’s viewers across the MENA.



LETTER



PHONE



FAX



EMAIL



SMS



SOCIAL MEDIA
& APPS



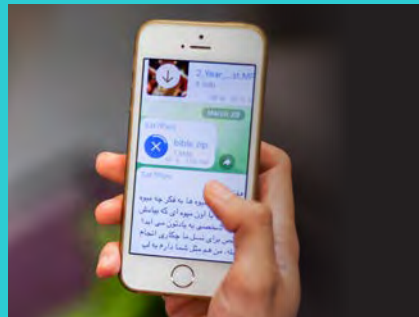
Telephone workshop, Egypt, 1997



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



SAT-7 launched its SMS text-messaging service in 2003



Sharing the Bible in messaging app Telegram



75,100
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in 2025 on the phone, on social media,
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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.

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."

ASHRAF KHALILPOUR, VIEWER SUPPORT MANAGER FOR SAT-7 PARS:



Raised in another faith, Ashraf was always blaming God: for her father's death when she was five, and for the problems in her marriage that forced her to leave Iran. Later, she became a Christian. Her problems were not all solved, but her life was completely changed.

Ashraf says, "Through my work at SAT-7, I'm in a position where I can share with women in similar situations that there is hope. I can share with people with problems that they can trust God. Or children with no father that He can be their Father. I can talk with them all day about God's kindness and love."



هبا أنا أحتاج لمساعدة



ممکن نتكلم يوم علي الزوم

HEBA | ALGERIA

“I CONTEMPLATED SUICIDE”

“I met my husband at church; he was the leader of the worship team. We experienced a lot of problems,” Heba said. “He drank a lot and had relationships with other women. I was shocked, because when we married, we were in love. I thought the Lord called us to be together and would use us for His glory. I lost trust in my husband, had no self-confidence, and grew weaker in many ways. I had many negative thoughts and contemplated suicide.”

At this dark time in her life, Heba was scrolling through social media and came across the SAT-7 Family Facebook page. She reached out with her story, and a team member responded that same day. “I felt safe talking to her. I told her about the struggles I was going through,” Heba said. “She gave me advice and prayed with me. After that, I felt released from the trap of a deep well that had closed on me.”

SAT-7 later connected Heba with an online discipleship group. “Since then, my life has changed from a life of misery to a life of joy,” she said. “I learned how to be a disciple of Jesus. I can even see changes in my husband. I thank SAT-7, because it was the main reason for the change in my life.”



CLICK FOR HEBA'S STORY

ADNAN | YEMEN

“WE HAVE NO OTHER FAMILY BUT YOU”

After encountering Jesus through visions and dreams, Adnan from Yemen started reading the Bible. “When I read in the New Testament how Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery, I saw the truth,” he said. Shortly after this, Adnan surrendered his life to Christ and shared his faith with his wife and children. They, too, accepted Jesus. “It was difficult to share our faith with others,” Adnan said. “Relatives, friends, and neighbors rejected and threatened us. We had to flee.”

Adnan and his family were baptized in a foreign land, but after their refugee application was rejected, they had to return to Yemen, where they faced more threats.

Adnan was greatly encouraged by SAT-7's ministry throughout this time.

“You are our only family on this earth,” he said. “We have no other family but you.”



MIRNA | LEBANON

“EVEN IF YOU EXPEL ME... I WILL LOVE JESUS”

When Mirna from Lebanon became a Christian, she didn't have a Bible. But she discovered SAT-7 KIDS and became captivated watching *Bedtime Stories*. When her parents found out about her newfound faith, they removed SAT-7 KIDS from the TV, confiscated Mirna's mobile phone, and confined her to the house.

Undeterred, Mirna reinstalled SAT-7 and told her parents she had changed her name to Faith. They beat her and made arrangements to send her to Saudi Arabia. But nothing they did could put her off pursuing her relationship with God. “Even if you expel me to anywhere in the world, I will love Jesus and rejoice in His peace because I have had a wonderful and amazing peace in my heart, one I have been deprived of since my childhood. I will continue watching this channel.”



ADHAM | OMAN

“I WAS GLUED TO THE TV”

“For 15 years now, I have been a big fan and a regular viewer of SAT-7. Thank you for carrying the very important message of the Good News of Jesus Christ to millions, especially to those whose circumstances don’t allow them to have any internet and TV is their only way to learn about it.

“Thank you for always broadcasting important events from different places. It’s hard to explain how I was glued to the TV for three hours watching the OneThing Christian youth festival. Many young men and women were also touched. The message reached millions and I am sure it was a starting point of change for many.”

AMANY | MOROCCO

“IS GOD TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?”

When Amany, a young woman from Morocco, reached out to SAT-7 to ask for prayer for her health, she had many questions about faith.

Sharing a photo of a cross-shaped birthmark on her neck, Amany said, “I’ve had this mark since birth. What does it mean? Is God trying to tell me something?” Though not a Christian, she had always had a sense of connection with God. “I’ve been thinking about Jesus since I was a child and especially now during my illness.”

As she heard more about Jesus, Amany wanted to get to know Him. “He is my only hope in life,” she said. “I accept His salvation.”



HANY | JORDAN

“I HAVE A RIGHT TO BE A CHRISTIAN”

“I really found your programs full of love and peace,” said Hany, a Jordanian living in Saudi Arabia. “I’ve been watching SAT-7 ARABIC and SAT-7 KIDS for a long time. I often join my nephews to watch your kids’ programs. I always teach them to respect Christ and that love overcomes hatred, even though they have been taught completely other concepts. This has brought me a bit of trouble from some of my family members and those around me!

“But for nearly seven years, I’d say I’m a believer in Christianity and in the concept of redemption, although I am from a non-Christian background... I see that I have the right to be a Christian because I am convinced by the person of Jesus.”





POWERFUL



STORIES OF



FORGIVENESS

IRAQI CHRISTIAN GIRL'S VIRAL MESSAGE

Young Iraqi Christian girl Myriam 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 in 2014, 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.”



CLICK
FOR MYRIAM'S
INTERVIEW

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.

Christians, Yazidis, and other minorities were targeted when IS militants seized vast swaths of territory in Iraq in the summer of 2014.

Tens of thousands sought refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan.



“FROM HER HEART”

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 Christian walk. “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 was 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.”

FAMILY'S FAITH STRENGTHENED BY KILLINGS

The haunting scene of 21 Christians in orange jumpsuits kneeling down on a Libyan beach moments before their murder by Islamic State (IS) militants was broadcast around the world in 2015.

The night after IS released the chilling footage, Beshir, the eldest brother of two of the young men – Bishoy (25) and Samuel (23) – called the SAT-7 live program *We Will Sing* with a surprising message of gratitude to the killers.

“IS gave us more than we asked when they didn’t edit out the part where the martyrs declared their faith and called out ‘Jesus Christ,’” he said. “IS helped to strengthen our faith. I thank them.”

Beshir said the family was “most relieved” when they saw the footage, adding, “If it weren’t for this video, they would have gone in vain.”

The anniversary of the killings – February 15 – is now marked by the Coptic Orthodox Church as **Contemporary Martyrs’ Day**. In 2018, the Egyptian government built a church dedicated to the martyrs in their village, called **Al Our**, in Minya.



The 21 Christians – 20 Egyptians and a Ghanaian – had been working in Libya. They were seized by IS militants from the coastal town of Sirte and held captive for weeks before their execution in mid-February. Two other members of Bishoy and Samuel’s family were among them.

“I THANK GOD”

Their mother, Mrs. Isis Ghattas Dawood, was interviewed by SAT-7 about the massacre.

“I thank God for everything,” she said. “My children died as martyrs, and I’m happy because they made me lift my head up in pride because they didn’t denounce their faith. Heaven is their destiny.”

Mrs. Dawood expressed her forgiveness and said she prayed for her sons’ killers: “I pray that God opens their hearts and minds to the faith.”

She said that if the terrorists came to her home, she would make tea for them, adding, “If my sons weren’t afraid, how could I be?”

Mrs. Dawood was honored at a special event in 2016 to mark 20 years of SAT-7. The Beacon of Light celebration in Cairo was attended by 600 people and broadcast live on SAT-7 ARABIC to millions across the region.



CLICK
FOR MRS. DAWOOD'S
INTERVIEW

SAT-7 STAFF STORIES



**GÖKHAN TALAS, PROGRAM
MANAGER, SAT-7 TÜRK**

**“I was
supposed
to be there”**

In what became known as the Malatya massacre, three Christian workers in Türkiye were brutally murdered in 2007. SAT-7 TÜRK’s Gökhan Talas, who worked at the same Christian publishing house at the time, narrowly avoided the same fate. The harrowing experience changed his life and continues to guide his ministry today.

As a young man, Gökhan began searching for meaning and truth. “Through Christians I met and through reading the Bible, I encountered the message of the Gospel. What deeply touched my heart was the message of grace,” he said. Over time, God led Gökhan into Christian ministry.

“One of the most defining moments of my life happened in 2007: the Malatya massacre,” he said. “It was one of the darkest moments in the history of the modern Turkish church.

“What many people do not know is that I was supposed to be there that morning. When I arrived at the office, I tried to enter the building, but I could not open the door. I soon realized something was terribly wrong and called the police. Later I became one of the main witnesses in the long court process that followed.”

It was a life-changing experience for Gökhan: “Suddenly, following Christ was no longer an abstract idea. It became something very real and costly,” he said.

“When something like that happens so close to you, you ask many questions. But through all the pain and confusion, one truth became clear: the Gospel is real.

One of the most powerful testimonies that came from that tragedy was the response of the families. They publicly chose forgiveness.”

The event has continued to shape Gökhan’s understanding of ministry and the need for the work of SAT-7 TÜRK, which he joined in 2012.

“In a country where many people may never walk into a church building, media has become an incredible opportunity,” he said. “Through television and digital platforms, the Gospel can reach into homes, into phones, and into the private questions people carry in their hearts.

“God is still writing His story in Türkiye. The Gospel is still moving forward. And even in the darkest moments, Christ continues to shine.”

In September 2016, five Turkish men were sentenced to life imprisonment for the premeditated murders of Turkish Christians Necati Aydın and Uğur Yüksel and German Christian Tilmann Geske at the Zirve publishing house in Malatya on April 18, 2007.



“Jesus makes my dreams come true”



HAGAR RASHID, PRESENTER, SAT-7 KIDS

Growing up in war-torn Syria, Hagar abandoned her hopes of becoming an actress. But since moving to Lebanon, finding faith in Jesus, and appearing on SAT-7, the Kurdish teenager has been living out her dreams.

“I left my homeland and came to a country where I knew nothing. It was such a hard feeling, because I also left behind all my dreams, all my beautiful memories,” Hagar, now age 17, recalls. “But at the same time, many doors opened for me that maybe would never have opened if I’d stayed in my country.”

In 2014, Hagar’s family left their home in northwest Syria for Lebanon, where she attended a school run by international charity *Kids Alive*. As a teacher shared her testimony, Hagar was touched and went on to give her life to Jesus. “It was one of the best moments of my life,” she said. “I told my parents about Jesus because He is great... He makes my dreams come true.”

Hagar’s dreams started to become a reality when she participated in the SAT-7 youth program *Challenge Accepted* and her passion and skill for acting were uncovered. She went on to star in *Hagar*, an eponymous short film about her childhood, the war in Syria, and finding safety in Jesus.

She has since appeared in other SAT-7 productions and today is one of the presenters of the live flagship program, *Jesus is our Strength*. “God blessed me so much through SAT-7 KIDS,” Hagar said.

CLICK
FOR HAGAR'S
STORY



REZA JAFARI, MULTIMEDIA SENIOR MANAGER, SAT-7 PARS

Like many Iranians who find faith in Christ, Reza Jafari had to leave his homeland due to the threat of persecution. But as he built a new life in Cyprus, Reza discovered that God had led him there for a reason.

“When I committed my life to Christ, I began attending a church in Tehran and felt peaceful, joyful, and free,” Reza recalls. “Then, the secret service began to put new believers under pressure and started arresting them randomly. Fearing persecution, I fled Iran.”

Reza left behind family and friends in Iran in late 2003 and has not been able to return since. “I never imagined that leaving would mean never returning,” he said. “Not a day passes without the quiet hope and prayer that one day I might walk those streets again and see the faces I knew. What weighs on me most is being away from my mother. She is elderly and alone.”

Being part of SAT-7 since 2004 has given Reza a deep sense of purpose throughout his heartache and homesickness. “Choosing to follow Jesus and to serve my people through this ministry has come at a great personal price,” he said. “Yet when I hear SAT-7 PARS described as ‘home’ to many – even thousands – in the fastest-growing house church in the world, it brings peace, relief, and joy. In the midst of hardship, it reminds me that the cost has not been in vain.”

“The cost has not been in vain”



SAT-7 PARS launched in December 2006. It has two studios, in Limassol, Cyprus and London, UK, staffed mostly by expatriate Iranians.



FAMILIES FINDING FAITH TOGETHER

PEACE FOR A TROUBLED FAMILY

Maria grew up in a home where occult practices were part of daily life. As a child, she experienced things that frightened her deeply, and she suffered from recurring nightmares.

In search of relief, Maria consulted fortune-tellers, but nothing changed. Depression took hold, and she contemplated suicide.

Then Maria gave birth to a son whose continuous, unexplainable crying throughout the night brought her to exhaustion. In an attempt to calm him down, Maria would turn on the television. One Christmas, while changing channels, she came across SAT-7 KIDS, and as soon as the program began, her son fell asleep peacefully. The same thing happened the next night. And the next. For over two weeks, whenever SAT-7 KIDS was on, Maria's son slept calmly.

One day, the story of Jesus Christ was aired. At the end of the program, a young girl appeared on screen and said, "If you would like to accept Jesus Christ, pray this prayer with me." Maria joined in with the prayer. Her husband overheard her and asked if she truly believed that Jesus was crucified and rose again. She said, "Yes." He embraced her, and together they prayed, both accepting the Lord fully into their lives.

Soon after, Maria's husband found a Bible, and they began reading Scripture together. From that day on, the lives of the whole family changed: their son stopped crying at night; Maria's nightmares ceased; and peace entered their home.

Ten years later, in 2025, when sectarian violence broke out in their country, Maria's neighborhood was attacked. Homes on either side of theirs were targeted – armed men even entered their apartment complex – yet their home was not touched. In the midst of chaos, they experienced what Maria described as the Lord's protection.

But life and faith were hard for the family, who now had three children. Opposition from their wider family, community pressure, and the lack of a nearby church led them to practice their faith quietly.

They decided to relocate to a different country, where they continued to receive support and encouragement from SAT-7 as they sought opportunities for discipleship on the next stage of their faith journey.



"BOTH OF US ARE NOW CHRISTIANS"

Roshanak, a young viewer from Iran, has been watching the SAT-7 PARS children's program *Golpand* since it began in 2017 and formed a bond with presenter Maryam. "I was so excited when I called into the program and spoke with you," she said.

It was while watching *Golpand* that Roshanak became a follower of Jesus: "You told me how the Lord is kind and loving. From then on, I fell in love with Jesus Christ and put my faith in Him completely."

Roshanak told her mother about her new faith and discovered something fantastic. "My mum said, 'I have really seen the kindness of the SAT-7 presenters and how Auntie Maryam speaks lovingly with the children. I, too, have fallen in love with Jesus, so let's become Christians together.' So, my mother also came to faith in Jesus Christ and both of us are now Christians."



CLICK
FOR ROSHANAK'S
STORY





RELEASED FROM ADDICTION

“I heard about Jesus Christ through my sister and through watching SAT-7 PARS,” said Ghazal, a viewer from Iran. “My brother and I were watching a program on addictions, presented by Pastor Milton. My brother was using drugs at the time, so we contacted the program to ask for prayer, and they prayed for my brother. Though he did not believe in anything, he was affected by the prayer and felt touched by the Lord. After that, he felt determined to quit his addiction.”

It wasn't just Ghazal's brother whose life started to change. “SAT-7 PARS has also helped my husband to look to Christ and quit his addiction,” she said. “My brother's and husband's release from addiction and my father's miraculous recovery from a heart attack caused me to acknowledge Jesus Christ and pray to Him while watching one of your programs.”

WATCHING IN SECRET

Wajih from Tunisia first learned about Jesus more than ten years ago through watching SAT-7. He had been intrigued about Jesus for some time, and as he watched the programs, Wajih learned about who Jesus is and came to faith in Him.

Wajih's wife, Raouth, was resistant to her husband's faith, and her opposition continued for two years. But, unknown to Wajih, Raouth started watching SAT-7 and reading the Bible in secret. On the day of Wajih's baptism, Raouth declared that she too had come to faith in Jesus and joined her husband in the baptism ceremony! Today, they lead a church of 30 people in their home.





MADONNA | EGYPT



CLICK
FOR MADONNA'S
STORY

“I FELT SOMEBODY REALLY CARED FOR ME”

SAT-7 has impacted my life at different stages and seasons,” said Madonna, a 25-year-old woman from Egypt. “When I was younger, I couldn’t really understand how to build a relationship with God or how to react when I did something wrong.”

Watching SAT-7 KIDS as a child, what stood out was the way the channel celebrated young viewers’ birthdays on air. “This made me feel that somebody really cared for me,” Madonna said.

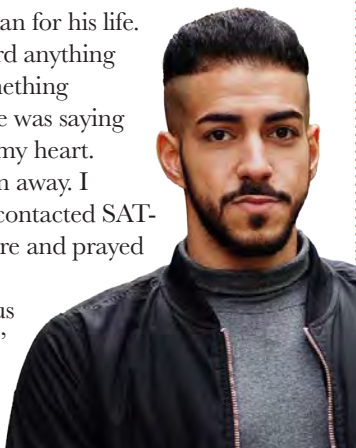
As a teenager, Madonna had to navigate the online world, where her peers tended to share only the highlights of their lives. Madonna felt that this tendency had even seeped into churches, making her feel that she had to be “good enough” to go to church. The authenticity and honesty of SAT-7 presenters helped Madonna learn a crucial truth: we do not earn God’s love and acceptance through what we do. “It is only because of His grace, mercy, and unconditional love,” she said.

As Madonna now navigates early adulthood, she explained how SAT-7’s varied content is helping her move forward in life and faith. “The programs address each stage of life, from childhood to teenage years, romantic relationships and adulthood, married life, and so on,” she said. “I am very thankful for SAT-7, and I ask the Lord to bless this ministry.

MUNIB | MOROCCO

“MY LIFE WAS EMPTY AND FULL OF EVIL”

“I was flicking through the television channels one day when I saw a man wearing a cross around his neck. This caught my attention,” said Munib from Morocco. “The man was a pastor who was giving his testimony on a SAT-7 program. He talked about how he was a sinner, and how he had been a womanizer, a drinker, a generally bad person. I could identify with him. I felt my life was empty of purpose and full of evil. Then he said that God was like a father to him, that God loved him and that Jesus had a plan for his life. I’d never heard anything like that. Something about what he was saying reached into my heart. I couldn’t turn away. I immediately contacted SAT-7 to learn more and prayed that day to receive Jesus as my Savior.”



LALEH | IRAN

“I WAS ABLE TO FORGIVE AFTER 35 YEARS”

“I want to tell you how much you have helped change my life: my thoughts, words, and behavior,” said Laleh from Iran. “I used to be a very angry person, hardly able to forgive anyone who had ever harmed me. But through your channel and the written and audio content you have been sending, I have been able to deal with the evil inside me that was at the root of my anger.

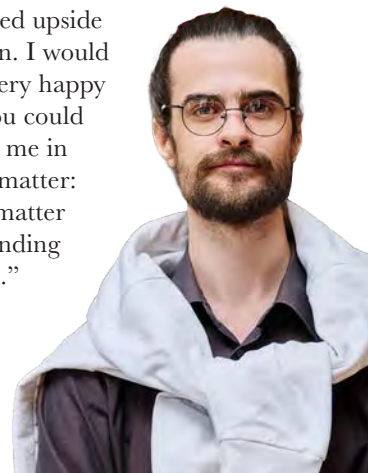
“I was even able to forgive someone whom I had been unable to forgive for about 35 years. I now know I do not need to carry my burdens and I can give them to the Lord.

“All those dear to me ask, ‘What are you doing that has brought you so much tranquillity? Where does it come from?’ The lives of many people have changed and are changing. As each of us is blessed by you, we become instruments in the hands of the Lord to bless others.”

MEHMET | TÜRKİYE

“MY BELIEFS HAVE BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN”

“Last night I watched a program on SAT-7 TÜRK. What the host read from the Bible really affected me,” said Mehmet from Türkiye. “My system of belief – the way I’ve been burdened all my life with living under punishment because of the way religion was explained to me – has been turned upside down. I would be very happy if you could help me in this matter: the matter of finding God.”



FAHAD | NAZARETH

“DO I HAVE ANY HOPE OF LOVING GOD AGAIN?”

When conflict erupted in the Holy Land in 2023, Fahad from Nazareth was furious with God for allowing so much suffering. “I’m distressed because of all that’s happening around me,” he said. “Where is His protection for the young children? He says He saves and protects, but He cannot do either.” Fahad believed God to be an evil being who “turns a blind eye to injustices and does nothing in response to people being crushed.”

As SAT-7’s Viewer Support Team built trust with Fahad over the course of several days, he shared more of his life story. It turned out he had deep personal hurt from childhood abuse that had caused him to lose his faith. But amid all the pain and trauma, there was a hint that Fahad had not given up completely. “Do you think I have any hope of loving God again?” he asked.

After further conversations, Fahad prayed, pouring out his heart to God and asking Him to “touch my heart with your Spirit.” As he watched SAT-7’s programs and attended a local church, Fahad said, **“I know God wants to give my heart peace... I felt so much joy.”**



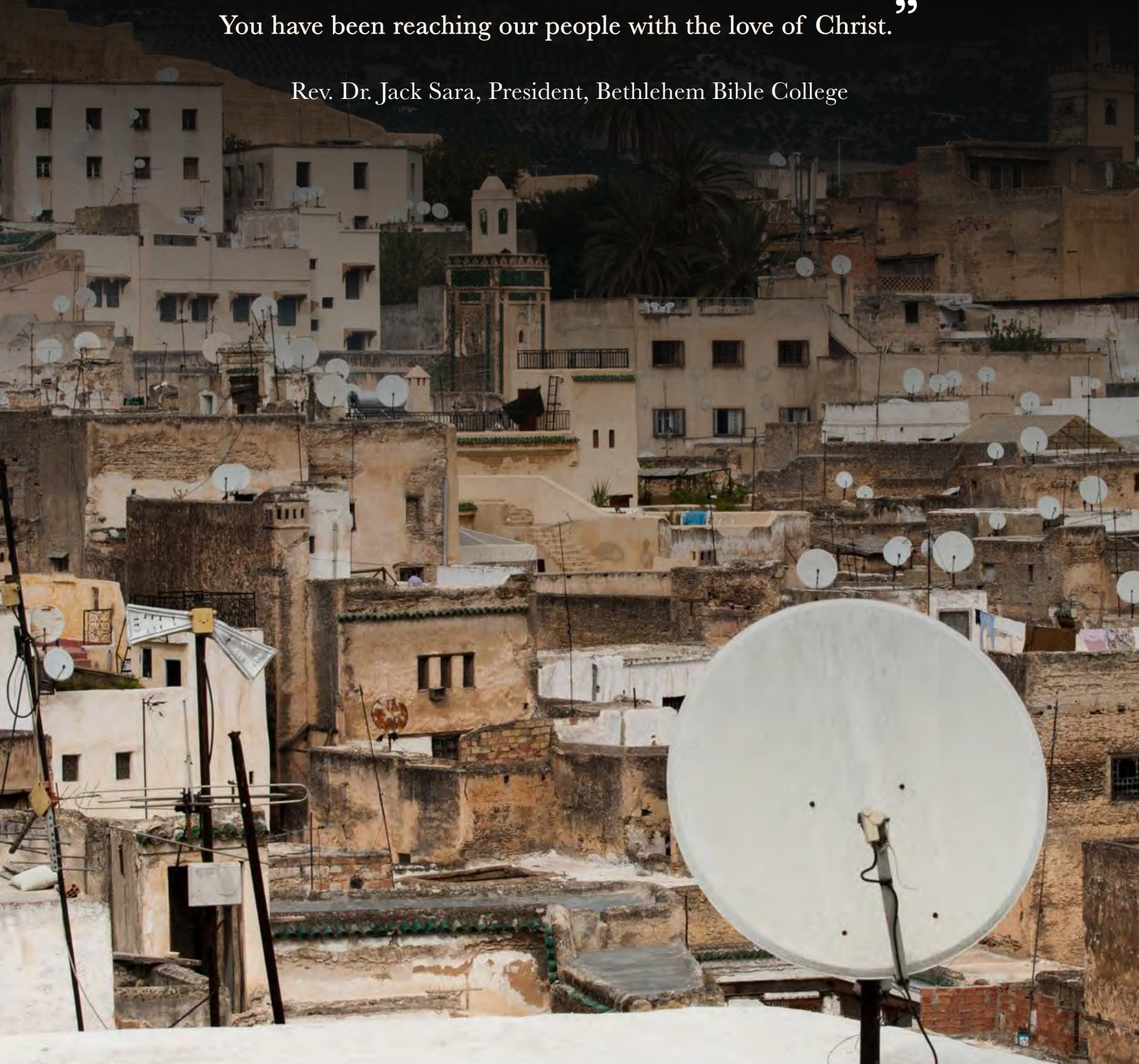
“ I know from the people here that SAT-7 is the channel
that blessed their lives the most...

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 people with the love of Christ. ”

Rev. Dr. Jack Sara, President, Bethlehem Bible College



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