



Call to Prayer

January/February 2010 - Turkish World Outreach, 508 Fruitvale Ct., Grand Junction, CO 81504 USA
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Prayer Topics From Many Sources

(These items include ministries other than our own)

Turkey

1. **In a recent national survey**, 59 percent of citizens interviewed said non-Muslims should not be allowed to hold open meetings to discuss their religious teachings. Fifty-four percent said such persons should also be prohibited from publishing literature that describes their beliefs. Nearly 40 percent expressed negative views of Christians. Pray that false perceptions will be replaced by what is true and that Turkey's citizens will give the Gospel a fair hearing.

2. **The TURK-7 Christian satellite channel** has become fully integrated with the international ministry of *SAT-7* and is now known as **SAT-7 TÜRK**. "We are very excited about this merger," says the channel's Executive Director. Pray that millions of Turkey's citizens will tune in to the broadcasts.

3. **An İstanbul viewer** of the above television channel recently wrote: "Last night I watched the 'Words of Hope' program. What the host said from the Bible really affected me. My system of belief – the way I've been burdened all my life because of how religion was explained to me – has been turned upside down. I would be very happy if you could help me on the matter of finding God." Please intercede for this man and many others who are encountering the love of Christ through the satellite broadcasts of *SAT-7 TÜRK* and another channel called *Kanal Hayat*.

4. Some political observers say **the regime of Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan** has removed itself from the pro-Western bloc of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel and has formed a northern Islamic alliance with Iran, Syria, the Lebanese Hezbollah, and Palestinian radicals. Ask for God's guidance and protection for the nation and its leaders in all such matters.

5. **International agencies estimate that 10 million persons in Turkey have a physical or intellectual handicap** (about 15 percent of the population). Cousins and other close relatives often marry, and the largest

number of disabilities are of genetic origin. Accidents and the lack of prenatal care are also common causes. At present, over 3,000 handicapped children are awaiting placement in state-run facilities that are said to be underfunded and poorly staffed. Please pray for them, and also for **Kardelen**, a Christian charity that helps care for disabled persons and their families. To learn about its ministry, contact friendsofkardelen@gmail.com.



Turks love to socialize, as in this scene from Northern Turkey

6. According to *Compass Direct News*, **judges and prosecutors in the court case regarding the murder of three Christians in Malatya in 2007** are requesting an investigation by the *Istanbul High Criminal Court* over mounting reports linking the slayings to top gendarmerie officials. Pray that all guilty parties will be exposed and brought to justice.

7. **A university lecturer recently brought thirty of her students to a Sunday church service and assigned them the question, "Who is Jesus?"** As a source, the students will be allowed to use the New Testament given to them by the congregation. Pray that the Word of God and the things they saw and heard during the service will awaken them to spiritual realities. Please also pray that the teacher's uncommon boldness will not have negative consequences for her.

8. In December, eight Turkish soldiers were detained over **an alleged plot to assassinate Deputy Prime**

Minister Bülent Arıncı. Some see this as evidence of growing tension between the governing AK Party, with roots in political Islam, and the nation's armed forces, who are traditional guardians of secularism. Ask God to protect the nation and its leaders from violent extremists of either side.

9. Thank the Lord for the continuing ministry of the **Translation Trust** (www.translation-trust.org). *The Holman Bible Handbook* will soon be published in Turkish, and *The Turkish Study Bible* is nearing completion after five years of hard work. Pray that these publications will be widely distributed and be a great blessing to Turkish churches and individual believers. Give thanks that the *Trust* has been able to donate significant quantities of New Testaments to the *Bible Correspondence Course* and that several thousand have been produced for placement by the *Gideons* in Turkey.

10. According to *Compass Direct News*, Turkish authorities have uncovered **a plot by Turkish naval officers** to discredit the ruling *Justice and Development Party (AKP)* by targeting non-Muslims with bombs, kidnappings, and assassinations. Evidence reportedly appeared on an encrypted compact disc discovered last April but only recently deciphered. It revealed the names of 41 naval officers assigned to identify and attack Christian and Jewish communities and place the blame on Islamists and the government. The plan called for planting bombs and suspicious packages near homes and buildings of non-Muslims, desecrating their cemeteries and places of worship, setting fire to their homes and businesses, and murdering many of their religious leaders, including foreign missionaries. Thank the Lord that these evil plans have been exposed. Ask for His protection of believers and others who may be targeted by ultra-nationalists or Muslim extremists.

11. **A recently baptized believer just out of prison** was greatly troubled by questions another person brought up about the reliability of the New Testament. He says he was full of doubts and fell asleep with a Bible next to his bed. In the middle of the night he was awakened by a man who pointed to the Bible and said, "Don't be afraid. Read my book. I'm always with you." Later, he realized it was Jesus who had spoken to him, and he was greatly encouraged. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness. Please uphold this brother in prayer.

12. **Pray that Turkish church leaders will continually renew their first love for Christ.** Ask the Lord to purge them of any inappropriate cultural ideas of leadership, and to guide them to deep humility and brokenness. Pray that all will remember how lost they were before coming to faith. He who is forgiven much loves much.

13. In November, **a pastor in Istanbul who recently published a book on Christian apologetics** was invited to appear on a live two-hour broadcast on the *HABERTÜRK* television channel. He was joined by an Islamic professor, a research writer, and three other Muslims. Although their attitudes revealed typical prejudices, the Muslim participants were not aggressive. The pastor shared about the uniqueness of Christ and made it apparent that Christians can present and argue their cause persuasively. His book was well publicized on the program and will no doubt interest inquirers and Islamic scholars. Give thanks for his opportunity to defend the authority of the Scriptures and exalt our Saviour. Ask God to safeguard him and his family.

14. **A thirty-minute documentary that verifies the historical accuracy and reliability of the New Testament Gospels** will soon be released on DVD. It clearly shows that the oldest manuscripts of the Gospels are completely consistent with the present-day Bible. Please intercede for its wide distribution.



Men at worship in a mosque in Baku, Azerbaijan. In Islam men and women do not worship together.

15. **Pastor Orhan in Samsun** continues to share the love of Christ in spite of daily threats to his safety. Thank the Lord that he has been able to make a down-payment on a home for his family. He had been forced to move from a previous location, and no other landlords were brave enough to rent to him. Please uphold him and his loved ones in prayer, asking God's protection.

16. The website www.benimadimkadin.com aims to reach Turkish women with weekly articles and Scripture portions relating to their everyday lives. Those involved ask for prayer that they will be able to write or translate genuinely helpful materials. **More than anything, they want readers to encounter the living God.** Please ask the Lord to provide volunteers who will help maintain the website. Pray that many women in Turkey will locate it and recommend it to others. Its Turkish title means *My Name Is Woman*.

17. Ask for God's blessing and provision for the broadcast ministries of **Radio Shema** in Ankara and **Radio Light** in Istanbul. The potential audiences for both cities are in the millions.

18. **Ask for God's hand on the nation's justice system and its mass media.** Both greatly influence public opinion. Pray that truth will prevail and that lies and distortions will be discredited.

19. Based in İstanbul, **Harvest Church Ministries** provides excellent Bible-based theological training to church leaders and other interested believers. A three-year course with 12 units is offered on a part-time basis, allowing participants to remain employed while taking evening classes. Satellite courses have also been held in other cities. Ask for the Lord's continued blessing on this important service to the body of Christ.

20. **Kanal Hayat Christian Television** dubs and airs programs of **Zakaria Boutros**, an Egyptian clergyman who skillfully deals with Muslim objections to Christianity. These broadcasts already have a wide audience in Arab nations. Pray that they will also be well-received among Turkish speakers.

21. **Through an unofficial amnesty, the AK Party government recently allowed 34 members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) to return from Iraq.** However, this approach backfired in October when the returnees delivered fiery speeches at welcome parties thrown by Kurdish nationalists. Members of the group said they had not returned to take advantage of the *AK Party* amnesty, but to represent the *PKK*. They added that they had no remorse for their former acts of violence and began making demands on the state. This touched a raw nerve with many, and the government quickly backed down from its attempts at reconciliation. Please bring this volatile situation before the Lord. Pray that government leaders will nonetheless continue to uphold improved rights for the nation's Kurds.

22. In a ruling many hope will lead to greater religious freedom, **the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)** has found that a Turkish court's decision to bar a church from starting a foundation violated its right to freedom of association. **The Kurtuluş Church of Ankara** had sought in 2000 to establish a foundation to assist disaster victims, and its application was denied by Turkish courts. The attorney representing the church says the *ECHR* ruling is the first time it has acknowledged that religious organizations have a right to exist in Turkey. Pray that this decision will open many doors for Christian ministries that will bless the nation.

23. On December 11th **a unanimous ruling by the Turkish Constitutional Court ordered the closure of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP)** on grounds it had been a "focal point for terrorism." The relatively new party held 21 seats out of 550 in Parliament and had been considered its leading Kurdish voice. Under the ruling, *DTP* leaders **Ahmet Türk** and **Aysel Tuğluk** have been stripped of diplomatic immunity; and they and more than 30 other party members have been barred from politics for five years. Once the news was out, violent Kurdish demonstrations erupted in towns and cities throughout the nation. These clashes have raised fears of renewed warfare between the state and Kurdish separatists. Pray that peace and social order will prevail.

24. Christian workers in a major city write: "We are at the first stages of gathering **Kurmanji-speaking believers** together for prayer, worship and preaching. We will have much opposition and need your prayer cover." Kurmanji is a Kurdish language.

25. The trial of believers **Hakan and Turan** for insulting Islam and Turkish culture by sharing the Gospel continues on and on. Their defense lawyer and a former prosecutor removed from the case have called the proceedings an outrage. Pray that politicians and members of the judiciary will act with integrity and courage and drop the baseless charges filed against these men.

North America

26. **A knowledgeable Turkish believer in the US** recently sent our *TWO* Gospel Letter to the email addresses of 4,000 Turks worldwide. More than 400 have responded, and he is now spending his evenings answering their spiritual questions. He's able to obtain far more email addresses of Turks and hopes to recruit others to help. Pray for God's blessing on his efforts.

27. **Please continue to pray for Meskhetian Turks in Tucson, Arizona.** The director of a refugee ministry writes: "We have been pouring out our lives to them for the past four years and still have no believers, and not even many opportunities to share."

28. **A Turkish convert in Connecticut** writes: "Thank you for the booklets in Turkish. Reading about Jesus in my native language is great. Any literature regarding His life and Christianity will be appreciated. As you can tell by my address, I am a state prisoner serving a lengthy sentence. Thank you for being friends of Turkey and Turks." Please pray for his encouragement.

29. **A port ministry in Houston, Texas**, distributes Turkish Scriptures and Gospel literature provided by

TWO. In 2009, their staff visited 1,202 ships, 36 of which had Turkish crew members. Ask God's blessing on this outreach, and please remember these Turks in prayer.

30. A Turkish fellowship in Levittown, Pennsylvania, has baptized 44 Turks, though only 15 live in the local area. A number of the believers have been very active in sharing the Gospel and have even started Turkish Bible studies in neighboring states. Some would like to be in fulltime Christian ministry. Thank the Lord for His work in their lives. Please intercede for His guidance and provision.

31. TWO will hold a Turkish Believers Conference in the US in late June. Please pray that many Turkish-speaking believers will attend and that it will be a time of great blessing. Gifts designated for the conference and related costs will be greatly appreciated.

Western Europe

32. Thousands of **calendars with daily Scripture verses** have been distributed to Turks and Kurds throughout Europe. Pray that these will be powerfully used to reach many hearts.

33. In Germany, a handful of mosques ten years ago has swollen to 164, and close to 200 more are under construction, says author Claus Leggewie. Islam is clearly on the move. Pray that its growing influence will be tempered by the proclamation of the Gospel.

34. Ask for the Lord's blessing on **a Turkish Christian fellowship that meets twice a month in Freiburg, Germany**.

35. Cologne's 120,000 Muslims are the most of any German municipality. Under current projections, two-thirds of the city's residents will be of foreign descent by 2020, and most will be Turks. Cologne's famous cathedral will soon be rivaled by the soaring minarets of the nation's largest mosque, designed for 2,000 worshippers. *TWO* volunteers are sending Gospel Letters to Turkish homes throughout the city. Pray that these letters will lead many to salvation.

36. The Yeni Yaşam Fellowship seeks to reach out to Turkish-speakers in London (most of whom are Kurds, Cypriots and Bulgarians). Pray that it will succeed in bringing many to Christ.

Eastern Europe & Central Asia

37. Bulgaria was part of the Ottoman Empire, so it isn't surprising that it has Turkish-speaking ethnic groups. There are actually two categories: Turks and

Turkish-speaking gypsies. During outreach among the gypsies in the 1990's there were many conversions. Sadly, more than half of the converts have fallen away -- some under pressure to return to Islam. An estimated 4,000 remain true to Christ. Most of the nation's non-gypsy Turks live in the Kardzali region and have had far less exposure to the Gospel. Only a small number are known to be believers. However, most eagerly receive Christian literature if it is offered. *TWO* would like to begin Gospel Letter mailings to both ethnic groups. Pray that this will soon be possible.

38. The Translation Trust is helping fund pre-press work on **The Nogai New Testament**. Pray for its successful printing and effective distribution.

39. Ethnic Uyghur convert Alim Yimiti and his wife Gulinur have helped pastor a house church in China's Xinjiang Province. However, Alim has now been sentenced to 15 years in prison for allegedly providing state secrets to overseas organizations. "This is the harshest sentence against house church believers in nearly a decade," says *ChinaAid* President Bob Fu. Another believer writes: "We know that Alim is innocent of all these charges and that this is a travesty of justice." Please be praying for him and his family.

Northern Cyprus

40. Kemal is a Cypriot Turk who became a Christian while living in London. He is now back in Cyprus ministering among his own people. He is a bold evangelist and has led a number of persons to Christ. He has taken out newspaper advertisements offering the New Testament, and has also formed several groups of believers and inquirers. In spite of death threats, Kemal is determined to press on. He especially longs to see other workers who will help with follow-up. Please remember him and this need in prayer.

41. An attempt to establish mandatory Islamic classes in village schools has met with opposition. Pray that innocent schoolchildren will be protected from this kind of indoctrination.

Items of Note

Turkish World Outreach is seeking volunteers to do Internet searches for addresses of Turks in German Telephone Directories. A list of most common Turkish surnames will be provided. Our goal is to send a Gospel Letter to each address obtained in this way. If interested, please email steve@two-fot.org.

A free resource for learning Turkish is available on the web at: www.fsi-language-courses.net/Turkish.aspx.