

Afghanistan: 'Christian Taliban' Ask to 'Meet Jesus'

BY SAT-7 | www.sat7usa.org

In Afghanistan, children watching SAT-7's live TV shows ask: 'Is Jesus in the studio?'

EASTON, Md., Sept. 22, 2021 /Christian News-wire/ -- Despite the threat of persecution, Afghans are turning to Christianity in growing numbers -- and creating a wave of "Christian Taliban," a ministry to Afghanistan reports. "The word 'Taliban' actually means 'student,'" said Dr. Rex Rogers, president of Christian media ministry SAT-7 USA (www.sat7usa.org), "and right now increasing numbers of Afghans are becoming 'Taliban of Jesus' -- that is, students of Christ." The ministry's Christian satellite television and online programs -- presented round-the-clock by Middle East Christians speaking the local Farsi and Dari languages -- reach every part of the nation, including remote mountain villages where people have never met a Christian in person. Young viewers are so eager to meet Jesus, they're contacting the mi-

nistry on their phone apps to ask if Jesus is in the studio. And their parents want to know "where Jesus lives, so we can meet him." "No Hiding' Jesus Although Christians have been forced into hiding, Afghan children -- the future of the nation -- are certainly not hiding their curiosity about Jesus," Rogers said. "It brings tears to my eyes when I hear these Afghan children quoting Jesus' words by heart, creating their own worship songs, and using them to deal with the intense fear they're going through." One viewer in Afghanistan -- sick of the terror and fear imposed by radicals -- called the ministry's counseling team, asking to meet Jesus in person. "A week later, he called again -- this time, with 25 young men crammed into his apartment, some having to stand in the bathroom because there



AFGHANISTAN: 'CHRISTIAN TALIBAN' ASK TO 'MEET JESUS: 'Despite the threat of persecution, Afghans are turning to Christianity in growing numbers -- and creating a wave of "Christian Taliban," satellite television and online media ministry SAT-7 (www.sat7usa.org) reports. Viewers -- eager to meet Jesus -- are asking: "Is Jesus in the studio?"

was no other space, all eager to know more about Jesus," Rogers said. The following week, there were 50 people jammed into the apartment, desperate to hear more. God's Love 'Uncensored' "Satellite and social media are able to reach

even the most difficult places," Rogers said. "It brings the power of the gospel and the love of Jesus uncensored -- and live, in real-time -- to people where they are, in their homes and on their phones." The ministry -- broadcasting free-of-charge to anyone in the region with a television and satellite

rounding countries like Iran, where people often have only an hour's electricity each day to tune in and charge their phones. "Our local director told me: 'This is where we unite as Christians, this is where we pray for each other, this is where we become stronger as one church under the Lord,'" Rogers said. www.sat7usa.org

Girls Exposed to 'Shadow Pandemic' of Sexual Abuse, GFA World Says

BY GFA World | www.gfa.org



GIRLS FACE 'SHADOW PANDEMIC' OF SEXUAL ABUSE: COVID-19 has triggered a "shadow pandemic" of sexual abuse and exploitation against girls, a new report reveals on International Day of the Girl Child, Oct. 11. The report -- *Young Victims Remain Hidden in the Pandemic's Shadow*

WILLS POINT, Texas, Oct. 4, 2021 /Christian Newswire/ -- COVID-19 has triggered a "shadow pandemic" of sexual abuse, violence and exploitation against girls, a shocking new report reveals on International Day of the Girl Child, Oct. 11. More than ever, girls face multiple threats to their safety, including sexual predators online, sex trafficking, and forced child marriage, says the report Young Victims Remain Hidden in the Pandemic's Shadow (www.gfa.org/press/girls) by mission organization GFA World (www.gfa.org). International Day of the Girl Child is an annual awareness event. In more than 130 countries -- including the U.S. -- it's legal for girls to marry under the age of 18. In North Carolina and Alaska, a girl can marry at 14 if she's pregnant. In North Carolina, a 57-year-old man applied to marry a 17-year-old girl, the report says. Worldwide, COVID-19 is accelerating a "global crisis for girls," with surging joblessness and poverty putting pressure on struggling parents to mar-

ry off their daughters in their mid-teens or younger, the report says. Millions of Girls 'Exposed to Exploitation' Globally, national lockdowns have disrupted schooling for millions of girls, and left them exposed to exploitation and greater risk of getting pregnant. Save the Children predicts a "dramatic surge in child marriage and adolescent pregnancy." The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that complications in pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death in girls and young women ages 15-19. Governments around the world must do more, GFA World says, to protect girls from forced marriage so they can finish school and choose their own path in life when they become adults. 'Protect Innocent Girls Now' "If we fail to protect innocent girls now, we've failed an entire generation," said GFA World Founder K.P. Yohannan (also known as Metropolitan Yohan). The Dominican Republic -- a Caribbean island nation -- recently banned

marriage under the age of 18, a move it's hoped will protect girls there and could encourage other nations to follow. In the U.S. and other countries, girls are increasingly victims of on-line sexual exploitation. A 14-year-old girl who sent a classmate a naked video of herself attempted suicide after it was posted on a porn website and viewed by other students. "Failing to stay safe online could entrap a girl in years of abuse," the report says. Lifeline for Girls at Risk In developing nations, GFA World and other organizations sponsor thousands of girls at risk, enabling them to go to school, making sure they don't go hungry, and mentoring them. GFA World says it helps girls "to show them God's love." "It's more vital than ever to provide girls with safe, nurturing environments and to bring justice and aid to those who've been abused," says the report. "The pandemic will have years of consequences but, with God's help, we can prevent it from destroying girls' lives." +++

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