

Our work in Turkey

God led us to plant a Church in Canakkale City in 2013. It is a growing fellowship of Turkish and other people, including refugees from the Middle East. We provide leadership and counsel, and the financial resources needed for supporting its local leaders, ministries to refugees, and providing a meeting place. Will you partner with the Church in Canakkale?!

New believers in Turkey are first generation believers! They don't have a Christian heritage or positive points of reference to Christianity. Mostly, Turks relate Christianity to the dreadful Crusade battles. They see the Godless lifestyles and values of modern Western nations ('Christian' nations, to them) and don't want to be like them. **The emerging Church in Turkey is a first generation Church!**

Young Christians and Church leaders in Turkey are calling out for us to come and be with them; to pray, spend time with and encourage them; to help train them in God's Word so that they can be more effective; to help them reach the unreached.

**BE INVOLVED!
CONTACT US!**

Our call to Turkey (continued)

.. Then, in 2005 God captured our attention in an unmistakable way. Just before our first visit that year together with other Church leaders from Australia and Bulgaria, Steve dreamed he was looking into a street. At its centre was a line of palm trees lit up with green lights. He saw himself speaking, there on the roadside, to a Muslim man.



Arriving at a ferry terminal, they crossed the Dardanelles Strait to the city of Canakkale. There, at the centre of the street in front of them, were the same lit up palms Steve had dreamed. It was clearly obvious that God was speaking to us!

Since 2005, we have visited Turkey regularly and are involved in a variety of ways from a distance.

God has called us reach out to Turkey! We believe He will call many others too! Will you be one? Will you pray? Will you go and love the people of Turkey?



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TURKEY VISION

An introduction to our work in Turkey

By Helen Blake

POPULATION: 79 million

UNREACHED: 99.5%

An unreached nation

TURKEY is a truly fascinating land, both historically and in our day! It is the setting of famous legends (Troy and King Midas), Alexander the Great's travels, the Crusades of the Middle Ages and the fabulously rich Sultans of the Ottoman Empire. It is where the early Church once thrived, where Paul and other apostles journeyed and preached, and the location of the seven churches in John's Book of Revelation.

Tragically, by the early 1900's, after centuries as the Ottoman Empire's Centre, Turkey had become almost 100% Muslim.

Today, this land so rich in Bible history seems to be an impenetrable fortress! But Jesus, Master of the harvest, has told us **the fields are ready!** He said, "Ask Me to send laborers out into the fields". He said, "Just as my Father sent me, now you must GO".

JESUS' WORDS OF LIFE ARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY: "I AM the only way to the Father! You can come to Him through Me". (John 14:6).



I will go ahead of you clearing the way; I will break down the bronze gates and barred entrances, and I will give you the hidden treasures.

Isaiah 45:2&3

Our call to Turkey

We first became aware of God's love for Turks during visits to East Europe early in the 1990's, just after Soviet Communism's fall. Pastors we worked with in the south of Bulgaria were reaching out to Turkish gypsy villages near the border. While Steve preached and prayed for the sick, we sensed that God was speaking to us about ministering to multitudes of

Muslim peoples into the future. In those days, we had no knowledge about Islam's doctrines, cultures, history or influence. As we educated ourselves, we began to realize here was a large, mostly neglected harvest field of about 1.6 billion people needing to be reached with the good news of Who Jesus is!

The year 1999 was when God wrote His calling deep into our hearts. 800 war-wearied men, women and children from Kosovo - all Muslims - came for safe haven to a town very near our home. Many of them became our good friends as we loved them, took care of them and learned about their lives, ways and beliefs.

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A land rich in history

Turkey's people originate from as far east as Siberia, Mongolia and west China and as near as modern Iran (Persia), the Mediterranean and southeastern Europe.

Located strategically where East and West trade routes meet, it is known sometimes as Anatolia (Greek), or Asia Minor, or West Asia, or the Anatolian Peninsula, or the western-most protrusion of Asia.

Istanbul (once Byzantium, then Constantinople), is Turkey's largest city. Divided into its west and east by the Bosphorus, it served as the capital city of the Romans (330–395), the Byzantines (395–1204 and 1261–1453), the Latins (1204–1261), and the Ottomans (1453–1922). Tourists flock to its ancient fortresses and towers, and to the famous Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, and Grand Bazaar.

The Hittites, Phrygians, Persians, Greeks, Assyrians, Romans, Scythians, Kurds, Georgians, Sephardi Jews, Armenians, Crimean Tatars, Zazas, Roma people, Azerbaijanis, Seljuk Turks and many other people groups have inhabited the land of Turkey. The ruins of legendary cities like Troy on the west coast, Hattusa in the centre and Ani in the east continue to fascinate visitors from around the world.



Land of the Bible



The main streets of the ruins of the city of Ephesus are still paved with ancient marble.

The Apostle Paul was born in Tarsus in the south east. He walked the streets of Pergamum (near modern Bergama), Ephesus and Smyrna (near modern Izmir) and Troy (near modern Canakkale) on Turkey's west coast. The ancient ruins sites are remarkable tourist attractions.

Paul evangelized Antioch in the south east, Iconium (now Konya), Attalia (now Antalya), and Perge in the Mediterranean coastal region.

The seven Asian churches addressed in the book of Revelation 2-3 are all in western Turkey: Ephesus, Smyrna (near Izmir), Pergamos (Bergama) are on the coast. Thyatira (Akhisar), Sardis, Philadelphia (Alasehir) and Laodicea (near Denizli) are inland!

Turkish People



To be a Turk is to be a Muslim, to love Atatürk and the flag, and to be a free and independent people. That is the thinking of the average modern-day Turk.

Hospitality, friendship and honour are integral parts of the society's fabric.

Men are generally the power holders and public figures in Turkish society.

Turkish values and social structure ensure that the Muslim way of life stays mostly unquestioned and unchangeable.

Nationalism is very strong in some parts; religion is stronger in others. Extreme Turkish nationalism might be linked strongly with a personal religious faith, or hardly at all.

Participating in Turkey's awakening

Turkey's Awakening is coming! The challenge is for us to be prepared and ready for God's ideas and plans! Believing in His love for all people moves us to do the impossible! Faith, love, humility, obedience, wisdom, patience and fearlessness are His enabling gifts to us. Without them, the task would become overwhelming.

Australians have a custom-built, open door into Turkey: Since the Battle of Gallipoli in 1915, we have shared a special bond.

In April 2015, we took friendship and goodwill events to Canakkale and other cities in Turkey! Forty Australian Christians went with us to bless the nation during the ANZAC centenary of the Battle of Gallipoli! The people loved our concerts and sports events, and many hundreds responded by asking to know more about Jesus and the Christian way of life!



The Australia and Turkey Connection

In 1915, Australian and Turkish men found themselves fighting each other across the trenches for almost a year, at the Battle of Gallipoli. During ceasefires they became friends sharing biscuits, stories, cigarettes and cricket matches! This very real bond was recognized by both sides and is a gift from God for Turkey; a KEY to unlock doors and help us reach its people.



Thousands of young ANZAC men lie buried here in the soil of the Gallipoli Peninsula. Many of them were prayerful Christians. May their dying and their prayers for the salvation of the people of Turkey not be in vain!

Please join us!

- ⇒ **PRAY** Pray for Turkey in your homes and churches. Pray for us. We need your prayers for this vision.
- ⇒ **SUPPORT** Support our ongoing work in Turkey.
- ⇒ **VISIT** Come to Turkey and let God speak to you about the people and how you too can be involved.
- ⇒ **SEEK OUT** Seek out Turkish people where you live. Seek out Christians who have a heart for this nation, and pray with them for Turkey's people and future.

