



# Call to Prayer

September/October 2009 - 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. In early May, nearly 125 women gathered for Southeast Turkey's seventh annual Christian Women's Conference. The thirteen cities represented were Adana, Adiyaman, Antakya, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Malatya, Mardin, Mersin, Osmaniye, Şanlıurfa, Şirnak, Tarsus, and Van. A worship team led the group into God's presence in a powerful way, and an excellent children's program was provided. A trained counselor with *TWO* shared about forgiveness and 'modern day acts of God' and provided marriage counseling on request. There were workshops on 'Raising Children' and 'Living Face to Face with God.' Uplifting testimonies and times of prayer were also included. Thank the Lord for the fellowship and encouragement the conference provided for Christian women throughout the region. Pray that increasing numbers will participate in the years ahead.

2. New legislation passed by the ruling AK Party authorizes civilian courts to try military personnel linked to organized crime or threats to national security. It also bars military courts from prosecuting civilians in peacetime. Leaders of the nation's armed forces view themselves as the guardians of Turkey's secular constitution, and opponents say the legislation severely undermines this role. However, President Abdullah Gül maintains the new law is necessary for Turkey's acceptance into the European Union. Please intercede for God's oversight in all these matters.

3. Dozens of people, including several retired generals, are on trial for participating in an ultra-nationalist network prosecutors say was killing opponents and plotting to overthrow the government. Pray that the guilty will be dealt with appropriately and that innocent persons will be acquitted.

4. Dr. Binnaz Toprak, chair of the Political Science departments of two Turkish universities, says government-sponsored Islamization is creating an environment of discrimination against secular Turks,

especially women. She and her team interviewed 401 persons in 12 cities and found abuse by government bureaucrats in all. For example, normally attired female doctors and nurses across the country are assigned night shifts, while those in Islamic coverings get day shifts. She says officials would have previously feared disciplinary action for this, but discrimination is now practiced openly. Pray this injustice will be corrected.



Turkish President Abdullah Gul (center) and his wife (with scarf) pose with Uyghur folk dancers during a June visit to Xinjiang province of China, the homeland of Uyghur Turks.

5. During Easter celebrations, the Altntepe Church of Istanbul was visited by the mayor of its district. In fact, the municipality's website even published the event. However, this generated strong criticism from conservative Muslims. One publication wrote: "The Mayor of Maltepe has assisted the Protestant church of his district in celebrating Easter, but ignores going to the mosque on the day we celebrate the holy birth of Mohammed." Pray that the mayor and other local officials will refuse to bow to religious bigotry and will have open hearts to the message of Christ.

6. The youth of the above congregation have set up a table of free books in front of the church, distribute invitations to services, and are making visits to interested persons. Thank the Lord for their zeal. Please anoint their efforts with your prayers.

7. **Tarikats** are Muslim religious orders similar to those in Roman Catholic tradition. The most influential in Turkey is **the Fethullah Gülen Tarikat**. In return for its support of the ruling *AK Party*, its members have received government contracts and key positions in the nation's police departments, Education Ministry, and domestic intelligence. This movement owns universities, banks, television networks, and newspapers around the globe, and it even has lobbyists in Washington and Brussels. It also operates schools in Turkey and other nations that are attended by more than two million students. Fethullah Gülen has told his followers to move unnoticed in the arteries of government until all centers of power are in reach. This Muslim order captivates many national and international leaders. Ask God to counter its ominous influence.

8. Ask for **God's provision** for the many workers and local believers who have been adversely affected by the international financial crisis. Since prayer is a necessary ingredient to their success, please intercede for adequate prayer backing as well as for their monetary needs.

9. **A TWO worker recently visited the coastal home of one of the ladies who attended the women's conference in Southeast Turkey**. She writes, "Here was a family full of believers, all of whom had come to faith in the past year. I sat listening to their stories amazed. All the ladies had been covered, and two of them even gave Koran courses." When they visited the local Christian fellowship, the family was astounded at the peace and joy they felt there-- and this kept them coming back, and ultimately to the Saviour. They told of a Christian broadcast on which a man explained many things about the Koran; and they said they listened to all his programs with great interest. Our worker says, "They were tremendously excited to learn that I'm his wife." Thank the Lord for the salvation of this family. Pray that many more devout Muslims will discover the way of truth.

10. On July 20th, **German businessman Gregor Kerkeling** was stabbed to death by **İbrahim Akvol**, 26, as he exited Saint Anthony Catholic Church in the Taksim district of İstanbul. Akvol, a Muslim, reportedly told police he had been visiting area churches in search of a Christian victim. Kerkeling, in his early forties, was not acquainted with his attacker. His fiancée, **Hatice Işık**, says he was very religious and prayed at the church every morning. He was on his way to meet her at an area café when he was killed. With a history of mental illness, his assailant was apparently influenced by false statements commonly made against Christians in the Turkish media. Pray for the surviving victims of this tragic event, including the murderer himself. Pray that officials will routinely prosecute broadcasters and journalists guilty of defamation.

11. A seasoned worker says the "strong leader" mentality of Turkish culture is crushing some churches. Pray that **pastors and elders** in Turkish congregations will seek to be truly humble servants of God's people.

12. At a three-day prayer meeting in Antalya a few months ago, believers from different areas decided to organize **intercession for the country 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week**. As a result, believers in every region are now taking weekly responsibility for 24-hour sessions of prayer. This means Turkey is continuously represented before God's Throne every day of the week! Give thanks for this wonderful advance for Christ.

13. **A Christian worker in Adana** says our recent accounts of church unity in Turkey are overstated. As an example, he writes: "The churches in Adana do not coordinate well at all. The leaders have not met for prayer together for over three years." He says similar situations exist in a number of other cities. Please intercede for godly, Christ-centered unity.



A Crimean Turkish wedding

14. In what appears to be a veiled reference to Turkey, **NATO Secretary Willy Claes** says, "Islamic militancy has emerged as perhaps the single gravest threat to the NATO alliance and to Western security." Noting this, some have urged Washington to "float the notion of removing Turkey from NATO." This, if added to a rejection by the European Union, would almost certainly motivate Turkey to join **the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, a growing military alliance led by Russia and China. Intercede for God's will in these matters.

15. In a recent national survey, **34 percent of married Turkish women** said they are victims of domestic violence. In the Kor'an, men are exhorted to beat their wives to keep them in line. Pray that this cruel practice will be replaced by enlightened respect for women.

16. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> on a busy İstanbul street, **Yasin Karasu**, 24, grabbed a Christian Turk from behind and held a knife to his throat. The believer had witnessed to him over the previous year. “Do you see this missionary dog?” he yelled to a gathering crowd. “He’s handing out gospels and tearing the country apart.” Karasu said he was going to make his captive an example in the eyes of the nation by slaying him in public. However, police convinced him to put down the knife, saying Turkey would be scorned around the world if he killed the Christian. **Murat Aydın**, 35, escaped with only a slight cut on his throat. He was certain he was about to die, and he believes the Lord intervened. Pray that his assailant will come to Christ and that Murat will continue to be a confident and faithful witness for Christ.

17. In early August, **Prime Minister Erdoğan** and **Russian Prime Minister Putin** signed a series of agreements on **major energy projects**. One is for the construction of the *South Stream* natural gas pipeline from Russia to Bulgaria through Turkish waters in the Black Sea. This will give Moscow an additional route for its gas exports to Europe, which already meet about 30 percent of the EU’s needs. Turkey is now a regional energy hub and in July concluded a rival deal with Europe for a gas pipeline from Central Asia that bypasses Russia. Pray that these agreements will not put Turkey at the center of international disputes.

18. Ask for the Lord’s provision and blessing for **a church plant on an Aegean coast west of İzmir**. A worker writes, “We are still trying to find a location for services. I found a very good place at a good price, but when the owner learned we want to use the building for a church, he didn’t want to rent it to us.”

19. When foreign Christians began sharing the Gospel in modern Turkey in the 1960’s, there were only three **known converts from Islam**. At the end of the century there were over a thousand. By 2006, there were more than three thousand. Current estimates place the number at 4,500. Thank the Lord for this growing number of converts. Pray that all will have the opportunity to be well-grounded in the teachings of Christ.

20. Turkish believers tell us they’ve encountered **many Muslims who seem convinced of the truth of the Gospel** but are not yet willing to openly commit their lives to Christ. Pray for the removal of unnecessary hindrances, and for the Holy Spirit’s conviction of sin, righteous and judgment.

21. **The Yalova Lighthouse Church** is composed of six foreign believers and at least twenty baptized Turks who are converts from Islam. In addition to meeting on Sundays, members fellowship in one another’s homes during the week. There’s an ongoing work among the

children, a Christian scout group, and a youth group. To serve the wider church in Turkey and the Middle East, the believers also run **a conference and retreat center** in a nearby village. Please uphold them before the Lord.

22. **Mehmet Ali Ağca**, the gunman who shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in 1981, says he plans to leave Turkey and convert to Christianity after his release from prison next January. Ağca served 19 years in an Italian prison for the attack and is presently serving a prison term in Turkey for the previous murder of a Turkish journalist. Pray that he will enter into a true relationship with Jesus Christ.

23. A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* says **once close Turkish-Israeli ties have floundered** as Turkey’s current leadership opposes Israeli policies, uses hostile language against the Jewish state, invites its enemies to Ankara, and transfers Iranian arms to Hezbollah. Ask for God’s intervention on behalf of both nations.

24. We’re pleased that *TWO* Gospel Letters now include web links to the **Bible Correspondence Course of Turkey**. A student from Ankara writes: “I’ve seen over and over the results of what Islam serves and its dark aims. I’ve witnessed the most religious Muslims being the most evil and selfish of people. Now at last a light is burning in my mind. I’ve finally learned to use my head and think about these important issues.” The course he is taking is entitled, *Who Can Save You?* Pray that he and many other course students will grow in the knowledge of Christ and choose to become His faithful followers.

## **North America**

25. **A US friend who often travels to Turkey writes:** “Last year on the plane from the US, I noticed a group of about 20 young people flying with a conservative Turkish couple. I sat near a 14-year-old girl of Hispanic background. She said the group was from her science academy in Dallas, which is for gifted children. They were learning Turkish and Turkish customs, and the top students were on a field trip to Denizli. I asked, ‘Are they teaching you to become Muslims?’ She said, ‘We’re learning about all religions and cultures, because we want to be world citizens.’ I sensed something very fishy.” The girl’s publicly funded charter school is one of at least 90 in the US operated by the Fethullah Gülen movement.” Please pray for children under the influence of this ultra-conservative Muslim sect.

26. **Dalia Mogahed** is the first Muslim woman to receive a presidential appointment to the *White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships*. In a recent interview in Qatar, she reportedly told Turkish journalists that the social

movement of **Fethullah Gülen** “is highly admirable and impressive.” When reminded that some believe Gülen has a hidden agenda, she said she doesn’t attach any importance to such allegations. Before he fled to the US to avoid prosecution, a previous administration in Turkey said Mr. Gülen sponsored terrorist training camps and called for the overthrow of the secular government. Pray that US officials will seriously investigate such claims and share their findings with President Obama and his advisors.

**27. A Christian worker in Florida, writes:** “We are beginning a Bible study with a group of Turkish men. Please pray.”

## **Western Europe**

**28. In late May, Islamists marching in Luton, England, were confronted by a group of Muslims shouting, “We don’t want you here!”** A leader of their opponents said such protesters give Muslims a bad name and are fueling hatred. “The community decided to move them on because the police won’t,” he said. “The law-abiding community is sick and tired of them.” Rejoice in this development, and please pray that officials and peace loving Muslims throughout Europe will staunchly resist Islamic radicals.

**29. Some 2.3 million ethnic Turks live in Germany,** and about 350,000 are of retirement age. Approximately 120,000 citizens of Turkey live in Berlin, along with 60,000 Turks who have become German citizens.

**30. A Turkish church in Cologne, Germany,** offers free German classes to Turkish speakers. Participants read a children’s Bible story in German and then translate it into Turkish. At the close of each lesson, a Bible verse is read in German or Turkish, and this sometimes leads to a discussion. Ask the Lord to bless this outreach and use it to draw many to salvation.

## **Eastern Europe & Central Asia**

**31. A young woman who spent three years in prison in Iran because of her faith in Christ** recently went to Azerbaijan to visit her husband’s family. Officials made her pay \$500 to bring in five Bibles a Christian worker in the US had sent with her! While there, she spent each night around a fire with the villagers, teaching from the book *Experiencing God*. Over the two weeks of her visit, she led 25 souls to Christ. They are now meeting underground. She will be returning to encourage them sometime in the next year. Thank the Lord for this young woman’s boldness. Please ask God to bless and encourage the new converts.

**32.** According to a report from *Operation Mobilization*,

**Kazakhstan has at least 80,000 orphans!** Please pray for the children behind this statistic. Ask God to raise up Christians willing to minister to their needs.

**33.** Due to recent wars, **Azerbaijan has the highest number of internally displaced persons in the world.** Some 200,000 are children. Hedged in by poverty and dependency, they are growing up in a climate of despair. Ask for the Lord’s intervention on their behalf.

**34. The 1.2 million Afshari Turks** occupy a wide area from the Caucasus Mountains to the Iranian plateau. We know of no Christian work among them. Pray that God will reveal Himself to them through dreams and visions, and such means as Christian television broadcasts by satellite.

**35. 820,000 Khorasani Turks live in Eastern Iran.** Most are farmers and skilled craftsmen. Unfortunately, there are no known believers among them. Ask the Lord to raise up qualified linguists to translate the Bible into their language. Pray that visiting Christian businessmen will find open doors for sharing Christ.

**36.** In early July, at least 197 people died and more than 1,100 were injured as **Uyghur Turks in China’s Xinjiang Province** clashed with Han Chinese in the worst ethnic unrest in decades. The violence erupted in the provincial capital of Urumqi when crowds gathered to demand justice for two Uyghurs killed in a fight with co-workers at a factory in Southern China. A worker with *Open Doors* says Uyghurs who have become Christians are caught in the middle. A number have been arrested as separatists and could face the death penalty. Please intercede for God’s protection.

## **Items of Note**

**Operation Mobilization** is seeking dedicated Christians to serve as community health workers, therapists, sports coaches, children’s workers, and teachers in Western and Central Asia. Find out more at: [www.silkroad.om.org](http://www.silkroad.om.org)

**Are you searching for a book to share with Muslim friends?** If so, we recommend *God Almighty! His Word for Christians, Jews and Moslems*. This was written by a Christian worker with many years of ministry among Muslims. To order copies in English, please contact: [truthinlove22@msn.com](mailto:truthinlove22@msn.com)

**The above book is also available in Turkish,** and *TWO* will gladly provide copies for free distribution in that language. (We do not supply the English version.) There is no charge for these, but we do ask that our postage costs be covered. They are available in small numbers, or in boxes of 42.