

ALGERIAN BELIEVERS ENCOURAGED

As Algerian Christians face great uncertainty, including whether shuttered churches will be allowed to reopen, a SAT-7 ARABIC program in the Kabyle dialect encourages them to rest in the unchangeable love of God.

“Since believers are not able to worship together, new Christians cannot access the support they need to grow in their faith,” shares Samia Kessai, SAT-7’s Algerian program coordinator. “Many have also lost their job due to the pandemic. Often their only refuge is Christian television programs that minister to their current needs.”

As in other places in the world, all churches in Algeria remain closed due to COVID-19. But unlike elsewhere, some buildings have been [shuttered for much longer](#) – and some Christians are unsure whether their churches will be allowed to reopen at all.

In 2019, a wave of church closures by the authorities swept through the country, leaving their members – many of them new Christians – without access to fellowship or spiritual encouragement. Then, in late August 2020, a court rejected the request of one congregation, Spring of Life Church in Makouda, to cancel the closure order against their building. This decision is seen as likely to be replicated for other churches.

Against this concerning backdrop, the SAT-7 ARABIC program *Rest in the Lord* speaks to new believers in Algeria in their own dialect. “We chose the name *Rest in the Lord* because we are all believers in Christ and He changed us, and changed our lives,” Samia explains. “He gave us rest and the promise of eternal life. God is ultimately in control, even when life feels out of control. God’s will is not always clear to us. But His will for us is that we will have a relationship with Him, know His Word, worship Him.”

Encouraging is particularly important for Algerian new believers, who follow Jesus in a part of the world where it is estimated that less than 0.5% of the population are Christians. Brave new believers often have to move away from an inherited family religion and cultural expectations to follow Jesus, meaning encouraging are greatly needed.

- Pray for new Algerian believers, that they will find and benefit from *Rest in the Lord*.
- Pray that shuttered churches will be allowed to reopen, along with others, as soon as it is safe for them to do so.



Prayer + News



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Kabyle Christians in Algeria

MAKING HOPE VISIBLE

SOUTH AFRICA OFFICE:
P O Box 242
Carnarvon NC 8925
southafrica@sat7.org
+27(83)628 6488/+27(84)506 3399
Please contact office for banking details.

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www.sat7sa.org
www.sat7.org
www.sat7uk.org

HOPE LIVES IN SYRIA

Amid the instability and humanitarian crisis still plaguing Syria, a spark of hope shines from a children’s centre in Damascus, where teachers use SAT-7 KIDS programs and songs to help teach a life-giving curriculum to children who have witnessed conflict and gone through the upheaval of displacement.

“Where is God? Why is He letting these things happen? How can we have hope for the future?” These questions have been prevalent in the hearts of millions affected by the pandemic and increasing poverty. But in Syria, a once-thriving country reduced to devastation, people have been asking these questions for almost a decade.

Yet even amid the darkness of conflict and displacement, despair is turning to hope. At a children’s centre in Damascus, where Christian teachers work with displaced families, children and parents are experiencing transformation.

“One mother first came to the centre full of fear,” says Sarah, a teacher at the centre. “But after two months, she said, ‘What are you teaching my son? He is full of joy – he’s changed so much! I want what my child has.’ She was asking these questions because her son came home every day full of joy and hope.”

At the centre teachers [use SAT-7 KIDS programming](#). “We play episodes or songs about a topic such as forgiveness, or trusting God, and then we discuss the topic with the children,” says Sarah. During the pandemic, the centre has continued to work with children attending in smaller groups, or individually with their parents.

“Sometimes we spend time with parents, helping them understand what their kids are feeling. Some parents say to us, ‘We only find peace when we sit here with you.’” Many parents, have become Christians after seeing the change in their children.

- Please pray for children and families in Syria. Even though there is still so much work to be done to restore the country, pray that families will witness God’s love and provision, knowing that God loves them.
- Please pray that God will continue to open doors for SAT-7’s programs to be used by centres and NGOs serving those in need on the ground.
- Thank God for young adults like Sarah who are choosing to stay in Syria, helping to change the future of the region, one child at a time.



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

I have read the Bible 14 times but still have a lot to learn. Please teach us God's Word in Iran. I pray God continues to bless you SAT-7 in your work.

FROM A VIEWER IN LEBANON

My family has moved in with eight cousins. Pray the children will stop being afraid and having nightmares about the explosion.

FROM A VIEWER IN TURKEY

Rejoice that Jesus helped me quit a 20-year drug habit. I have been clean for six months and now have a new life of praise for Him.

FROM A VIEWER IN AFGHANISTAN

I have come to believe Jesus Christ is the true way and that He died on the cross for me.

SAT-7's Beirut studio had minor damage from the recent blast. Most staff members have damaged homes and friends who were injured or killed. Seek God's provision and encouragement for staff members and freelance workers.

CHRIST IN THE COURTROOM

Somayeh *, an Iranian Christian, was arrested while celebrating Pentecost and sent to prison. But throughout the ordeal, Jesus was right beside her...

I saw a dream of the end of the world – everything was destroyed. Then I saw a man coming towards me, but I didn't know that he was Jesus. He came to me, put my hand on his knee and said to me, "Somayeh, don't be sad, because I love you. I am Jesus. You don't need to be worried, because I'm here; just take my hand."

When I woke up, I went straight to my friend's house. I didn't explain to her what happened to me; I didn't think she would believe me. I just said I want to be a Christian.

After that, we began watching some SAT-7 programs and started a little house group. One day, we were worshipping and praying together at Pentecost when suddenly the police broke the door down, came in with cameras, and arrested us. They brought us to the court but they didn't let us say anything. They called us terrorists and insulted us. Then they sent us to jail with criminals who had received the death sentence.

We couldn't afford to pay for lawyers, so we decided to defend ourselves. But the day of the hearing was amazing! The judge told us, "You shouldn't be here, you are not guilty." He did not charge us, and we were free to go.

My sister was crying because she saw Christ standing behind the judge.

We decided to leave Iran and came to Turkey. We hope in Jesus. God protected us many times in Iran and also in Turkey. We trust in Him.

*Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."
Jeremiah 31:13*

You can help make Christian programming available to new believers like Somayeh, providing critical teaching and worship opportunities for people right in their homes.

* Name changed for security reasons



MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

FROM A VIEWER IN ALGERIA

Thanks to you, I learned Christianity is not a religion as much as a relationship with Christ. I have found the real treasure.

FROM A VIEWER IN IRAN

Pray for believers suffering in prison for their faith. Ask for strength, comfort, encouragement, justice, and effective witness for each of them.

FROM A CHILD VIEWER IN EGYPT

Ask God to heal the injured children in Lebanon and find homes for the ones who lost their homes.

FROM A VIEWER IN JORDAN

My husband and two cousins died from the coronavirus. Now my son and I have it too. Ask God to heal us and to end this pandemic.

Pray for God's comfort and healing for all Lebanese people coping with the virus pandemic, last month's explosion, the refugee crisis, economic challenges, and emotional pain. Thousands of children experienced the explosion. Pray for their healing and provision for their physical needs.