



Call to Prayer

May/June 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. On March 8th, **a magnitude 6 earthquake** shattered stone and mud-brick homes across Elazığ province, killing 51 persons. The people of this barren area of Eastern Turkey didn't have much to begin with. The loss of livestock and homes will mean great hardship for a long time. Pray for adequate help for those in need.



A small gathering of believers in Northern Turkey

2. Since coming to power in 2002, **the Islam-based Justice and Development Party (AKP) and its supporters in the ultra-conservative Fethullah Gülen movement** have gained significant control over the nation's police and media. Through selective use of the penal code, the AKP has reportedly silenced the country's two largest independent media groups, which often opposed its agenda. Ask the Lord to make use of these troubling circumstances to mold the nation and guide its future.

3. **The Jesus Film is now available in DVD format in almost every language spoken by the Kurds.** Pray that these scattered descendants of the ancient Medes will be reached with this powerful presentation of the life of Christ.

4. For the past two years, **the nation's military and courts** have reportedly been the targets of illegal

wiretaps by the current administration, which believes they are plotting its overthrow. In question is whether the military will tolerate increasing restrictions or strike back as it has in the past whenever secular rule has been threatened. Ask for God's oversight in these matters.

5. Pray for a wide audience for the Christian broadcasts of **Radio Shema** in Ankara. Intercede for hearts open to the Gospel; and also pray that the station's financial needs will all be met.

6. In an attempt to promote tolerance and cultural sensitivity, **a high school teacher in Istanbul** reportedly asked his sociology students to give presentations on the cultures of gypsies, Kurds, Lazes, and Surianis. When a Kurdish youth who reported on his own ethnic group was harshly criticized, the teacher called for tolerance and cited the government's television broadcasts in Kurdish as an example of fair treatment. As a result, this instructor is now being charged with making propaganda for the outlawed *Kurdistan Workers' Party!* Pray that he will be justly treated in the courts and be restored to his position if not guilty of any wrongdoing.

7. **Selma Kefaf**, the State Minister responsible for women's and family affairs, has reportedly said that within five years all of nearly 10,000 youngsters in state-run orphanages will be transferred to single houses especially designed for them. Seven or eight children and three authorized teachers are to live in each home. Thank the Lord for this hopeful development. Ask for these plans to be fulfilled in a manner that provides for the protection and emotional well-being of each child.

8. **The entire New Testament has been recorded in a dramatic format in Kurmanji Kurdish.** This will be especially beneficial for those in rural areas, where many are illiterate. Please intercede for its wide distribution.

9. According to news reports, the governing *AK Party* has proposed **26 constitutional amendments** to alter the process for appointing the nation's judiciary. In the past, such appointments have been controlled by a small class of hard-line secularists. Opponents believe this is an effort by **Prime Minister Erdoğan** to expand his

powers and pack the *Constitutional Court* with his allies. Supporters say the changes are needed to bring Turkey in line with European Countries. If the Prime Minister fails to pass the changes in Parliament, he says he will present them for a vote by the electorate. Pray that God's purposes will prevail in this matter.

10. Turkey has reacted angrily to **recent resolutions in the US House of Representatives and the Swedish Parliament** labeling 1915 atrocities in the Ottoman Empire as an Armenian genocide. Although the terrible events occurred before the existence of the Turkish Republic, the resolutions are viewed as slanderous attacks on the nation. The nation's leaders say the massacres during Ottoman rule took place in a civil war in which enormous numbers of Turks also perished. This is a very divisive issue in the country, and foreign meddling merely aggravates the situation. Pray that Western politicians will show better judgment and will exercise proper restraint on this subject.



A Turkish convert receives baptism

11. **A young woman from a conservative Muslim background** is now a follower of Christ. Her brother heard of this, but was sure she would soon return to Islam. When he saw that she hadn't, he demanded that she renounce her faith and say the Islamic creed. She refused, and he grabbed a metal rod and threatened to kill her. The family stopped him, but her mother sobbed and pleaded with her to say the creed. She finally did, but deeply regretted it afterward. When she shared her sorrow with another Turkish believer, her friend explained that the Apostle Peter also denied Jesus, but was forgiven and restored. She has now experienced this same grace and says, "I never want to deny the Lord ever again." Pray that she will experience His strength and encouragement.

12. Please intercede for **Kucak, an important outreach to the children of Turkish believers.** Ask for wisdom

and protection for its leaders, sufficient funds for the printing and distribution of its children's magazine, and for the Lord's blessing on its well-attended summer camps.

13. **A foreigner who works with refugees** has come to the attention of human traffickers who are not at all pleased with his efforts to help these vulnerable people. Please intercede for his protection from evil men.

14. **A key pastor in Istanbul** was recently invited to appear with a rabbi and imam on a night-time television talk show that has a huge audience. The subjects discussed included death and paradise. He says the program was very cordial and that he had ample opportunity to share what the Bible says on these topics. In contrast to programs of previous years in which the whole purpose was to discredit Christian faith and the New Testament, there was an atmosphere of wholesome respect. Most viewers now realize that the country has Bible-based churches that are Turkish, and that their message is one of love and reconciliation in Christ. Pray that those who are spiritually thirsty will sense and heed God's call to visit these churches.

15. Thank the Lord that **anti-Christian prejudices** seem to be breaking down in some sectors of Turkish society. Pray that this will occur throughout the country.

16. **The 2010 Ephesus Celebration and Beyond** will take place May 20-24 at the ancient site of Ephesus and will be the culmination of four months of intensive prayer and fasting for Turkey by Christians around the globe. Thank the Lord for the faithful Korean believers who have organized this important event. Ask for His blessing and protection for all involved.

17. According to the recent census, **24.5 percent of the nation's citizens live in small towns and villages.** Pray for effective Christian outreach in this segment of the population.

18. **The head of the Turkish Bible Correspondence Course was arrested and jailed in early March.** Although we understand he has been released, he faces the possibility of deportation. This is a very serious threat to Christian work in Turkey. Please ask for the Lord's intervention.

19. **Death threats from fanatic Muslims** are somewhat common for Christian workers in Turkey. In view of this, two pastors in Ankara have decided to film statements that will be broadcast if either is killed in the cause of Christ. Although these would give a powerful message of love and forgiveness in the face of Muslim hatred and violence, pray that they won't be required.

20. Thirteen episodes of a Christian program called **Rights and Wrongs in Marriage** will be airing this year on *SAT-7 TÜRK* satellite television. Pray that these broadcasts will be widely viewed and will be a source of blessing to many.

21. **The radio program Evli ve Mutlu** (*Married and Happy*) is now in its third year on the air. Thank the Lord that it has been a help to many families in their hurts and struggles.

North America

22. **Christian friends seeking to establish an office of Turkish World Outreach in Canada** have met with a number of setbacks. Intercede for their encouragement and the prompt sale of their current business.

23. **In Kazakh culture, the New Year is observed at the spring equinox, which this year was March 21st.** On that day, a Christian worker joined over 50 Kazakhs and other Central Asians for food and celebrations at a park in Southern California. He writes: "The surprising thing was that about a third of the attendees were believers!" Give thanks for the increasing number of Kazakh converts in the US. Pray that they'll be well-grounded in God's Word and be mightily used to reach their countrymen in North America and abroad with the Gospel.

24. **The 2010 Turkish Believers Conference** will be held June 30th through July 3rd in Levittown, Pennsylvania. Pray for good attendance and for God's anointing on all sessions. Turkish-speaking believers and inquirers are encouraged to attend, and we hope many current and former Christian workers among Turks will be present. For further information, we ask that you telephone or write our US office or email steve@two-fot.org.

Western Europe

25. **The number of Muslims in Germany is reportedly much higher than previously supposed.** According to a recent study, between 3.8 and 4.3 million now reside in the country. Although this is only about five percent of the population, demographic studies indicate a dramatic increase in coming years. Pray that the country will be prepared for the cultural and religious changes likely to follow.

26. **Many Turks are not avid readers,** and *TWO* workers in Kiel, Germany, are finding that such persons are more willing to accept a CD or DVD than printed materials. Pray that such items will be widely circulated and will bring many to salvation. Please also ask for the Lord's blessing on Gospel Letters that will soon be sent to Turkish homes in this region.

27. **A brother serving among Turks in Germany writes:** "We had a wonderful time at our Workers Conference in April. Depending on the day and the time we had from 30 to 50 in attendance and it was great to have fellowship with many of the long-time workers as well as meet several newcomers. We praise God for safe travel to and from the conference and for all the faithful workers among Turks and Kurds in Europe, England and Turkey. Our time was extremely encouraging." Please ask for an outpouring of God's blessing on all the ministries represented.

28. **After Germany, France is the main destination of Turkish nationals who emigrate.** Those living in the country now number over 500,000 and are mainly concentrated in Paris, Loraine, Alsace, and Nord-Pas de Calais. Although there are about 3,000 Bible-based churches in France, we are not aware of any involved in Turkish outreach. Pray that many believers and congregations throughout the nation will receive a call from God to evangelize and disciple precious Turks.

Northern Cyprus

29. **Cyprus has been divided between Greek Cypriots in the South and Turkish Cypriots in the North since 1974,** when Turkey invaded the island in response to a military coup promoting union with Greece. The self-proclaimed *Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus* has not been internationally recognized. However, the official government in the South was accepted into the European Union in 2004, and negotiations to end the division of the island have been underway since late 2008. Intercede for God's oversight in this matter.

30. **An English-speaking congregation in Magosa** is endeavoring to start a Turkish-speaking fellowship. Ask for the Lord's guidance and blessing.

31. In addition to over 40,000 Turkish soldiers, **approximately 200,000 citizens of Turkey live in Northern Cyprus.** Unfortunately, mainland Turks generally don't get on very well with Cypriot Turks. Pray that cordial relationships will develop, and that any animosity between the two peoples will cease.

32. A Turkish fellowship in Girne is planting **a new church in a poor area of Lefkoşa.** Ask for the Lord's encouragement of all involved. Pray that many Turks in the city will have an encounter with the love of Christ.

33. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus now has a new president, **Dr. Derviş Eroğlu,** who was elected in April. He is a *Nationalist Party* member and does not favor reunification with the South. Ask God to guide his thoughts and actions for the good of the people he is called to serve.

Eastern Europe & Central Asia

34. Following uprisings in early April over corrupt officials and an enormous rise in utility rates, **opposition leaders in Kyrgyzstan** stormed the parliament building and announced the formation of a new government. The head of the new administration is former foreign minister **Roza Otunbayeva**. She is described as a short, unpretentious woman who takes the role seriously. It's clear that the weight on her shoulders is enormous. Please ask for God's guidance and protection.

35. Although it is a remote mountainous country of only 5.3 million, **Kyrgyzstan is of strategic importance to Russia, the United States and China**. Russia maintains a large military base there, and the country has a long border with China. Beijing's growing economic influence is obvious in the nation's markets. Since its invasion of Afghanistan, the US has established a huge airbase outside the capital of Bishkek. The recently deposed government had planned to close the airbase, but reversed the decision when the US agreed to increase its annual rent from \$17 million to \$60 million. Pray for the nation's economic and political stability.

36. **Moldova is a nominally Christian nation located between the Ukraine and Romania**, and it is a safe place for the training of believers coming from more restricted areas. Please ask for God's blessing of **nearly seventy Central Asian followers of Christ** enrolled in a theological college in the country.

37. **Intercede for continued spiritual awakening among the Gagavuz Turks of Moldova**. Unlike most ethnic Turks, they have never submitted to Islam and are generally open to the Gospel. Moldova is the poorest nation in Europe, and economic and political problems are the norm. Occultism and alcoholism are major issues.

38. **More than 830,000 Khorasani Turks live in Northeastern Iran**. Most are farmers and conservative Muslims, and none are known to be followers of Christ. Ask God to open doors for Christian witness, and pray that qualified linguists will translate the Bible into their language.

39. **Pastor Vissa Kim in Jambyl, Kazakhstan**, was recently fined ten times the minimum monthly wage for supposedly jeopardizing a church member's health by praying for her! *Forum 18 News Service* says he has also been ordered to pay heavy court fees. Ask God to address this grave injustice.

40. **Pray for the emerging Uyghur church in Xinjiang Province, China**. In the 1930's, missionary efforts resulted in some finding the Lord, but intense

persecution soon destroyed all evidence of their existence. Ask for God's protection of the struggling fellowships that have been planted in recent years.

41. In April, an Uyghur believer in China already imprisoned for his faith was sentenced to 15 more years of incarceration. **Alimjan, his wife, and their two boys** have been assured that others around the globe are interceding for them. Please uphold them and their needs before the Lord.

Australia & New Zealand

42. Please ask for God's blessing on the efforts of **Ros and Noel Uebergang**, a precious Christian couple sharing the Gospel with Muslim Turks, Kurds, Afghans, Iranians, and others in Northwest Victoria, Australia. Their prayer news may be requested by email at rosnoel@bigpond.com.

43. Ask for God's presence in the life of **a lovely Turkish girl** who now attends church with teenage friends in a small town in Victoria.

44. *TWO* volunteers are now sending hundreds of **Gospel Letters to Turkish homes in Southeast Australia**. Pray that those who receive the letters will clearly understand the message of salvation and be drawn to the Saviour.

45. Ask the Lord to encourage and bless **Johnny Song**, a Korean brother in New Zealand who translates this prayer bulletin for email distribution in his native language. Pray that it will be well-received and widely used. Korean believers are noted for diligence in prayer.

Items of Note

The 2010 ITN North American Conference on Turkey will be held in Chicago, Illinois, October 28-30. For details, please contact the *International Turkey Network* by email at PatL@itnet.org or Telephone +1 480-464-3995.

The following Turkish believer is a professional translator of English to Turkish and is currently accepting additional projects. She has translated hundreds of books and materials, and we highly recommend her. Contact: Hande Taylan, *White Water Publishing*, PO Box 1301, Burlingame CA 94011, USA. Tel. +1 650-312-8279, Cell +1 650-861-1473.

The website given below offers free and commercial software to help English speakers learn a host of languages. Among these are Azerbaijani, Bashkir, Bulgarian, Turkish, Turkmen, Tuvan, and Uzbek. The free versions give lessons on basic terms and greetings. See www.byki.com/.