

HOPE & HELP FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

TRAIN A CHURCH PLANTER IN TURKEY

Although Turkey was the home of the early Christian church, it is now more than 96% Muslim. In recent years, it has been a difficult place to make disciples of Christ because of an Islamist government and strong anti-Christian propaganda throughout society. This is slowly changing, however.

Most believers agree that there are between 15,000 and 25,000 evangelical Christians in Turkey (though there are probably many more secret believers than that). About 10,000 evangelicals attend church weekly, and that number is growing.

The devastating earthquakes in February 2023 left many people with almost nothing. The earthquakes affected 11 cities – an area the size of Alabama – leaving and left thousands homeless, injured, and hungry. The government wasn't equipped to meet the needs, but Turkish churches, among others, stepped in. They set up street-corner soup kitchens and makeshift clinics and took the unsheltered into church buildings. Through local churches, ICR was among those supporting relief efforts.

The actions of Christians created an unprecedented openness to the gospel in that region. People asked for Bibles and prayers. Partners baptized about two dozen people and saw dozens more come to faith in Christ. Many people were willing to attend church services, either out of curiosity or genuine interest.

Our partners want to take full advantage of this opportunity by faithfully equipping believers. They want to train new believers in theology and church planting. The plan is to train 25 believers over seven months. In that period, students will get one weekend training course each month. After these seven sessions, the believers will be sent out to different parts of Turkey to start new house churches.

**THE TOTAL COST TO TRAIN
ONE BELIEVER: \$1,300**



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