

How SAT-7's programs contribute to Peace and Reconciliation

Directly or indirectly, all of SAT-7's programs carry a message of peace and reconciliation. Starting with the programs for children, who are presented with the Christian message of forgiveness – God's forgiveness of us as well as our obligation to forgive others. Other programs talk about communication within the family, how to care for and respect others, and how to forgive those who have wronged you.

Some programs deal with the peace and reconciliation needed in the wider, political community. One of these programs is the current affairs program "Nafitha" (which means Windows in English), broadcast every Thursday live from SAT-7 Lebanon.

"Nafitha" deals with current issues that affect the Middle Eastern region and communities directly or indirectly. Each 60 minute show has a specific topic, and this is discussed with guests in the studio, and viewers who either call in directly on the show, or send their text messages over their mobile phones.

Among the many topics covered by "Nafitha" have been:

- Refugees
- Democracy
- Nuclear Weapons
- Fanaticism
- Peace
- Challenges facing Christians in the Middle East
- Christians in Palestine
- Capitalism and Poverty
- Terrorism

Example: The episode on Peace

Guests in the studio were a lawyer and a Catholic priest. The topic of "peace" was covered from different aspects, both internal peace and external peace.

The hosts and the guests agreed that:

- 1- Peace begins from inside. And it is good to be aware that there are no places in our world where people live in total peace.
- 2- Peace is a choice of all the various actors in the community.
 - a) Peace is a gift from God.
 - b) Peace is searching for the welfare and growth of others.
 - c) We have to reinforce the culture of peace through
 - How we raise up our children
 - Not just seeking our own personal gain
 - Work for the welfare of our society.

All these ideas were discussed and the show received feedback from many viewers, who either called the show and conversed directly with the guests or sent text messages or emails. The responses came from different countries including Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Iraq, Sweden, Denmark, Cyprus...

- This topic was covered in a way that mainly related to the Middle East region, having in mind the importance of the Christian presence in this region as ambassadors of peace.
- Some viewers said that peace was a very important topic to be discussed, especially because of the recent bomb attacks in Beirut. Others said that there is a big need to cover the subject of peace in the media.
- Some viewers expressed the view that the peace in Lebanon, Iraq and other places is a fragile one.
- The hosts and guests were moved to hear from viewers' experiences that peace is a personal experience especially when we start praying for our enemies as Christ has told us.
- Other questions raised by viewers were: Who is supposed to act for peace? Or who is in charge to decide for a war? What is the role of the church in peace-making, in the countries deciding to go for a war?

It is clear from the viewers' reactions that this is a subject which affects them deeply and that there is a great need to discuss the subject of peace from a constructive and responsible viewpoint.