

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

TURKEY

General Information

- Population: 76 million.
- President: Abdullah Gul.
- Turkey is 302 square miles and is bordered by eight countries.
- Christianity was declared as the official religion in 380, during the reign of Theodosius I, and destruction of pagan temples was legalized. Even so, throughout the Byzantine era Christianity had great ups and downs in popularity. Many found the road to piety confusing and assorted schisms between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Byzantine church certainly didn't simplify matters.
- Paul founded some of the earliest churches, including the church at Ephesus. Seven churches in this region were addressed in the Book of Revelation. Constantinople, now the city of Istanbul, became the capital of the Roman Empire just as it was being Christianized.

Challenges

- According to the KONDA Research and Consultancy survey carried out throughout Turkey on 2007: 9.7% defined themselves as "*a fully devout person fulfilling all religious obligations*" (fully devout); 52.8% defined themselves as "*a religious person who strives to fulfill religious obligations*" (religious); 34.3% defined themselves as "*a believer who does not fulfill religious obligations*" (believer); 2.3% defined themselves as "*someone who does not believe in religious obligations*" (non-believer/agnostic); and 0.9% defined themselves as "*someone with no religious conviction*" (atheist).
- What part Islam should have in Turkish life is one of the most controversial issues in Turkey today, and may at some point alter whether Turkish society is organized on a secular or religious basis.
- There is a "Dhimmi" tax of 50 percent of earnings for non-Muslims as opposed to the tithing for Muslim believers- no wonder large numbers of peasants converted to Islam.

Pray for

- Pray for protection for Christians currently living in Turkey.
- Pray for an open door for evangelism.

Reference

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey>
- <http://www.allaboutturkey.com/hristiyan.htm>