

Turkey

The Republic of Turkey is a country spanning across Europe and Asia, with a land area of about 800,000 square kilometers, of which 97% is in Asia and 3% is in Europe. Its capital is Ankara, and the largest city is Istanbul. The official language is Turkish. At present, its population is close to 80 million, with more than 99 percent professing to be Muslims. The government neither prohibits nor supports Christianity.

During the apostolic era, Turkey played a very important role in the Lord's move on earth. Before the second coming of the Lord, Turkey will once again play a crucial role. This land may be considered the cradle of Christianity. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26), which is today's Antalya in Turkey. The journey of the apostle Paul to the Gentile world started from Antioch, and the church in Antioch was held as a model for the establishment of the local churches in various places. Among the many churches established by Paul's ministry, the church in Ephesus in Asia (in today's southwestern Turkey) may be considered the epitome. It was to the church in Ephesus that Paul spoke the high vision of God's divine economy and the blueprint for the building of the organic Body of Christ. Similarly, the church in Colossae in the same region in Asia was where the example of the equal status of the believers in the new man was seen (cf. the Epistle to Philemon).

Thus, we see that the testimony of the Body of Christ and the new man was once present in this land for several decades. However, in Paul's latter years, the majority of the saints in Asia turned away from him and his ministry (2 Timothy 1:15), and the churches began to degrade. When the apostle John saw visions on the island of Patmos, Christ was walking among the seven churches in Asia and calling for the overcomers to recover His testimony. However, the enemy took a further step to damage the Lord's interest in this region. In the first three centuries, the Roman Empire was used to persecute the believers. In the fourth century, there was a turn and Christianity was made the state

religion, thereby causing the church to change in nature to become Christendom. Finally, in the middle of the fifteenth century, a powerful Islamic empire arose and occupied this place, forcing most Christians within its territory to convert from their faith. Over a period of 500 years, this land has become a desert for Christians with only 0.2% of the population embraces the Christian faith.

Nevertheless, in Revelation 1:8 the Lord said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, ...He who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty." During the time of the apostles, the Lord began His work in this land, and He will surely complete this work before His return according to His wisdom and sovereign authority. Thirteen years ago, the Lord brought a sister who had just entered into the church life in Armenia to this country. Because of the difficult living conditions, she desperately longed for the church life here and prayed to the Lord for this matter. Three years later, the Lord answered her prayer and brought a family to this country.

Through the nourishing and perfecting of the ministry, and through the fellowship of the Body of Christ, a small golden lampstand reappeared on this land in February 2010 in Istanbul. The teaching of the New Testament ministry also began to spread anew through the publication of the books in the local language.

Recent Propagations

The gospel propagation is accomplished mainly through the saints' individual contact with people and through internet promotion. The distribution of Rhema books began in November 2014. In January 2018, we revised our approach of Facebook advertising so that when a reader clicks on the Rhema link on their Facebook page, he is directed automatically to the book order page. Since then, we have been receiving five to six orders of printed books every day. Including e-book downloads, the

number of subscribers in February was close to three hundred. May the Lord continue to strengthen the spread of His word that through this conduit we may reach those who seek Him and His word with a pure heart.

In June of 2017, a Facebook Page for gospel promotion—Tanrı'NIN TASARISI—was created. It contains gospel videos and messages in Turkish to promote the gospel to Turkish Facebook users. About a thousand people like it every month. At



present, we have more than 6,000 likes with quite a number of discussions initiated online. Some people contacted us to discuss issues of faith. May the Lord raise up more seekers and lead them to our webpage for further contact.

On December 24 of last year, a Turk was baptized into the name of the Lord in the church in Frankfurt, Germany. This brother is a psychiatrist. Four months prior to his trip to Germany in December to visit a friend, he started seeking the Lord. While in Germany, he implored his friend to introduce him to Christians who could baptize him. However, most Christian groups were busy preparing various Christmas activities and therefore unwilling to baptize him. Finally, on the day before his return to Turkey, his friend contacted a couple in the church in Frankfurt. With their help, this Turkish brother was baptized and received into the Body of Christ at noon on the day of his return to Turkey. Please pray that the Lord would continue to work on this brother to make him a blessing to the church and the Body of Christ.

Annual Blending

On December 31, 2017 and New Year's Day of 2018, fifteen saints and gospel friends gathered together for a blending meeting to enter into the prophecies concerning the Lord's return and the truth concerning rapture and the Lord's judgment of the

saints. Various signs, the world situation and the Lord's own word all indicate that the Lord's coming is near. We need to be watchful and prepared, as well as faithful and prudent in waiting for the Lord's return. Two brothers from a Muslim country who temporarily resided in another city treasured this opportunity so much and hurdled many obstacles to join the blending meeting. As the saints were gathered together, we truly tasted joy unspeakable! May the Lord strengthen all of us that in this year we would be more watchful in spirit and would encourage one another to redeem the time, enjoy God's word, prepare an extra portion of oil in our vessels, and await the coming of the Lord.

Prayer Items

1. Pray for the gaining of more local people, especially young people, to be fitting vessels for the Lord's use. Also pray for the work of the Spirit among the Chinese and Filipinos in Turkey.
2. Pray for the following twelve cities that the Lord would open the door of the gospel and raise up His testimony to recover the lampstands: Ankara, Izmir, Antalya, Adana, Bursa, Konya, Antakya, Kayseri, Gaziantep, Trabzon, Sanliurfa, and Diyarbakir.

Update on the Churches in Myanmar

At present, the translation of the Recovery Version Bible into Burmese has entered the revision stage and we expect to begin printing the Bible in June this year. We hope to print at least 10,000 copies. If we can complete the printing this year, we will look to the Lord to invite the overseas saints here for a Thanksgiving Conference with Bible distribution afterwards in fifteen major cities in the fifteen regions of the country. Please pray for the revision and printing to be completed according to schedule.

The 25th term of the Full-Time Training in Yangon began on January 15 with a total of 80 trainees. Please pray for the trainees' growth in life.

On March 1-3, a Bible training was held in Phae Khong, Ka Yah. On the next day the saints broke bread and declared the establishment of the church in Phae Khong. Please pray for this newly established church and pray that the Lord will continue to work in Myanmar for the establishing of more shining golden lampstands in every place.

