

ALGERIAN PASTOR 'AMAZED'

"Glory to God!" This was the reaction of two SAT-7 producers in Algeria after 3 churches in the country were reopened after 7 months of closure. Give thanks for this answer to prayer, please continue to pray for other churches that remain closed, and give thanks that SAT-7's live worship broadcasts from another church have not been interrupted.

Three churches recently closed down by authorities in Algeria's northern province of Oran have been told they can reopen.

The three churches, located in Oran city, Ain Turk (30km west of Oran), and El Ayaida (35km east of Oran), were closed between November 2017 and February 2018.

On Sunday, two of the three churches were allowed to reopen following a notification issued by the governor of Oran province. The one in El Ayaida also received a notification that it would be reopened, but for the time being it remains closed.

Rachid Seghir, who is the pastor at the main church of Oran city, told World Watch Monitor about the moment he received the notification.

"It was about 1pm when I got a call asking me to get to the police station as soon as possible, without giving further details," he recalled.

"I first informed some church members, before heading to the police station which is about 300 metres away from the church in Oran."

At the police station, Pastor Seghir was handed a notification to sign.

"It was hard to believe, as I was not expecting such a positive surprise!" said Pastor Seghir, who could barely hide his emotions. "Honestly, I have not understood anything that happened: I had read the notification and understood it correctly, but I remained amazed. 'Maybe it's just a trap,' I thought."

The pastor then left the police station and went directly to the church to share the news with some church members, as he continued to reflect on the event.

Prayer † News



July 2018

Church members in Algeria

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Recalling how events had unfolded since November last year, the pastor said: "First we were notified that we have to regularise our situation according to the safety regulations, or we will have to close our premises in three months – something which was impossible for us. Then, one month later they came and sealed off the doors of the church. And now they are notifying us that we can reopen and carry out our services in peace."

Just 45 minutes after he was first called to the police station, three officers in uniform came and removed the seals from the church's main door, without making any comment.

In their notification, the local authorities also did not provide any reasons justifying their change of stance.

The document only stipulated "the place of worship belonging to the Protestant church located at Abane Ramdane street will be reopened", and that state services, including the police, "will work towards the implementation of this decision".

Later, Pastor Seghir received two other notifications regarding the churches in Ain Turk and El Ayaida.

"The procedure was identical to the first one," he explained. "And it was such a surprise for me, as well as for all our brothers and sisters in Christ. We were asking ourselves the same question: 'Should we trust them?'"

"We are very pleased to be able to resume our activities without fear of new threats. We hope that all churches can be regularised and able to work in peace and freedom. Such a thing can only be beneficial to the image of the country," he added.

PRAY:

- Thank God for this answer to prayer.
- Please continue to pray for other churches that remain closed.
- Give thanks that SAT-7's live worship broadcasts from another church have not been interrupted.

MAKING
HOPE
VISIBLE

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MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

From a viewer in Afghanistan

“I was beaten up by extremists. Since then, I've had headaches and keep forgetting things. Pray for God's grace on me, so I can keep serving Him.”

From a viewer in Morocco

“I used to feel bad when I heard your music. Now I know it glorifies God, and it helps me feel closer to God. Pray it helps other people through their hard times too.”

From a viewer in Iran

“My life was filled with darkness, anger, lies, and abuse. My family was afraid of me. I heard the Gospel through SAT-7, and I'm a new believer. Pray for me to get a Bible.”

Dana, an 11-year old girl from Syria, called in to SAT-7 to ask for prayer. Please pray for her.

“We need your prayers for us. We are assured of God’s faithfulness and protection. In the middle of this war, He’s kept us safe. Thank God for His protection. ‘Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me (Ps 23:4).’ ”

- **Pray for the estimated 200,000 Iranian Christians in diaspora, that they will find community, and teaching and resources in their own language.**

YOUNG IRANIAN ASYLUM SEEKER PRAYS FOR SAT-7

Live calls to SAT-7 children’s shows are usually to answer quiz questions or to participate in games and contests. But David, a ten-year-old Iranian boy, called in to Persian kid’s show *Golpand* to pray for SAT-7 and its staff.

David and his family are currently living in Turkey – the decision on their asylum claim is pending. Following Jesus while living in Iran became too dangerous, so they fled. But it has not deterred David’s faith, or enthusiasm to learn more about Jesus.

“I love SAT-7 PARS. I watch it every day,” David said. “But my favourite show is *Golpand*.”

Golpand is a live interactive children’s show, aiming to teach biblical principles in a fun and engaging way through drama and games. Wise beyond his years, David prayed over the phone for SAT-7 PARS with maturity and authority, live on air:

I thank You, Lord, for them and their programmes and ask You to be with them. They are trying to help all Your children, so bless the network and touch the hearts of all who hear them. Dear Father, I pray that You protect us from anything that comes against us, protect us from any wrong thoughts and cancel any spell. I desire Your Holy Spirit. I submit to You the words of my mouth and praise You. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

After finishing his prayer, David sang a worship song and shared his dream of becoming a church minister. Presenter Meysam Rafieniya was hugely encouraged to receive David’s call. “This is why we do what we do,” he said. “Programmes like *Golpand* are important because we have a chance to send a message about Jesus to children in Iran where it is hard to learn about Him.”



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

From a viewer in Afghanistan

“My husband divorced and left me with two children. I am a new believer. I can't read, but I learned numbers so that I could dial SAT-7's number and ask questions about faith and Christ. Pray for me to have Jesus' peace.”

From a viewer in Egypt

“My teenage daughter is addicted to drugs and is surrounded by peers who are a negatively influencing her. Pray for her release from her addiction and from peer pressure, so that she can finish school and have a bright, healthy future.”

From a viewer in Turkey

“My family and I are refugees in Turkey. There is no church here and we are not allowed to travel to other places. Pray we can have some Christian fellowship.”

From a viewer in Iran

“Secret police arrested some of our church members and took their bibles and phones. Pray for them, and for my wife and I, as we are still being watched.”

From a viewer in Egypt

“I'd like to have a healthy marriage in the future - the way God intended. But I have a problem. Please pray for me and also pray for my future spouse.”