



Quick Facts

Population: 57,000,000

Turkey: 50,000,000

Germany: 1,200,000

Bulgari: 900,000

Netherlands: 250,000

Religion: Islam (Sunni, Shia)

Believers: 0.004%

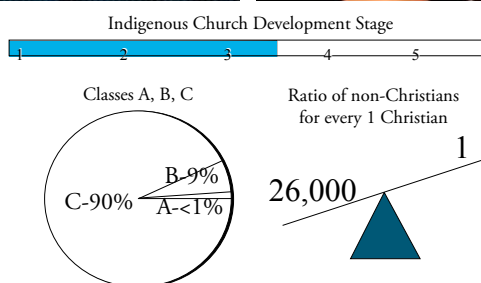
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 3

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 25+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: The Turks are the descendants of 11th century Muslim invaders from the steppes of Central Asia, who conquered and subjugated the Anatolian peoples. Forging them into a national military alliance, united by the Turkish language and the religion of Islam, they built an empire that dominated the Middle East for seven hundred years.

Lifestyle: About 65% of Turks live in urban areas, and 3 million live in European cities where they work in a variety of jobs from housemaids to doctors. In rural areas, life remains much the same as it has for hundreds of years. Sheep and cattle are the primary livestock. Dried fruits, nuts and olive products are exported to the cities, as well as to other countries.

Customs: Turks are famous for their coffee houses, found in every village and town, where men gather to socialize, transact business and relax.

Another unique feature of Turkish society, carried over from Roman days, is the communal bathhouse, alternatively used by men and women. Popular sports include wrestling, camel fighting and Turkish polo.

Religion: For hundreds of years the Turks were the guardians of Islam. Following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire came a secular government in Turkey which militantly enforced its policies of civil/religious separation. This produced one of the most free Muslim societies in the world for over fifty years. The last ten years have seen a rise in Islamic power along with democracy. The desire of Turkey to enter the EU may force it to cautiously suppress religious influence in government.

Christian Outreach: The constitution of Turkey guarantees freedom of religion, and Christians have been able to carefully share their faith with Muslims. However, progress has been slow, and

less than 50 small churches are functioning, mostly in Western Turkey. Part of the slowness in response is attributed to an awkwardly translated Bible which uses an ancient name for God that is unrecognizable to the average Turk.

How to Pray:

☞ There are 1,200 missionaries working among Turks. Pray for continued open doors and receptivity.

☞ Pray that God would raise up a steady stream of Turkish leaders and pastors, and for their discipleship and training.

☞ Pray for God's blessing on a 24hr Christian radio broadcasting station now based in Istanbul, and for its protection from Islamic extremists.

☞ Ask God to burden Christians in Europe to reach out to the millions of Muslim Turks who have come there to work.

☞ Pray for an effective campus ministry to the 1.4 million students and on each of the 814 universities.

☞ 65 provinces are without a single church. Pray for open doors and supernatural expansion into these areas.

**Every year 520,000
Turks die without
Christ.**