

SYRIAN CHILDREN GIVE THANKS FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

Syrian children often miss out on childhood's simple joys because their families are struggling just to survive.

In an interview with SAT-7 KIDS presenter, Dr Yvette Elbayadi Isaac, a Sunday school teacher from the 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. These kids haven't had toys for six years now – since the war began."

Amal, another Sunday school teacher, explained that the little ones were encouraged to bring their longing for a toy to God. Inspired by her own childhood, when she experienced a similar answered prayer, she taught Matthew 7:7: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find ..."

"We held our hands together, and each one of us asked the Lord for a toy," she said. "The children had specific toys in their minds which they requested from the Lord ... [and] three months later, the Lord sent them the toys!"

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 us."

- Give thanks for the provision of toys for these children who have so little. Ask that they would put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus who provides for their every need.
- 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.

Prayer + News



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PRAISE IS NOT ENOUGH – WE MUST STUDY GOD'S WORD

A shrinking Christian population in the Middle East and North Africa is endangered – or is it?

It was a mass exodus that came in waves. From 1910 to 2010, the region's Christian population dwindled from 13.6 to 4.2 percent, and it is anticipated to drop even farther.

In this unlikely environment, Algeria's tiny underground Church is expanding exponentially and rapidly. Iran has the fastest growing house church movement in the world. And in Afghanistan, new souls are coming to Christ every month.

In Sudan, a small group called *The Candlelight Choir* is a shining representation of hope for the Church in the region. Recently featured on the SAT-7 ARABIC program *Keep on Singing*, the 32 members of the renowned choir are not compensated financially at all for their participation. On the contrary, the singers contribute financially and sacrificially from their own budgets to keep the ministry alive.

Choir member Mido is a father of two in his 30s. He says that worship music is powerful because African children grow up with music and identify with the tunes they're hearing. Even still, face-to-face ministry in the church can only reach so far. Mido says,

"SAT-7 is carrying a great burden off the church in the Middle East because the church can only serve a limited number of people in the congregation. But now media is using technology to reach a wide audience."

Looking ahead, Mido tells us what the Church in Sudan really needs to survive: "The Christians in Sudan need to know their Bible very well. If they barely know the Word of God, then they are weak and make the church weak. Praise alone isn't enough. Praise declares the presence of the Lord, but He is also present in His Holy Word. We need to encourage people to study the Word of God."

- Give thanks for the witness of Candlelight Choir. Pray that many will experience Jesus, "the light of the world", through their joyful worship.
- Pray that believers across Sudan and South Sudan would have a powerful revelation of Christ as Emmanuel – "God with us" – this month.



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

From a Syrian viewer in Turkey – I was in Syria and left school because of the war. Thank God you are teaching me to read and write and to work with numbers.

From a viewer in Jordan – Since my wife and son got to know Christ, their lives have been better. Pray for me to learn about Jesus too and have a relationship with Him.

From a viewer in Iran – I was called to police court and asked you to pray. I entered court with prayer. After the interrogator heard my testimony, he let me go free. Give praise to God, and pray for other people being arrested. Some are imprisoned.

From a viewer in Iraq – Our house was ransacked and all our belongings were taken, even our children’s toys. Our family all escaped and we’re thankful for that but we need jobs and clothes.

Arash (m) from Iran – I want to thank you for answering our questions and requests without any negative attitude or without making us feel that you are doing us a favour. I hope one day I will also be serving God just like you.

Pedram (m) from Iran – Greetings to my brothers and sisters in faith. Praise God for your great programs which truly bless us. We learn a lot from all the answers you give to our questions. Thanks.

SHARING SAT-7 WITH TURKS IN EUROPE

While SAT-7’s main audience is Middle Easterners living in the Middle East, a growing diaspora in Europe and the US are also benefitting from the ministry – and sharing it with others.

Eli, a Turkish-born shopkeeper who now lives in London, watches SAT-7 TÜRK at his ethnic-goods supermarket and has introduced the channel to more than 50 people.

When he first heard about SAT-7 – from his Turkish pastor, Emre, in London – Eli felt God guiding him. “The Lord said to me, ‘Buy a TV, watch that Christian channel and tell others to watch it!’”

He has since become a regular viewer, both at home with his wife and in his shop. Eli said, “I watch Bible study programmes and Christian films. All the programmes help me grow in my faith.”

“MY LIFE WAS CHANGED”

Born and raised in Turkey, Eli comes from a non-religious background and moved to London with his parents in his late teens. Despite running a successful business and being happily married, Eli felt there was something missing.

In 2013, he met Pastor Emre who turned his world upside down by giving him a copy of the New Testament in Turkish. “From the moment I started reading it, my life was changed,” Eli said. “The New Testament was the best gift I ever received.

“I had nothing before I came to Christ. Now I have everything.”

- Thank God that His Word changes people’s hearts and lives.
- Give thanks for the positive impact SAT-7 TÜRK is making in people’s lives in Turkey and abroad.



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

From a viewer in Norway – My husband and I are seeking asylum. Please pray for daily food, for our papers to be approved, and for us not to be deported back to Kabul.

From a viewer in Sudan – Pray for the Christians in my country to know their Bible very well, so they are strengthened, and the church is strengthened.

From a viewer in Saudi Arabia – My husband wants a divorce so my faith won’t shame him. I’m afraid of what he will do to our daughters. Ask God to give me wisdom.

From a viewer in Afghanistan – I’m a new believer in Jesus. Pray for me to learn more about Him and how to be like Him with my children and with my wife.

From a viewer in Iran – I was surprised a woman spoke about Jesus on your program. Then I had a dream that he hugged and kissed me. Pray my family gets to know Him.

Fardin (m) from Iran – I used to tell my friends about how I came to faith, but recently I’ve come to the realisation that it wasn’t my own doing. Christ Himself came to reside in me and brought me to faith; all I did was ask Him for help. He lives in me: I was dead, and now I am alive.