



Call to Prayer

November/December 2009 - 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. **Turkish Christian leaders** must cope with a great deal of negative social pressure. Pray that they will bear this well and lead their flocks with true love and wisdom.



Recent flooding in İstanbul, Turkey

2. **A sister in Christ in Ankara** asks for prayer as she does follow-up with female Bible Correspondence Course contacts. For most this is their first face-to-face encounter with a follower of Christ. Pray for this sister's discernment of true inquirers, and for her protection from radical Muslims.

3. **A pastor in Adana** reports that there is far more unity among believers in the city than an item in our last prayer bulletin indicated. He says a "house of prayer" was established in February and that most Christian leaders meet together for an hour of intercession every week. He says they have also had several 12-hour sessions of prayer this year. Thank the Lord for this good report. Ask for God's blessing on all in Adana who serve together for the cause of Christ.

4. **The St. Paul Cultural Center in Antalya** has served as a Christian focal point for tourists and locals since 1996. Visitors can enjoy a delicious Turkish lunch, meet

friends in the garden, pray in the chapel, or sign up for a Biblical tour. Interested persons can also join English conversation classes, learn Turkish, study God's Word with others, or take part in worship services in English, Turkish or Russian. There is also a library of 2,500 books. Many have come to know the Saviour through the center's programs and through the ministry of the three churches that meet within its walls. In a recent month at least ten persons were baptized in the Turkish fellowship. Thank the Lord for this fine outreach, and please pray for its continued blessing.

5. **Various media and journalists** have been sued by the prime minister and subjected to punitive damages. The *Doğan Media Group*, which has been highly critical of the *AK Party* government, was recently issued the largest fine in Turkish history (on the basis of tax evasion). Some believe all of this is a strategy to intimidate and subdue opposition and ensure domination by the *AK Party*. Pray that the controversy over media freedom will instead result in fairness and honesty in reporting and in positive coverage of Christians.

6. **A young man in Ankara named Nursi** is under threat from his father for leaving Islam and becoming a Christian. After Nursi's wife left him because of his conversion, his father tried to get his government boss to fire him. One Sunday, he even entered the Kurtuluş Church with a weapon, apparently intending to kill his son. Fortunately, Christian friends had taken Nursi elsewhere, so his father was unable to carry this out. The police then detained and questioned him, but he was soon released. Pray for Nuri's protection and for a dramatic change of heart in his father.

7. **Every Wednesday** local believers participate in street evangelism in various districts of İstanbul. Ask the Lord to protect and encourage them as they distribute Christian literature and share their love for Christ. Pray that persons they encounter will seriously consider the message they bring.

8. **New workers** are settling in and beginning language study. Ask God to provide them with supportive team members and local friends. Pray that many believers in

their home countries will faithfully uphold them before the Throne of Grace.

9. Kurdish issues have perplexed and wounded the nation for decades, and the *AK Party* government has recently launched a peace initiative in the hope of bringing a permanent resolution. This may include a partial amnesty for participants in the armed insurgency of recent years, restoring the original names of Kurdish villages, and allowing broader educational and cultural rights for Kurds. Nationalist parties on both the right and left have reacted to such proposals with anger and hostility. Ask the Lord to allow an outcome that will be in the best interest of the nation.

10. Pray that **the children of Turkish believers** will grow to know, love and serve the Lord. They tend to stand out; so please intercede for their protection from unfair treatment and bullying in their schools.

11. In early September, **flash floods triggered by torrential rains** took the lives of more than 30 persons in the provinces of İstanbul and Tekirdağ. İstanbul Governor Muammer Güler said at least 60 buildings collapsed and 4,500 flood victims were rescued. Pray that adequate steps will be taken to prevent future flooding and to insure that roads and homes are built in safe areas. The idea of carrying insurance is fairly new in Turkey, and it's doubtful that many of those affected held insurance policies. Ask for the Lord's help for all who've lost homes and businesses.

12. Christian television broadcasts of TURK-7 will soon come under the larger ministry of *SAT-7*. A major goal is for *TURK-7* to operate its own 24-hour satellite channel. Ask for God's blessing in this transition. The broadcasts are advertised in *TWO Gospel Letters* sent to Turkish homes. Pray that many families will tune in.

13. Most Turks are not avid readers, and many are semi-literate at best. Ask God to guide the efforts of believers preparing **an easy-to-read Bible in basic Turkish**. Pray that this will be a great blessing to many.

14. Buildings in İstanbul's traditionally Christian districts of Feriköy and Kurtuluş have been mysteriously marked with green and red in an apparent attempt to point out those inhabited by Armenians and Greeks. Local Christians there also report increasing harassment. In 1955, buildings and shops in the same districts were marked by nationalist activists. Following this, mobs reportedly burned down Orthodox churches, defaced Christian cemeteries, killed dozens of Christians, and looted and destroyed thousands of homes and shops. Pray that government leaders will take measures to insure that such shameful events do not take place again.

15. During a recent visit to France, **President Abdullah Gül** told reporters that Turkey may follow Norway's example and reject European Union membership. In view of French, German, and possibly Greek Cypriot opposition to Turkey's admittance, this is certainly understandable. However, the prospect of joining the EU has been an enormous incentive for human rights legislation in Turkey. Pray that the momentum for establishing and enforcing such laws will not be lost.

16. Ercan and his wife own a café in İstanbul. Some months ago he visited a local church as a contact of the *Turkish Bible Correspondence Course*. He and his wife committed their lives to Jesus and were recently baptized. He's quite an evangelist and enthusiastically hands out invitations to evangelistic events at the church. Ask the Lord to mightily use him in pointing others to the Saviour. One of his best friends has already come to Christ.



A Christian worker visits Turkish seamen in the port of Houston. Three are holding *TWO Gospel Letters*!

17. Thank the Lord for **improved relations between Turkey and Armenia**. On October 10th the two nations signed agreements establishing diplomatic ties and opening their borders. Pray that this will result in great blessing for both countries.

18. Some years ago, Solmaz entered Europe illegally looking for work. He sought help from an evangelical church when another undocumented immigrant suffered an appendicitis attack. The unconditional love shown by the congregation deeply touched him, and he began questioning Islam and studying God's Word. By the time he was deported back to Turkey he was a stubborn defender of the Bible. His fiancée **Hamidiye** had an equal ability to recognize truth and stood by him when their village accused him of being a Christian. After their marriage, local hostility increased and they were forced

to move to Ankara. Somaz then came in contact with believers there through a Bible Course site on the Internet. They were the first Christians in Turkey he and his wife had ever met, and they became instant friends. He and Hamidiye are now active members in a loving Turkish fellowship. Pray for their continued spiritual growth. Their finances are fragile and Somaz is seeking painting jobs, so please pray for this as well.

19. In mid-October, Turkey excluded Israel from a planned NATO military exercise over its territory. The United States and Italy were scheduled to take part, but withdrew upon learning Israel had been barred. In the past decade the Turkish Republic and Israel enjoyed close military and economic relations. However, as Islamists have made inroads in Turkish politics this has changed dramatically. Ask the Lord to restrain radical elements in the government and society.

20. This year's **Southeast Christian family camp** was held during Ramadan in a quiet stretch of high pines along the beautiful shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The believers pitched thirty or so family-sized tents and ate, swam, conversed, and listened to stories and testimonies sharing hope and comfort. A pastor from Western Turkey and another from the United States shared powerful words of wisdom that inspired and encouraged those in attendance. Thank the Lord for this blessing.

21. Turkey is seeking new allies in the Middle East and elsewhere, and Russian President Vladimir Putin has encouraged its leaders to leave *NATO* and join the *SCO*, a new military alliance led by Russia and China. At the same time, the nation is drawing closer to Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and other Muslim countries. Pray that such developments will not undermine the nation's political and economic stability.

North America

22. Funding for Gospel ministries among Turks and many other peoples is largely dependent on the well-being of the United States and other Western nations. Pray that the US and other countries of the West will continue to experience social and economic stability so long as this pleases God and is in line with His purposes.

23. Mehmet is a Turkish doctor in the US with a number of devout Christian patients. He's amazed to learn that some have been praying for him. One will be giving him a Turkish New Testament and Jesus Film DVD supplied by *TWO*. Pray that the message of God's love will bring him the joy of salvation.

24. More than 3,000 persons attended **a Turkish festival in Washington, DC,** in early October. Christians were

on hand to share the Gospel and distributed over 1,000 multi-language *Jesus Film* DVD's. Pray that these will be viewed by all who received them and will have a powerful impact on their lives.

25. Although only two to three percent of its citizens are Muslims, Islam is Canada's fastest-growing religion. Many of its adherents are Turks and Turkish-speaking Kurds, and *TWO* would like to reach them with Gospel Letters. Pray that friends in Canada will be able to supply our US office with current addresses for this purpose.

Western Europe

26. A family that has served in Turkey a number of years has recently moved to The Hague to witness among Turks in the Netherlands. Pray for a smooth transition and many fruitful contacts.

27. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in London has ruled that **Dutch politician Geert Wilders** was wrongfully barred from entry into the United Kingdom last February. He had been invited by Lord Pearson of Rannoch to present the British Parliament with a private screening of a film that places quotations from the Kor'an alongside footage of terrorist atrocities and volatile speeches by Muslim leaders. *The Birkenhead Society*, an organization that upholds freedom of speech, brought the case on Mr. Wilders' behalf. Following a politically-correct mantra that placates Islam, the former Home Secretary had accused him of "threatening public security." Thank the Lord that wiser counsel has prevailed and that the right to expose unsavory teachings and practices of Islamists has been upheld.

28. Forty years ago, the United Kingdom had only a few thousand Muslims. Now there are at least two million! Mosques have increased from a few dozen to more than two thousand, and London has more than any other Western city. Fortunately, many believers in the UK are trying to reach Turks and other Muslims with the message of God's love. Ask for His blessing on their efforts.

Northern Cyprus

29. Cyprus is the Mediterranean's third-largest island and lies off the southern coast of Turkey. After its conquest by the Ottoman Turks in 1571, a large Turkish colony was established alongside its Greek-speaking population. Following its occupation by Britain at the outbreak of World War I, it was declared a Crown colony. In 1960 it became an independent nation. Following a military coup on the island in 1974, Turkey asserted a right to protect the Turkish minority and invaded by sea and air. Many lives were lost and some 180,000 Greek Cypriots were uprooted as Turkey

took control of the northern 40 percent of the island. Turkish Cypriots proclaimed this area an independent republic in 1983, but the *UN Security Council* ruled that this action was illegal. **At present, 98.7 percent of Turkish Cypriots live in the northern region and 99.5 percent of Greek Cypriots live in the south.** Leaders on both sides have sought to reunite the nation, but have found the task incredibly difficult. Ask God to ordain what the appropriate outcome will be.

Eastern Europe & Central Asia

30. A worker who recently taught at a conference for underground church leaders and converts in Central Asia writes: “The highlight of the time was the baptism of a dear brother who has already spent six months in prison for his faith. As he testified to his commitment to follow Jesus and came to the makeshift *baptistry* (a large washing tub on wheels), *our* eyes were filled with tears of joy *and the realization* that such a strong profession of faith could very well send him to prison again. As we sang, ‘I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back’ and ‘the cross before me, the world behind me’ our group was *deeply moved*... It was perhaps the most powerful baptism I have ever experienced.” Ask for God’s protection and provision for this new believer and others who’ve been beaten, imprisoned, dismissed from jobs, and even disowned by their families due to their faith in Christ.

31. In October, six men were sentenced to death and a seventh to life in prison for their roles in **ethnic rioting in Urumqi, the regional capital of China’s Xinjiang province.** Their names indicate all were Uyghur Turks. According to the Xinhua news agency, at least 197 people were killed and 1,600 injured in the outbreak of violence in early July. Most of the victims were said to be Han Chinese civilians. Xinjiang is the ancient homeland of the Uyghurs, but Han Chinese settlers are beginning to outnumber them and reportedly receive favored treatment from the government. Pray that injustices will be corrected and that the area will have long-term political and social stability.

32. The nine million Uyghur Turks of Northwest China and neighboring Kazakhstan are believed to be descendants of the Keirat tribe, which was Christian in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Most now follow Islam. Pray that the Gospel will once again find a place in the hearts of this people.

33. Bulgaria has the highest percentage of Muslims of any country in the European Union. Among them are 750,000 Turks and Turkish-speaking gypsies. There are 50 known believers who are Turks, but no churches. At least 10,000 Turkish-speaking gypsies (also known as Roma) came to faith in Christ in the decade of the

1990’s and started numerous churches. Unfortunately, many of the converts have fallen away. Six foreign workers minister in the Turkish language and there is freedom for evangelism. Christian literature and DVD’s are eagerly accepted. Ask the Lord to bless the workers serving among them. Pray that He will call more evangelists and pastors to this needy field.

34. 50,000 Turks live in Kosovo, 33,000 in Romania, 50,000 in Greece, and 97,500 in Macedonia. Pray that evangelists and church planters will reach all of their communities.

35. Authorities in East Kazakhstan’s Beskaragai District have closed **a Christian rehabilitation center in the village of Steklyanka** that was ministering to alcoholics and drug addicts. **Sergei Mironov**, the Protestant founder, was also fined 200 times the monthly minimum wage. Upon being told the center was closed because residents had been praying together, one sympathetic official reportedly said, “Let them pray!”

Australia & New Zealand

36. A Turkish believer in Australia is compiling the addresses of Turks in her region for the posting of Gospel Letters by *TWO* volunteers. Pray that many will ponder the message they receive and turn to Christ.

37. For many years **John and Jackie Bell** have shared the love of God with Turks and other Muslims in Melbourne, Australia. Due to declining health, they plan to retire within a few months. Ask God to raise up others to assume the work and ministry center they’ve established. Interested persons may contact them by email at jackiebell_3@hotmail.com.

Items of Note

In his book, **The Islamic Antichrist**, Joel Richardson exposes Western readers to Muslim prophetic views about end-time events. Few Christians are aware of these teachings, and most will learn more about Islam from this small volume than from any standard source. The author convincingly compares the Biblical Antichrist with Islam’s long-expected world ruler known as the *Mahdi*. Most readers will also be amazed at similarities between the false prophet of Revelation and the false *Jesus* Muslims expect to appear. Whether or not one agrees with the author’s conclusions, this is a book well worth reading. At present, it is only available in English. It may be ordered from your bookseller or at: <http://astore.amazon.com/joestru-20/detail/1935071122>

Sharing the Gospel With Muslims is a 60-page booklet we will gladly send to Christian friends upon request. However, please be sure to give us your postal address.