

## United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) consists of 7 emirates / states with a total population of 9.54 million, of which 19% are locals and 81% are foreigners from 180 countries. The Christian population is 1.2 million, roughly 12.6% of the total population. Open preaching of any faith other than Islam is prohibited. Major denominations and Christian groups are allowed to gather for worship in government-designated areas. There are 374 saints in the churches in the UAE, with 258 meeting regularly during the week. Saints meet in 7 cities for the Lord's Table and various meetings in each locality.

In the past three decades, the economic opportunities in this region have attracted many migrant workers from all over the world. Many saints migrated here for job opportunities, flocking together in different cities as the testimony of the Lord. In recent years, due to the localization campaign across the emirates, many saints lost their jobs and either relocated or returned to their home countries. Despite of this, the seven churches in the UAE are going on strongly. The Lord prevails in every situation to preserve and strengthen the work that is truly His. Some brothers seek after the Lord even more with daily early morning online prayers. Some saints and families are recovered back to the church life. Some new families are gained by the Lord; some saints grow with the word of life through the perfecting work and function in the church life. Some localities with fewer saints are shepherded by the saints from other churches and continue to grow stronger in the Lord.

Moreover, this situation has facilitated the spread of the church life. Four years ago, there was only one sister in one of the northern emirates. In the human thought to raise up the Lord's testimony in this far flung emirate was simply impossible. A year later, another sister was added. The work was still too difficult. The churches in the UAE did give this matter to the Lord with much prayer. One day, a family took the burden to migrate and got a job there. In that same year, many saints in the big cities lost their jobs and found their next opportunities in that northern emirate. Finally, in December 2017, a local church in this northern emirate was raised up with 14 saints. Praise the Lord for His divine arrangement. It was done! Now, there are 24 saints meeting on a regular basis, with about 15-18 saints on average in attendance. The saints continue to pray for the two emirates without the Lord's testimony: Ras Al Khaimah and Umm Al Quwain. May the Lord strengthen the saints in these two emirates and raise up His testimonies soon.

A combined Lord's Table meeting is regularly held every quarter for all the churches in the UAE. The first quarterly combined Lord's Table of this year was on March 29. A total of 207 saints from the seven churches and some other cities attended. Some local brothers coordinated together to share messages from the last LMA conference. The spirit of the saints was high and they were blended together with joy and in oneness in the Lord's speaking. The churches in the UAE will hold the annual International Blending Conference this year on November 29-30.



## Testimony of Migration Propagation in Turkey

The first time I heard about the burden for propagating the gospel was in the 1987 FTTT graduation conference. A slogan said, “Gospelize Taipei, gospelize Taiwan, gospelize the whole earth.” Being a freshman in college at that time, the only thing that I could do was consecrate my future to the Lord and practice the God-ordained way on my campus.

In May of 1991, I went to the U.S. for the first time for the Memorial Day conference. At the conference, Brother Lee shared messages on the topic of “The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move.” His main burden was to spread the truths of the Lord's recovery throughout the whole world, especially to Russia and Eastern Europe. The banners of the conference were: (1) The people who know their God will show strength and take action—Dan. 11:32. (2) The truths in the Lord's recovery need to be spread to the whole earth—cf. Matt. 24:14. (3) Go and teach all the nations—cf. 28:19. (4) How beautiful are the feet of those who go and teach—cf. Rom. 10:15. I was touched and wanted to join the move. However, at that time, there was a turmoil that occurred within the church of my locality. As a result, I was not able to join this move. Fourteen years later, in fall of 2005, a special meeting took place in the church dedicated for consecration and the laying of hands. At this meeting, my wife and I renewed our consecration to the Lord to follow the Lamb wherever He may go.

In September of 2006, I joined a young-working-saints conference in Taipei with a group of brothers and sisters from Hong Kong. On the topic of “God's Move Today,” the brothers shared the burden concerning the spreading of the gospel of the kingdom especially to Asian countries that did not have a lampstand. A list of these Asian countries was given to us and we were asked to pick one of them to pray for. I sorted and ordered from this list of more than fifty countries by their population and visa requirements. At the end, my wife and I chose to pray for Turkey. We knew nothing about Turkey at that time, so we felt it was good enough to just keep this country in our prayers. However, before I went to sleep that night, the Lord showed me that the seven churches in Revelation were all located in Asia

Minor, the southwest of Turkey today. I then asked myself, “Will there be golden lampstands and overcomers in this country before the Lord's return?” There must be! So I prayed this prayer to the Lord: “Lord, if there is no lampstand in this country when You return, You cannot be glorified. Please send someone there. If you cannot find one, I am ready.”

After I returned to Hong Kong, I met a Turkish man via internet. Later, I found out that his wife was my student from when I was teaching at a middle school. From this Turkish friend, I learned more about Turkey. After this, a brother suggested to me that this might have been the leading of the Lord. In December of 2006, my wife and I, with another couple from Hong Kong, joined a tour to Turkey to spy out the land. Throughout the entire trip, we had peace and no negative feelings. After our visit, my wife and I, together with a brother, established a regular weekly prayer time focused on our move to Turkey. In our preparation, we experienced many instances when the Lord's hand opened the way for us. The brothers whom I was serving with also understood our burden for this move, and on September 17, 2007, our family of four moved to Istanbul to cooperate with the Lord's move.

In Paul's second journey, he tried to go into Bithynia (the Asian side of today's Istanbul and the areas around it), yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow this to happen (Acts 16:7). Hallelujah! The same spirit is now bringing us to Bithynia for the continuation of His New Testament Ministry. At the end of Paul's ministry, the churches entered into degradation and left the teaching of God's economy (1 Tim 1:3). “All who are in Asia” turned away from Paul and his ministry. However, the Lord never gave up possessing this land even after two thousand years. His Spirit, through the cooperation of the saints, is moving now again on this land for the accomplishment of His economy. In the recent years, the ministry of the age has begun to be translated into the local language and distributed throughout the country. The testimony of the golden lampstand is also now shining again on this land. May the Lord gain more channels of life and may His life flow to more and more places so that His testimony could spread continually before His return. Amen. (Timothy)

