# INSIGHT



MAKING GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE



### In this issue





- 04 NEWS FROM THE CHANNELS
- 06 GROWING UP
  AND LOSING HOPE
- 08 BRIDGING THE GAP
  BETWEEN GENERATIONS
- 09 POINTING YOUTH TO
  A PURPOSE-FILLED LIFE
- 10 BREAKING THE SEX EDUCATION TABOO
- 12 PULL UP A CHAIR: TALKING
  YOUTH ISSUES OVER COFFEE
- 14 MIRACLE TRANSFORMS
  YASIMIN'S FEAR TO FREEDOM
- 15 CHANGE THE REGION'S FUTURE
- 16 ORGANISATION UPDATES

## YOUTH CAN CHANGE THE MENA

Almost half of the Middle East and North Africa's population is under 25 years old. Many face a variety of struggles ranging from a lack of education to unemployment, from pressures of extremist ideologies to internal displacement, and from peer pressure to drug addiction.

In a region full of turmoil, hardship and pain, how can SAT-7 address these issues? It seems like an impossible task. But with determination, prayer and faith, we can make a difference.

To change the future of the Middle East, we need to focus on the younger generation. They are full of dreams and passion. I once read that "if you want to have a lasting impact upon the world, you need to invest in people's lives — and if you want to maximise this investment, you need to invest in those lives while they're still young."

Young people are not rigid in their thinking. They're flexible. They are ready to adapt or change for the better. They want to understand right from wrong, truth from falseness. It is crucial for SAT-7 to have programs that tackle the practical challenges they face and create awareness of their human rights and responsibilities. But most importantly, we want them to be confident and empowered by their identity in Jesus Christ.

God is using SAT-7 to make a difference in the lives of young people across the MENA. We began sharing His hope 22 years ago, and He has faithfully sustained us. I truly believe the next generation will continue this work, changing the region one heart at a time.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles in this magazine and feel inspired by all God has done and is doing through this ministry. Please join us in prayer for the youth of the MENA, as they realise and embrace their incredible potential to change the future of the region.



Rita Elmounayer
Chief Channels Officer
and CEO Designate

Front cover | Group of young friends captured in a carefree moment, outdoors at sunset

Editor-in-Chief | Mette Swartz

Editor | Alice Stout

Writers | Mary Joseph, Becky Lucas, Agnes McGrane, Katerina Parpa, Alice Stout, Mette Swartz

Graphic Design | Christiana Polyviou

Print run | 2000

## **SURVEY REVEALS SAT-7 PARS'** LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT

A recent survey of SAT-7 PARS shows that large numbers of viewers are growing in their personal relationship with God by watching the channel. most 25 percent said they had committed to following Jesus, and over 60 percent said that SAT-7 PARS helped them grow their faith.

"We bypass censorship and borders to present God's life-changing message," shares SAT-7 PARS Executive Director, Panayiotis Keenan, "and we know that although we only represent one thread in people's journey to faith, we are an important part of the great story that God is weaving in people's lives".

"The majority of respondents to the survey were from Iran and Afghanistan, where access to Christian teaching is severely limited. Their responses are encouraging for our team because it shows our programs are successfully helping viewers draw closer to God."

#### Valuable spiritual guidance

Moreover, the survey showed that SAT-7 PARS is providing valuable spiritual guidance for viewers at every stage of their faith journey. Overall, SAT-7 PARS' most substantial impact was spiritual growth: over 60 percent of viewers reported having a better understanding of the Christian faith, and over 50 percent felt more confident in their faith. Nearly 40 percent of viewers communicated that SAT-7 PARS helps them feel connected to God

and other Christians - many of them do not have access to local churches. Viewers also chose teaching programs as their favourite genre and asked for more to be shown on the channel due to the lack of local Christian resources in their own languages.

"The results suggest that SAT-7 PARS is playing an important role in challenging misconceptions about Christianity, as well as supporting isolated believers," says Keenan.

#### "A ray of hope"

Naturally, the survey only secured the opinions of a very small portion of the channel's audience and therefore does not necessarily represent the opinions and experience of all SAT-7 PARS' viewers. However, it offers valuable insight into some of the positive effects of the channel.

One viewer from Iran wrote: "Every day the programs give me energy, strengthen my faith, and bless me especially the teachings such great people provide. They give me a ray of hope in this darkness."

66

**SAT-7 PARS is playing** an important role in challenging misconceptions about Christianity, as well as supporting isolated believers.

**Panayiotis Keenan** 

\*Out of 883 respondents, 376 were viewers of SAT-7 PARS. 288 viewers answered the question about how SAT-7 PARS had impacted their life; 66 said they committed to following Jesus as a result of watching the channel.

Isfahan, Iran - A young man talks to the girls, sitting on an arched niche of a stone bridge.

## LIVE BROADCASTS FROM JORDAN



Over the last few months, SAT-7 ARABIC has made proactive efforts to cover more Christian events across the region and broadcast live wherever permitted or possible. First they covered one of the largest Christian prayer conferences in Jordan, where over 2,000 attendees from different denominations gathered to intercede for the country. A month later, the channel covered another event in Jordan featuring well-known apologist Ravi Zacharias. Members of the local churches and the channel's wider audience praised SAT-7 ARABIC, many saying they appreciated the chance to unite with the broader Church family.

#### **PROMOTING HEALTHY HABITS**

SAT-7 ACADEMY's new program Health is Important offers viewers of all ages advice on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Malnutrition can create significant problems both short and long-term, with physical ailments often leading to psychological setbacks. Topics discussed in the program's episodes include food safety, as well as tips on hygiene, hydration, and balanced diets. It also informs audiences about common medical

conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome, diabetes, and health maintenance for new mothers. The program is produced in partnership with Careplan Health Centre, Lebanon. ■

The number of people with diabetes in the Arab world is projected to increase by 96% by 2035.



### **UNIQUE BIBLE** STORYTELLING FOR KIDS

Layal's Stories offers guidance and moral lessons to young viewers with a unique approach to teaching and storytelling. A short drama series set in a home, the series begins with two children entering the house's storage room where they find a painting. Upon close study, the children notice that the art is trying to interact with them. They jump into the magic painting and find themselves in a wonderland where they meet popular SAT-7 KIDS Presenter Layal.

In each episode, Layal tells them a Bible story, or reflects on a Bible verse and creates a parable around its message. Layal's Stories is in the preproduction phase and is expected to air in December 2018.

# I AM SAT-7

#### **MARY JOSEPH**

#### **Communications Officer**

#### What does your role with SAT-7 involve?

I am a journalist based in the SAT-7 Egypt office. I write about production news, stories about viewers, staff, and events. I cover outside program productions as well as vision trips, which are specially organised excursions for Partners and visitors that explore the challenges and opportunities of different districts in Egypt. I report via articles, video clips, and photographs.

#### Why do you like working with SAT-7?

Not only was SAT-7 ARABIC the first Christian channel broadcast in Egypt and the Middle East, it has also kept its uniqueness and relevance. SAT-7 offers programming that is inclusive of all Christian denominations and is committed to providing high-quality programs that transmit the language of love and understanding in the face of hate and strife.

#### Tell us a little about your spiritual journey so far.

I'm from a Christian background. There's a large Christian community in Egypt – I thank God for that. But attending church doesn't necessarily mean knowing God, so I'm on a journey of learning as He reveals Himself to me.

#### If you could sit down with Jesus today, what would you like to ask Him?

I want to ask Jesus to let the Holy Spirit overflow in Egypt and the Middle East – to rid it of the bondage of sin and to fill the hearts and minds of Christians here to witness for Him.

#### What is your passion outside SAT-7?

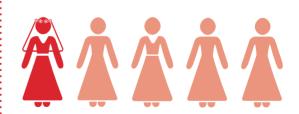
Reading and buying books – I love spending time with a good book! I also like travelling.





### **EXPANDING CHRISTIAN NEWS COVERAGE IN TURKEY**

With recent endeavours to expand its coverage and promotion of Christian-related news, SAT-7 TÜRK News has now begun publishing reports in English on its website. SAT-7 TÜRK is the only Christian channel on the government regulated satellite, Türksat, that creates awareness of Christian teaching, practices, and events. With less than 0.2 percent of Turkey's population professing the Christian faith, SAT-7 TÜRK News broadcasts help to debunk rumours and misconceptions about Christians in Turkey and help them remain visible. Having attracted the attention of other Turkish media outlets as well as international organisations, SAT-7 TÜRK hopes to develop its news enterprise into a dedicated department, able to air daily news broadcasts.



Approximately 1 in 5 girls across the MENA are married before the age of 18.

#### **GRAPPLING WITH RELATIONSHIP ISSUES**

SAT-7 PARS has produced a new teaching series to help those struggling with marital and relationship problems. Love Must Be Tough is based on the book of the same name by Christian Psychologist Dr. James Dobson. Presenter Rev Edward Eissabake aims to give hope to those who want to save relationships in crisis. The series provides biblical teaching and practical guidance on how to confront various issues, including adultery and abuse.

## GROWING UP AND LOSING HOPE

Young people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) often face devastating barriers to education, employment, and independence. Many are falling into despair and could be vulnerable to radicalisation. They desperately need hope.

Today, young people aged 15–29 make up more of the MENA than ever before. This globally-connected generation has great positive potential, but there is so much that holds them back.

The first barrier many face is to quality education. Schools often rely on rote learning, meaning that youth are not receiving the skills or values they need to help them build better communities.

15 million children and teenagers cannot attend school at all.

School-leavers are confronted with the highest youth unemployment rate in the world. Even university graduates are finding themselves unqualified in struggling economies and restrictive closed job markets.

#### A generation at risk

Unsurprisingly, many young people feel frustrated and hopeless. Their dissatisfaction makes them less likely to contribute positively to society.

The long-term economic, social, and security consequences could be dire for the MENA.

Youth need an education that equips them for today's world. They need jobs that pay a living wage, and they need proper representation. But above all, they need hope – the hope that only Jesus can provide.

Read on to discover how SAT-7's programs are bringing hope to young people.





# BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS

Traditional etiquette in Arab culture deems elders should be given the utmost respect. This mentality often means their opinions cannot be questioned – and it is creating a growing divide between generations.

Youth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are aware that the region is very different today compared to when their parents were young. Navigating unemployment, safety and security issues, and online social interaction can be overwhelming for teenagers. However, they do not feel the older generation are very willing to listen or take the time to understand the challenges they face.

#### Laying the groundwork

SAT-7 ARABIC's innovative women's program Start from Here is laying the groundwork for youth and older generations to start talking.

"We want to get the two generations to understand one another, instead of facing off over different issues," says Presenter Basma Gammoh. A mother herself, Gammoh brings the perspective of MENA parents and guardians to the program's discussions while demonstrating a willingness to listen. She admits that youth face an uphill struggle.

"All youth in Arab countries face walls of ageing minds that oppose them. Large, tribal families in Jordan restrict their younger members, while in Tunisia, it is mostly managers who restrict young people in the workplace. We need to address these issues so that we can believe in, encourage, and empower the younger generation."

#### **Challenging conventional thinking**

Presenter Dina Halaseh is a young Egyptian woman who represents the views and challenges of the upand-coming generations on *Start from Here*. Halaseh says she feels honoured to be part of a program that tackles controversial issues. "It's refreshing to see that many topics that were thought to be off-limits are now discussed publicly. For example, discussing sexual assault and harassment is considered a taboo in our culture," she expresses.

#### Similarities and differences

"It's a good reminder for both generations to realise that while we have some of the same challenges, we are different from each other and face our own sets of difficulties." Halaseh adds.

"The more educated and well-informed we are, the better. This means better decision-making, better involvement in the community, better standards of living, better parenting and attitudes towards young children, and hence a better generation to come."

Young women in the MENA face additional barriers to employment. They are also vulnerable to early or forced marriage, gender-based violence, and sexual harassment. More than

2/3
of young Arab
women are not
in work.



# POINTING YOUTH TO A PURPOSE-FILLED LIFE

Nineteen-year-old Joy Basta is a Presenter on the SAT-7 KIDS' program A Riddle and a Story. Being raised a pastor's son and surrounded by church community did not exempt Joy from negative pressures at school. He shares his experience and gives insight into the struggles of the region's youth today.

"Although I attended a Christian school, it was in a very rough area. Everything you could imagine was happening there: drug dealing, sexual abuse, and fist fights... it breaks my heart," Joy reflects.

His family, like many, were unaware of the poor learning environment. Joy expresses that the disparity between home and school life was incredibly confusing, even though biblical morals were taught in both places:

"It was so corrupt, yet I was being educated with Christian values." He sympathises with young people struggling to find their identity – particularly if being guided towards an ideal while seeing a very different reality. "We have been going down to the streets, myself and a few friends, to meet youngsters and share our faith. I invite them to church and to watch



SAT-7. I tell them that I know

#### Lack of mentorship

Joy says that many teenagers lack clear direction from their parents, who are busy working to provide for them. Some are frustrated by the hypocrisy of their role models, especially in Christian schools, so they often turn to harmful habits in rebellion and hope to find purpose.

"I think many families only have one focus for their kids: 'study and get an education – then you can do what you want with your life.' There is a lack of nurturing, mentorship, and teaching of healthy values. Because of that, people here grow up not respecting authority, rules, or regulations."

#### Offering direction

Joy says he not only wants to be a good example but help change the views of youth.



As in many parts of the world, sexual abuse is rife in parts of the Middle East and North Africa. To make this worse, sex education is taboo. Many young people are adrift in a sea of misinformation. The SAT-7 ARABIC program Speak Up is helping parents communicate with

Many young people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have nowhere to turn for proper sex education. Parents often consider the subject shameful – refusing

protect them from harm.

their teenage children to better

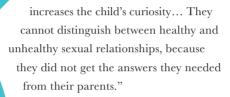
to discuss it and responding to questions with blame or punishment.

Sex education is not taught in most schools across the region. In the absence of proper information and open discussion, many young people unknowingly seek answers from harmful sources: some turn to internet pornography out of curiosity. This can cause addictive behaviour, unhealthy attitudes towards sex, and make them vulnerable to abusive relationships.

#### **Encouraging openness**

The live women's counselling program *Speak Up* recently aired a series of episodes to help parents approach this taboo topic and engage in healthy conversations with their children. Egyptian psychologist Dr Eman Saddik, who responded to parents' live calls and messages, explains:

"An unmet need for information, and the sense that their parents are hiding something,



#### Simple, truthful answers

Dr Saddik advises parents to provide simple, truthful answers in a neutral manner to both remove stigma and prevent the sensationalism of sex.

"Young people must learn about it properly to have a good relationship in the future," she says.

# EGYPT 8 18

are the top two countries with the highest share of adult websites.

#### **Damaging effects of ignorance**

As well as putting individual children at risk, a lack of information can contribute to harmful cultural attitudes.

For example, the belief that female sexuality is particularly shameful underlies the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and honour violence.

Because of conservative attitudes regarding sex and gender education, negative consequences are prevailing in communities. Levels of pornography consumption are high in the MENA; sexual harassment is rampant in some places; the MENA is one of two regions in the world where rates of HIV infection are on the increase.

#### "I learned all the wrong things"

Speak Up interviewed a woman named Sanaa. She shared how a lack of information caused a huge negative impact in her life.



"I learned all the wrong things," she said,
"and it hurt me. I trusted friends with my
secrets and I was put to shame. Now that I have
an eight-year-old daughter, I decided to take a
course in sex education at my church. It helped
me answer all my daughter's questions without
scolding her."

New HIV infections have increased by 31% since 2001 in the MENA region.



# PULL UP A CHAIR: TALKING YOUTH ISSUES OVER COFFEE

Socialising over hot beverages has been an integral part of Middle Eastern culture for centuries, long before cafés first gained popularity in the Western world. SAT-7 is now showing two new youth programs that follow this tradition.

"Young people need practical advice. That is why we wanted to make this program – this kind of Christian resource isn't available in Turkey," says Uygar Duzgüner, Producer of the new SAT-7 TÜRK show *Turning Point*. As the youth pastor of a church in Istanbul, the 28-year-old is acutely aware of the limited Christian resources available to young Turks.

"The most important issues are discussed across coffee tables, so we wanted to recreate this safe, comfortable environment on-screen to encourage youth to open up," he explains.

#### SAT-7 TÜRK's first live youth show

Turning Point is the first ever live youth show on SAT-7 TÜRK. In a café setting that creates a relaxed and homely atmosphere, the Presenters address youth issues from a Christian standpoint. The program aims to help youth address behaviours

such as lying, gossiping, and unfaithfulness in relationships.

#### Tailored to Turks

"The program is based on material from the 'Profound Change' Bible study course, which has been specifically adapted to Turkish culture. It's a course that we use in our own church," Duzgüner explains.

Although Christian material translated from English is used for academic purposes, he says, it does not resonate with the young Turkish audience. "We want viewers to be engaged – to have a sense of familiarity and see their daily struggles reflected and discussed on screen," he continues.

#### **Engaging drama for Persians**

Meanwhile, SAT-7 PARS has produced a new youth

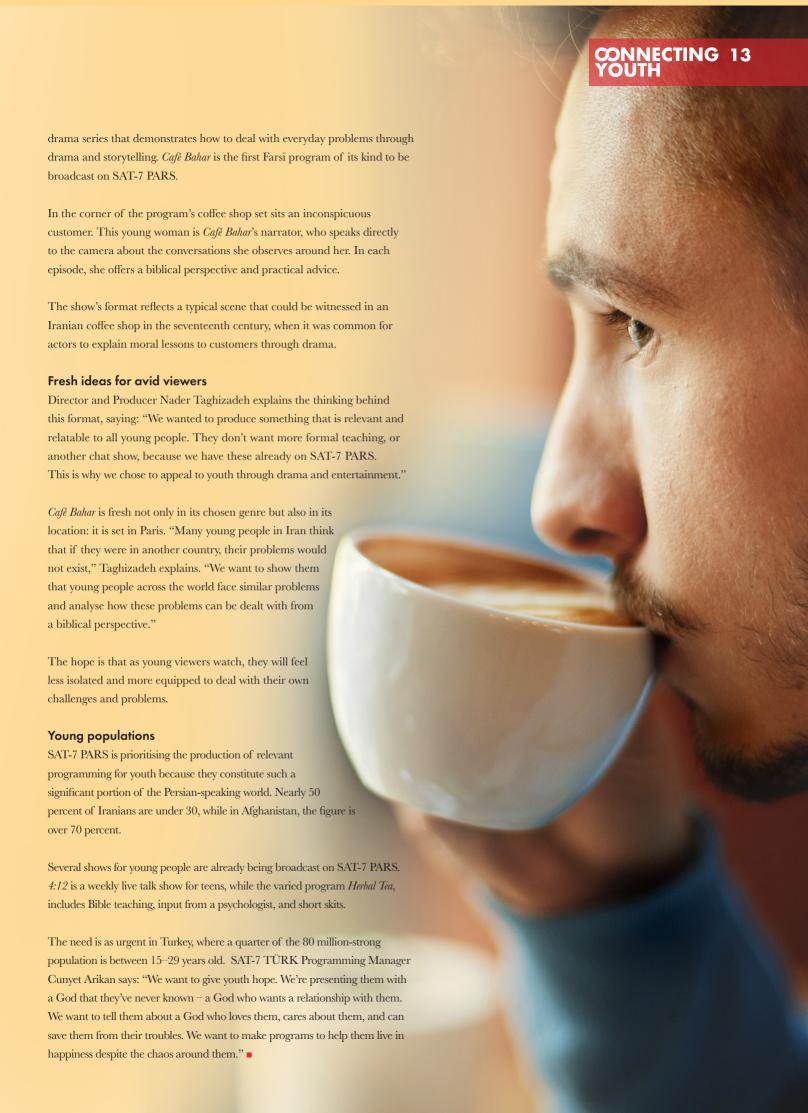
66

I am thankful for the way God uses you. No one dares to talk about the issues you discuss! We love and thank you for your service!

A young viewer of SAT-7 TÜRK



Director and Producer Nader Taghizadeh (right) on set with the actors of SAT-7 PARS' Café Bahar.



For most of her life, Yasimin lived in fear of God and death. Her life changed forever after witnessing a miraculous transformation in her niece's life. Now, through SAT-7 PARS, Yasimin and her family are growing in their faith daily.

"No amount of fasting or prayer dispelled my fear of God and death." Yasimin, who is now 57 years old, remembers.

#### A miraculous experience

Everything changed when Yasimin's niece, Nasim, became very ill. Nasim, who had already been a believer for over 12 years, called out to God as she was en route to the hospital. With her body paralysed and organs failing, Nasim was ready to face death. But she heard God saying that it wasn't her time and she still had a purpose to fulfil.

Nasim experienced miraculous healing and was discharged from the hospital. Intrigued by the miracle and Nasim's strong faith, Yasimin experienced her own transformational encounter with God. "Learning about Jesus brought joy into my life. It banished my fears because now I know that God loves me very much," explains Yasimin. "I was set free, and now I finally know the true meaning of life with God."

#### SAT-7 fills the gap

As new believers, Yasimin and her family are in need of encouragement and teaching, but they struggle due to a lack of Christian resources and churches in Iran. SAT-7 PARS is helping to fill this gap with 24/7 Christian Persian-speaking programming.

"Thank you for your great programs which I watch daily. They are helping me to grow in faith and answering my questions." Yasimin says. "I pray for the people of my country to experience, and be transformed by God's love, just like me."

66

When I prayed I didn't have any joy in my heart. It was all fear. Learning about Jesus brought joy into my life. It banished my fears because now I know that God loves me very much.



## CHANGE THE REGION'S FUTURE

As you will have read elsewhere in this magazine, young people constitute a huge percentage of the region's population. They are the future: full of idealistic dreams and passion. However, many youngsters in the Middle East and North Africa face a gloomy future. Illiteracy, conflicts, unemployment, underage or forced marriages, destruction, and war seem to prevail... where can they place their hope?

Like Nasim called out to God in her time of need, the region's youth are crying out for hope. SAT-7 has a fantastic opportunity to meet this young generation where they are, to share Jesus' message of life-changing hope.

By supporting SAT-7, you help provide a source of biblical teaching, encouragement, and discipleship. You help enable the young generation of the MENA, who can change the region's future. You help restore hope.

Will you help today?

## YES, I want to make a life-changing gift!



Credit card / PayPal: www.sat7.org/get-involved/donate



#### Bank transfer:

US DOLLAR ACCOUNT

Bank: Societe Generale Bank-Cyprus Account name: SAT-7 International Trust Account number: 033004360052040012 IBAN: CY29 0120 0003 3004 3600 5204 0012 BIC (SWIFT-address): SOGECY2NXXX



#### **EURO ACCOUNT**

Bank: Societe Generale Bank-Cyprus Account name: SAT-7 International Trust Account number: 033001360052040010 IBAN: CY59 0120 0003 3001 3600 5204 0010 BIC (SWIFT-address): SOGECY2NXXX

#### **How to find SAT-7**

#### **SAT-7 ARABIC**

SATELLITE: Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.353 GHz Vertical;

Covering Middle East & North Africa.

ONLINE: www.sat7.com / www.facebook.com/sat7ar

www.youtube.com/user/SAT7ARABIC

Smartphone App: SAT-7

#### **SAT-7 KIDS (ARABIC)**

SATELLITE: Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.353 GHz Vertical;

Covering Middle East & North Africa.

ONLINE: www.sat7kids.com / www.facebook.com/sat7kids

> www.youtube.com/user/SAT7KIDS Smartphone App: SAT-7 KIDS

#### **SAT-7 ACADEMY (ARABIC)**

SATELLITE: Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 10.727 GHz Horizontal;

Covering Middle East & North Africa.

ONLINE: www.sat7academy.com / www.facebook.com/sat7academy

www.youtube.com/user/SAT7ACADEMY???

Smartphone App: SAT-7 KIDS ???

#### **SAT-7 TÜRK** (TURKISH)

SATELLITE: Türksat 4A at 42° East, 11.824 GHz Vertical;

Covering Turkey, Europe & Central Asia.

ONLINE www.sat7turk.com / www.facebook.com/sat7turk

> www.youtube.com/user/SAT7TURK Smartphone App: SAT-7 TÜRK

#### SAT-7 PARS (PERSIAN)

SATELLITE: Eutelsat Hot Bird 13B at 13° East, 10.949 GHz

Vertical; Covering Middle East, North Africa & Europe.

Yahsat 13 at 52.5° East, 11.958 GHz Vertical;

Covering Middle East

ONLINE www.sat7pars.com / www.facebook.com/sat7pars

> www.youtube.com/user/SAT7PARS Smartphone App: SAT-7 PARS

#### **Contact details**

**Europe** europe@sat7.org UK uk@sat7.org USA usa@sat7.org

Canada canada@sat7.org South America southamerica@sat7.org South Africa southafrica@sat7.org



# WEEK OF PRAYER

4-11 November | Worldwide

"Faithful witness in a changing world" www.sat7.org/week-of-prayer-2018



SAT-7 welcomes Reinaldo Santos as the Executive Director of our new SAT-7 Brazil Office.

Rita Elmounayer was appointed CEO Designate in April 2018.

The transition of responsibility is likely to take place in 2019.



of the MENA population is under the age of 30

### NETWORK 2019 27-29 March | Cyprus



#### **SAT-7** International

P.O. Box 26760, Nicosia, Cyprus, CY-1647

+357 22761050 | info@sat7.org

**FACEBOOK** 

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

YOUTUBE

in LINKEDIN

SAT7Network

@SAT7Network

SAT7Network

SAT-7