

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

**Macedonia (The Republic of Macedonia)**

General Information

- Population: over 2 million.
- Area: 25,713 sq km
- One of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, from which it declared independence in 1991.
- Landlocked state surrounded by Serbia/Kosovo, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.
- Capital: Skopje
- Orthodox Christianity is the majority faith of the Republic of Macedonia making up 64.7% of the population
- In the New Testament: Paul received a vision to help those in Macedonia; the people there helped give to the poor suffering in Jerusalem; traveling companions from there accompanied Paul in his journeys; "For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. (1 Thes. 1.8)

Challenges

- Albanians represent 25% of Macedonia's population, and their numbers are rapidly increasing through birth rates and immigration. Greater tensions between Albanians – with their demands for increasing political influence – and the majority of Macedonians seem inevitable, but neither group desires the upheaval suffered in neighboring Kosovo. Almost all Macedonian Albanians are unevangelized Muslims.
- The Roma Gypsy population is chronically poor, oppressed, uneducated, unemployed and captive to a blend of Islam and folk superstitions.
- The Turkish community lives mainly in eastern Macedonia. There are a handful of believers, but no evangelical church among them.

Prayer

- There are currently teams of IMB personnel serving within this area. The area, called The Balkan Cluster consists of nine countries, most of which are located on the Balkan Peninsula. They include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece and Cyprus. Today the people of the Balkans claim one or more religious preferences, but there is very little attention given to spiritual matters.
- Pray for members of this cluster greater access. Give them new and creative ideas that will enable them to be involved in the lives of those around them, so that they can share the Gospel.

Reference

- <http://www.operationworld.org/mace>
- <http://www.commissionstories.com/eurasia/stories/view/balkan-cluster-prayer-guide>