

Who are the *Türkic peoples* & why pray for them?

1. From Turkey to NW China, Turks, Azeri's, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Turkmen, Uighurs and more belong to the same basic cultural Turkic affinity cluster. 1 in 10 Muslims (167 million) in the world is a Turkic person.
2. In ancient times this was a Christian "Bible belt," now it is a spiritual desert. Formerly the land of Paul and many churches of the NT, according to GCPN research, this region now has the least number of believers and churches per capita of anywhere in the whole world and therefore needs the most outside help.
3. Yet God is on the move! In 1990 there were probably less than 1000 Muslim background believers (MBBs) in this entire region. Yet today God has grown his Church to over 50,000 Turkic followers of Christ.
4. God's heart is that we pray that His Kingdom come among all peoples, including the *Türkic peoples!*



FACT:
No one is working to reach 223 *Türkic peoples* (population 7 million).



FACT:
21 million *Türkic peoples* don't have the Bible in their language.



You can find out more about *Türkic peoples* at:
Operation World or **JoshuaProject.net**

Praying for the *Türkic peoples*

**Peoples along the Silk Road:
Turkey to NW China**



WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 1: 6 Majority Turkic Countries

S Turkey has the largest Turkic people group (pop. 52 million). From 10 believers in 1960, the Turkish church now has 5,000. Pray the gospel spreads rapidly throughout Turkey, as it did in the time of the early church.

M Azerbaijan –Despite opposition, Azeri believers went from 40 in 1991 to almost 10,000 today. Pray for a strong church with effective witness.

T Turkmenistan –Believers among the Turkmen (pop. 4 million) have grown from a few to 1,000. Of these six countries, Turkmen believers suffer the greatest persecution. Pray for believers to stand firm and be salt and light.

W Uzbekistan –Within a generation, Uzbek believers grew from almost none to 4,500. Pray for leaders to shepherd the fast growing church.

T Kazakhstan –Within a generation, the church has grown from a handful of Kazak believers to 16,300, the largest in Central Asia. Pray for continued growth in spite of persecution.

F Kyrgyzstan –Although persecution is still prominent, the emerging Kyrgyz church continues to grow, numbering 5,000. Pray that foreign workers and believers make the most of these opportunities.

S Praise! In these six countries, Muslim-background believers grew from almost 1,000 in 1990 to over 40,000 today. Give thanks that in spite of difficulties, this generation has seen the church take root among Turkic peoples.

WEEK 2: 6 Minority Turkic Peoples

S Uighurs of China (pop. 11 million) live in a region of Western China sometimes called Turkistan where there are 400 believers. Pray the Good News spreads from house to house.

M The Tatars of Russia, living in Tartarstan, a republic of Russia, number 5.3 million with over 20,000 believers. The NT translation was finished in 2005. Pray for the entire Bible to be finished soon.

T Central Asians in Russia number 10 million, many coming to work. Pray they encounter the Truth and take the Good News back to their homelands.

W The Hazara of Afghanistan (pop. 2.9 million), Shiite Muslims persecuted by the Sunni majority, now have several hundred followers of Jesus. Only some portions of the Bible exist in their language. Pray for the continued translation of the Bible as well as strengthening and growth of the church.

T Despite persecution, a few thousand **Karakalpak in Uzbekistan** have recently become believers. Pray for the complete translation of the Bible and for the stability and growth of the church.

F The Gagauzi in Turkey (pop. 412,000) have few, if any, known followers of Jesus. Pray for workers to bring them the Good News.

S Praise! –**The Gagauzi in Moldova** experienced a kingdom movement in the 1990s. They are 6% Evangelical and have growing churches. Pray for them to enter the Harvest force.

WEEK 3: 6 Forgotten Turkic Peoples

S The **Azeri Turks**, who number 17.6 million spread across five countries, with 84% living in Iran. Political barriers make it difficult to reach that majority. Pray for workers who will overcome these barriers.

M The nomadic **Qashqa'i people of Iran** (pop. 1.8 million) have no written language, no translation of the Bible, or any known believers. Pray the Lord will send harvesters to bring them the Good News.

T The Khorasani of Iran (pop. 854,000) have no known believers and are without any Christian resources. Due to the 1979 Iranian Revolution, it is difficult to reach this people group. Pray for open doors and open hearts.

W With no known believers, the **Afshari of Iran** (pop. 342,000) have no translation of the Bible and no active church presence. Pray the Holy Spirit stirs the hearts of these peoples.

T Tatars in Uzbekistan (pop. 665,000) have about 1,000 believers but no recent intentional church planting. The NT translation was finished in 2001. Pray that its message will be believed and spread.

F Uzbeks in Tajikistan, the largest minority (pop. 1.7 million), have some believers but almost no churches. Pray for Uzbek churches to be started.

S Praise! Publication of the Scriptures in the Turkish, Kyrgyz, Kazak, Turkmen, and Uzbek languages in the last 25 years has resulted in many coming to faith. God's word is living and active!

WEEK 4: 6 "Hot Spots" in the Turkic World

S Persecution – All Central Asian countries are among the 50 most persecuted nations, growing more intense since 2000. Pray believers stand firm.

M Radical Islam facilitates thousands of Mosques and schools through massive influxes of money and Muslim missionaries. Pray the Turkic peoples are drawn into His kingdom despite this heavy Islamic influence.

T Back to Jerusalem Movement – Chinese house churches plan to send 100,000 workers to Jerusalem along the Silk Road, making disciples of the least reached. Pray for this missionary movement.

W Business as Mission projects help meet needs and overcome visa restrictions. Pray for workers to overcome government bureaucracy and corruption.

T Arab Spring spill over – beginning with the government protests in 2010, popular uprisings against authoritarian governments are spreading to Turkey, Syria and other Muslim countries. Pray for protection of believers and that these movements will result in kingdom growth.

F House Church Networks are developing due to increasing restrictions. Pray for wise and godly leadership of these networks.

S Praise! Thank God for the tens of thousands among the Turkic peoples who have been drawn to Christ, often through miraculous means.



"There are more ruins of churches in this area than there are followers of Christ." – Worker in Kapadokya, Turkey