

Upcoming Events

- Nursery now available for children ages 0-5 years
 - Parents/Guardians - Nursery attendant will escort you.
- 5/12 - Baby Bottle Campaign Begins (Runs Mother's Day to Father's Day)
 - Bottles will be made available soon in foyer
 - Please see Marie Bodine with questions
- 5/15 - Business Meeting to Appoint Deacons
- Wednesdays 7pm - Bible Study, Prayer & Book Discussion
 - Resource: *Church is a Team Sport : A Championship Strategy for Doin' Ministry Together by Jim Putman
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions
Designated Offerings can be made to - Local Outreaches, Changemakers, Etc.
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People via our CONNECT Card
- On which MISSIONAL TEAM should I be Serving?
 - Internal / Discipleship - Don & Carm Hickson
 - External / Outreach - Jose & Ivis Quann
 - Bldg. & Grounds - Bill & Laura Dolhansky
 - Technology - Mark & Jillaine Couse

— MISSIONARIES —



Beirut, Lebanon

- Joe Costa
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Persecuted Christian

- TURKEY -

PASTOR'S NAME ON ISIS HIT LIST

- In January, 2 masked gunmen entered a Catholic church in Istanbul during a service & randomly shot & killed a 52-year-old man. The self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) claimed responsibility. Turkish police quickly arrested 2 suspects with ties to ISIS & later arrested 25 more. Afterwards, police contacted a pastor of a rapidly growing church in another part of Turkey & told him that his name was on an ISIS hit list. "This pastor has been threatened by ultra-nationalist Turks many times, but this was the first time that he sounded worried," said a front-line worker. Turkish police offered to protect him & encouraged him to set up security cameras. "We can't pray for the elimination of persecution," said the front-worker, "but we can pray that believers will be strengthened & recognize these things are happening because of the growth of the church."
- The gospel spread throughout what is now Turkey in the 1st century, & the region remained under Christian rule for centuries, beginning in the 4th century. Now, however, less than 1% of Turks are Christians. Turks are proud of their nation, which has seen rapid industrial growth & modernization. Unfortunately, Islam is considered by most Turks to be part of their national identity; it is hard for them to imagine leaving Islam even if they know little about it & do not practice its tenets. Christians in Turkey have limited freedom of worship. While there are few Turkish churches, believers boldly share Christ with their others. Ongoing changes in Turkey's government have limited missionary activity & increased pressure on the small Christian community.
- 96% of Turks are Sunni Muslims who view Islam as a core part of their identity, though most are not devout. Fewer than 1% of Turks are Christians.
- Believers face a range of challenges from family, neighbors, employers & government. It is common for the government to assign police officers to a pastor or church for "protection" from Islamic leaders. This is a way to monitor activities of pastors & churches.
- Pastors have been targeted in sophisticated assassination plots, & a missionary was murdered in 2019. Another missionary & 2 Turkish believers were brutally murdered in a highly publicized '07 incident. Evangelism faces significant opposition in Turkey, & Christian converts from Islam are harassed & pressured from all sides. Mature expatriate believers - many of whom have lived in Turkey for decades - have long served in Turkish churches; however, the Turkish government has recently targeted these foreign workers for expulsion. Bibles can be legally distributed in Turkey, but there are few distribution points.
- PLEASE PRAY:
 - That new Turkish church leaders will arise to replace deported foreign workers.
 - That efforts to reach university teachers & students will be fruitful.
 - For a pastor who has not been allowed to see his daughter for several years because of his faith.
 - For university students & teachers who have asked for Bibles & information about Christ.
 - For Arab & Persian ministries working among refugees.
 - That God will strengthen missionaries facing deportation & guide those already deported.

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