



Prayer Initiative STANDING IN THE GAP



together with



DAY 23

Adoration

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. (Galatians 1:3–5)

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession

*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity
And in whose spirit is no deceit.
When we kept silent, our bones wasted away
Through our groanings all day long.
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon us;
Our strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.
We acknowledged our sin to You
And did not hide our iniquity.
We said, "we will confess our transgressions to the Lord,"
And You forgave the guilt of our sin.* (Psalm 32:1–5)

Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Renewal

May we take heed not to practice our good deeds before men to be seen by them. Otherwise, we will have no reward from my Father in heaven. (Matthew 6:1)

May we not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, but rather, may we fear the One who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal.

Petition

In You, O Lord, we have taken refuge;

Let us never be ashamed;

Deliver us in Your righteousness.

Since You are our rock and our fortress,

For Your name's sake lead us and guide us.

Into Your hands we commit our spirits;

Redeem us, O Lord, God of truth. (Psalm 31:1, 3, 5)

Spiritual Insight

- Understanding, insight and obedience to Your word
- Special concerns

Intercession

You have given us a new commandment to love one another even as You have loved us; so we must love one another. By this all men will know that we are Your disciples, if we have love for one another. (John 13:34)

Praying for the Persecuted Church in Mali

OVERVIEW:

Once an Islamic cultural center, Mali is a poor but growing country that remains nearly entirely Muslim. Although missionaries arrived in the early 1920s and have worked in most areas of the country, less than 1 percent of Malians are Christian today. Small congregations of believers continue to worship in towns known to be centers of jihadi activity. Several missionaries have been kidnapped in Mali or have been kidnapped and brought to Mali from neighboring countries since 2016. Most of these are still in captivity today. In 2017, threats by jihadi groups led some mission agencies to pull teams from the country.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Most practice animism or Islam (Sunni), or both.

PERSECUTOR:

Extremist groups persecute Christians in Mali.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN MALI:

During the 2012 civil war, believers fled to the south as extremist groups in the north sought to create an Islamic state. Churches and pastors' homes were destroyed, but believers were usually not otherwise harmed. Christian converts from Islam face harassment from family members and society. There are open and active churches in the north, but some believers are leaving for the south as the situation worsens. One pastor was forced to leave after receiving several significant death threats; his wife is still dealing with related trauma. A few evangelists have been imprisoned for short periods after being accused of proselytizing.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Pray for the protection of two pastors who have received death threats.
2. Pray that Christians in the south will encourage their persecuted brothers and sisters in the north.
3. Pray that Christian converts from Islam will boldly share the gospel.
4. Pray for stability in the north so displaced Christians can return.
5. Pray for the perseverance of Christians in the north, where ethnic tensions have increased.
6. Pray that the church will display the light of Christ amid jihadist activity.
7. Pray for Christian children who must attend Islamic schools in the north.

Praying For The Unreached People of
Turks in Turkey

Population: 59,258,000

Christian: 0.01%

Introduction:

Turkey is considered to be a "link" between the Orient (Chinese and Mongols) and the Occidental (Anglo-Saxons, Slavs, Goths, and Latins). The Turk, therefore, have a knowledge and mixture of both Eastern and Western cultures.

What Are Their Lives Like?

Though traditional ways continue to exist in some areas, the typical Turks lives a secularized, modern urban life, with all the materialistic advantages and temptations that go with it.

What Are Their Beliefs?

The Turks of Turkey are predominantly nominally Sunni Muslim, believing in one god (Allah), and an eternal heaven and hell. However, they also have many ethnic beliefs as well. For example, they believe that men have the power to curse others by giving them the "evil eye." They believe that one is protected against such a curse by wearing blue beads, which the evil eye cannot face. Another way to avoid this cursing glare is to spit in a fire and pray to Allah. They also believe that if a woman puts fish oil around a door and a man walks through it, he will love her for the rest of his life.

One of the unique characteristics of Turkey is that they are a country where Muslims sometimes go and pray in churches and synagogues on special occasions. Judaism and Christianity and their prophets are generally respected by Turks. There might be extremes, as also seen in other religions, but it is generally not approved by the Turkish majority.

Memories of conflict with Christians, and a desire to join Europe while remaining Islamic may stand as barriers.

What Are Their Needs?

Although the Turks of Turkey have Christian resources (both the Bible and the Jesus film have been translated into Turkish) available to them in their language and missions agencies have worked among them, they remain strongly Muslim. Prayer alone has the power to break through the strongholds of Islam. Intercessors are needed to daily stand in the gap and pray for the salvation of these precious people.

Negative attributes of modern urban life such as drunkenness, drug use, and prostitution exist. Such an atmosphere can lead to identity crises that could lead individuals to Christ, or to fundamentalist Islam, or to destruction.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray that churches and missions organizations will accept the challenge of adopting and reaching the Turks.
- Ask God to give the Turkish believers boldness to share the Gospel with their own people.
- Pray that God will grant wisdom and favor to missions agencies focusing on the Turks.
- Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Turks who will boldly declare the Gospel.
- Pray that many Turks living abroad will be reached with the Gospel and will take it back to Turkey.
- Pray that Turkey will avoid both ethnic strife (especially with the Kurds) and resurgent Muslim fundamentalism.
- Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Wolof.

Standing in the Gap for the Churches in the USA

1. Pray that we keep our identity and unity in the mist of racial tension so that the love and light of Christ will shine through Jesus' church
 - a. Pray for the overlooked injustices of the multitude of innocent police workers (in which the main stream media does not mention) but who are being murdered, abused and whose families and lives are being tore apart.
2. Pray that we focus on Representing Christ during this election year and not be divided by politics or candidates.
3. Pray for a vaccine for the corona virus and healing for those and their families who are affected by multiply sicknesses and diseases that cannot be comforted or helped because of hospital restrictions.
4. Other Requests...

Thanksgiving

Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name;

Make His deeds known among the nations.

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

Tell of all His wonders.

Glory in His holy name;

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. (Psalm 105:1-3)

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.