



July/August 2010 - Turkish World Outreach, 508 Fruitvale Ct., Grand Junction, CO 81504 USA
Tel. (970) 434-1942, Fax (970) 434-1461, Email <info@two-fot.org> Website <www.two-fot.org>

Prayer Topics From Many Sources

(These items include ministries other than our own)

Turkey

1. The Islamic-based government of Prime Minister Erdo an had sought to dissolve the nation's military alliance with Israel but faced resistance from secularists and the Turkish military. However, when Israeli naval forces intercepted a civilian flotilla from Turkey attempting to break its blockade of shipping to Gaza, the death of nine Turkish nationals who violently resisted made a breakup with Israel easy and inevitable. Political observers believe the Islamic group that organized the May confrontation did so with the Prime Minister's approval and had at least two other goals: to turn public opinion against Israel, and to give Mr. Erdo an a platform for gaining support for coming elections. Pray that none of this will result in advances for radical Islam.

2. According to press reports, the nation's intelligence agencies are convinced foreign missionaries are targeting sensitive regions in order to promote ethnic strife, particularly among the Kurds. Ask God to correct the prejudiced reasoning that leads to such absurd conclusions.

3. Various ministries sponsor vision tours of Turkey for pastors and Christian leaders of other nations. Pray that those who participate will return to their home countries eager to mobilize intercession for the Turks and those who serve among them.

4. Most Turkish believers are reluctant to open court cases for fear of added persecution. However, others believe the body of Christ can gain from aggressive legal action. Pray that any efforts in this regard will receive the support of government officials and the courts.

5. Ten years ago there were only about twenty known followers of Christ in the Black Sea region. Today, there are well over a hundred baptized believers! Praise God for this exciting growth. A small number of Christian workers struggle to reach the eight million people of this area. Please ask the Lord to call many

more to join them. Unfortunately, some who claim to serve in the region actually live comfortably in distant cities and only occasionally minister there.

6. Pray that Turkish World Outreach will be able to obtain new sources of addresses for Gospel Letter mailings to Turkey. Ask the Lord to place this need on the hearts of persons who are able to help.



A Turkish Christian book table in Nürnberg, Germany

7. National and foreign Christian workers throughout Turkey need your spiritual covering. Pray for mental acuity, vibrancy in prayer, sound Bible teaching, guidance in how to present the Gospel, humility, healthy relationships, willingness to cooperate with others, and strength to overcome temptations.

8. The nation's efforts to gain membership in the European Union have brought legal protections and greater freedom for its religious and ethnic minorities. Pray that these advancements will remain in effect.

9. Many Kor'an courses operate illegally, but are tolerated by the current government. A sizeable number are said to be funded by radical Wahabi Muslims of Saudi Arabia. Pray that students in such classes will feel the presence of evil and begin to question the teachings they receive. Ask the Lord to lead them to the true path of salvation.

10. It used to be understood that a Turk could be a good or bad Muslim or even an atheist, but never a Christian. This perception has changed noticeably over the past twenty years. The existence of Turkish Christians and Turkish churches is now well known. In fact, Turkish pastors are routinely interviewed in the media! Thank the Lord for this change. Pray that the people of God will receive the respect and appreciation of their fellow citizens.

11. Pray that more and **more people of all ages** throughout the country will become disillusioned with Islam and begin searching for spiritual truth

12. Turkey is forging new alliances in the Middle East and elsewhere, and Russia is encouraging the nation's leaders to leave *NATO* and join a new military alliance called the *Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)*. This alliance includes Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Iran, Pakistan, India and Mongolia have observer status, and it appears they may soon become full members. Pray that this realignment of nations will not adversely affect Turkey's political and economic stability.

13. Foreign Christian workers are concentrated in the country's leading cities, while rural areas are largely neglected. The education of their children is often a major concern, and few options are available for this elsewhere. Ask the Lord to address this need and to provide opportunities for workers to serve in smaller communities.

14. As many as 5,000 women are believed to be captives in the country's illegal sex trade. Turkey is a major destination for destitute women lured from former Soviet states with false promises of legitimate jobs. After reaching the country, most are beaten, raped and forced into prostitution. More than half are from Moldova and Ukraine. Pray that government leaders will intervene on their behalf. Please also ask for the protection of believers endeavoring to help these unfortunate women.

15. Nearly one-third of Turkish converts have come to Christ after He has appeared to them in a vision or dream. Praise the Lord for the greatness of His love. Pray that hundreds of thousands of Turkish Muslims will have such encounters with the Prince of Peace.

16. Although **the Kurdish regions of Southeast Turkey** have key resources of water, hydropower, oil, natural gas and coal, they are less developed than the country's western provinces. Most of the villages have no schools, and illiteracy is at 86 percent. Due to high unemployment, many have had to go elsewhere to find

work. Ask for God's blessing on **government efforts** to build schools and promote economic development in these impoverished areas.

17. There are hundreds of thousands of **Iranian refugees in Turkey,** and more than a thousand have become followers of Christ. Pray that these believers will be faithful witnesses among their displaced fellow countrymen, most of whom are disillusioned with Islam.

18. Christian websites are being powerfully used to encourage Turkish believers and to reach their fellow citizens with the love of Christ. Ask for the Lord's blessing and protection of all involved.

19. Pray that **the nation's Muslim majority** will accord Christians the same right to share their beliefs that they themselves enjoy.



The recent baptism of a Turkish believer in Sweden

20. As friendships deepen, foreign Christian workers find themselves easily wounded by rejections and betrayals common to Muslim culture. Pray for their emotional and spiritual well-being.

21. Iranian Christians who flee to Turkey from persecution in their homeland are interviewed for possible immigration by representatives of the *UN High Commissioner for Refugees*. However, most of the representatives are Muslims who treat such persons with contempt and insist on their forced return to Iran. Please intercede for the help and protection of these unfortunate Christians and their families.

22. Many Turkish believers are looking for work. Pray that they will be guided to open doors and upright and suitable employment.

23. Short-term teams from abroad will be assisting various ministries in Turkey over the next few months. Pray for fruitful service and blest times of fellowship.

24. According to various studies, **at least a third of Turkish women are victims of physical violence in their own families.** Many are beaten, and some are even killed or forced to commit suicide. Sadly, such treatment of women is allowed by Islam and is widely tolerated and even endorsed by community and government leaders. Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict the nation of the evil of such behavior and rally a public outcry against it.

25. Since **the Justice and Development Party (AKP)** came to power in 2002, radical Muslim publications have multiplied throughout the country and virulent forms of Islam have gained enormous influence. In view of this, it is urgent that the message of Christ be proclaimed in every corner of the nation. Pray that this will indeed be the case.

26. Thank the Lord for the satellite television ministries of **SAT-7 TÜRK and Kanal Hayat.** Pray that their outstanding programs will be widely viewed throughout Turkey and among Turkish speakers elsewhere.

North America

27. **A port ministry in Houston, Texas,** has distributed hundreds of *TWO* Gospel Letters among Turkish seamen and says these are well received. They also report that they see more Turks turning to Christ than ever before. Thank the Lord for this good news.

28. **Pray for an increase in the number of Christians mailing Gospel Letters to Turkish homes.** Our US office has tens of thousands of addresses of Turks in Western Europe, Australia, and Turkey, but in order to reach them in a timely manner we need more volunteers. If you would like to join in this outreach, please contact us at the address above or email Zoe Grimes at zoe@two-fot.org.

29. Please pray for God's blessing on preparations for the **2010 ITN North American Conference on Turkey,** which will be held in Chicago October 28-30. The *International Turkey Network (ITN)* is an outstanding ministry to churches and ministries in Turkey.

Western Europe

30. **A Turkish evangelist serving with TWO** has recently established a small fellowship of Turkish believers in Stockholm, Sweden. Four converts were baptized at the first meeting. Our worker lives in another country, but will be visiting the fellowship on a regular basis. Please ask for the blessing and encouragement of all involved.

31. **Many Muslims identify the declining morals of the West with Christianity.** Pray that this false

perception will be offset by exposure to the Gospel and true believers.

32. **Approximately 200,000 Turkish Cypriots live in the United Kingdom.** Thank the Lord for Christian groups endeavoring to reach them with the Gospel. Pray that their efforts will be met with great success.

33. Pray that **judges and national leaders in Europe** will awaken to the growing threat of militant Islam and staunchly uphold freedom of speech for those who dare to warn of this danger.

Northern Cyprus

34. **The Turkish Christian Fellowship in Girne** is made up primarily of persons whose families emigrated from Turkish-speaking communities of Bulgaria that experienced spiritual awakening in the 1990's. Though there are still new professions of faith among these people, the church in Girne has only a handful of Turkish Cypriots and mainland Turks. Please pray for effective outreach among these latter groups, which are the majority in the community.

35. **Gambling, prostitution and drug trafficking are rampant in Northern Cyprus.** Pray that officials will do whatever they can to counter these evils.

Eastern Europe & Central Asia

36. **In the middle of the night a believer in Kyrgyzstan recently woke to a loud crash below her apartment.** She rushed to the street to find four unresponsive young people in a wrecked car, with gasoline pouring everywhere. Other neighbors came out and stood at a distance wailing Muslim prayers. She shouted to them that it was not the Allah of Islam they should cry to, but Jesus. As they remained far away in fear of an explosion, she dragged the four bodies from the vehicle to a safe location. **Although she and the crowd believed all four were dead, she prayed over them in Jesus' name.** As she did so, all four suddenly stood to their feet while the crowd looked on in amazement! Before this, neighbors had always avoided the woman because of her Christian faith. Now she has a steady stream of visitors with lots of questions about Jesus. Pray that many of them will choose to become His followers.

37. **In Southern Kyrgyzstan there has been long-term animosity between Uzbek and Kyrgyz Turks** in villages and towns placed together by unfortunate boundaries from the Soviet era. On May 19th thousands of ethnic Kyrgyz stormed an Uzbek university in the city of Jalalabad over a perceived insult. Then, in early June murderous rioting erupted in Osh and surrounding areas near the nation's border with Uzbekistan. Whole blocks

of Uzbek homes were set ablaze as gangs of Kyrgyz youths mercilessly killed or wounded hundreds of Uzbek men, women and children. Entire villages were torched, and most of the area's markets were destroyed. More than 100,000 Uzbeks fled across the border, but Uzbekistan was unable to handle their numbers and closed further entry to all but the injured. Tens of thousands are now stranded on both sides of the border without food or shelter. Please pray for their help and deliverance.

38. Pray for unity and godly compassion in the Kyrgyz churches in Osh. Many members are doing all they can to help Uzbek believers and non-believers in desperate circumstances. However, some are unwilling to help in any way and are in great need of a deeper work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

39. Thank the Lord for Kyrgyz believers who hid Uzbek neighbors in their homes during the recent riots in spite of harsh retribution if caught. Pray that their godly example will have a lasting effect on others.

40. Intercede for the protection of Uzbek Christians who have fled from Kyrgyzstan to the Fergana Valley of Uzbekistan. This area is a breeding ground for radical Islam, and their lives may be in jeopardy.

41. Authorities in China's Xinjiang Province have moved Uyghur Christian Alimjan Yimit from a prison in Kashgar to another in Urumqi. Family members were also allowed to visit him for the first time since his arrest in January 2008. **Alimjan** and his wife **Gulinuer** pastored an Uyghur house church in Xinjiang prior to his imprisonment for "leaking state secrets." His actual offense may have been talking with visiting Christians from the United States. Please continue to pray for the welfare and encouragement of this dear brother and sister in Christ.

42. Karakalpak believers in Northwest Uzbekistan continue to face raids, threats, fines, and court-ordered destruction of their Bibles and religious literature. In two recent cases police demanded that followers of Christ sign statements promising not to associate with other believers. Please ask God to bring an end to these unreasonable measures and to open the entire region to the proclamation of the Gospel.

43. The Uyghur Turks of Northwest China and neighboring Kazakhstan are said to be descendants of the Keirat tribe which was predominantly Christian in the 12th and 13th centuries. Today, nearly all Uyghurs follow Islam. Pray that the Gospel will once again hold a prominent place among them.



Children posing for a photo in Ankara, Turkey

44. Christian workers are faithfully reaching out to Turkish villages of Northeast Bulgaria. Pray that many souls will be won for Christ.

45. A number of cities in Macedonia have sizeable Turkish communities but no Christian outreach among them. In the cities of Centar Zupar and Plasnica Turks are in the majority. Ask the Lord to raise up Christian workers who will share the Gospel and plant Turkish churches.

Items of Note

If you have Turkish-speaking acquaintances or relatives you'd like to reach for Christ, please let us be of help. TWO will gladly provide you with Turkish Scriptures and materials free of charge.

This prayer bulletin is translated from English into Dutch, German, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish. If you or Christian friends would like to receive it by email in any of these languages, please contact our US office. Be sure to give the name, location, and email address of each person to receive it.

Do you have Christian friends who might enjoy sending Gospel Letters to Turks overseas? If so, please provide us with their addresses so we can send them information about the program. This is a great opportunity for shut-ins, Sunday School classes, youth ministries, women's groups, prayer teams, and believers in general.

Oasis International School in Ankara, Turkey, serves more than 200 English-speaking students and is actively seeking qualified degreed teachers. If you are a college graduate and English is your first language, you may want to consider applying. If interested, please check the following website: www.oasis.org.