

Summer Prayer & News 2025

Dear friends,

This year seems to have sped by so quickly. During the first 4 months of the year Lynda and I were visiting you and many other churches around Britain, sharing something of what we saw God doing in Turkey and in the lives of those who know him but also, I hope, encouraging you and your church. We stayed longer than usual partially due to visiting two or three more church groups and partially because at the end of that we were tired! We had 2-3 weeks of rest and family time before I (Paul) returned to Turkiye with Lynda coming three weeks later after I had prepared the way for her and bought a new car!

Changing our car

Last December, before leaving for England, I sold our old Kartal car. 2001 model, very basic and rather old - no AC, no electric windows, in fact not much comfort either. We paid £1,000 for it 13 years ago and sold it for £4,000. Crazy!

However, replacing it proved to be difficult. Eventually a Turkish friend in Istanbul helped buy one from there, he did all the legal work, insurance etc and sent a driver down to Fethiye with it. It cost almost £9,000 for a 2011 Skoda Octavia with 285,000km on the clock and a list of things that need fixing as long as an A4 sheet! Our local friends were shocked but it seems that the price we paid is considered cheap in Turkey and problems were to be expected. However, it's for sale and we're using it in relative comfort in the meantime.

Visitors come and go again

The villa has always been a place for retreat and rest for people and so far this year we have had friends from Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, China/Wales, Iran, America, England and Yorkshire(!) stay here. It is lovely to see all of them, but it can get tiring and can deflect me from doing things that had fully intended to do before I came back to Turkiye.

There is much joy to be had and one memory is when Lynda was leading worship at church there was a young girl, Michelle, of 14 years old who sang with her on the worship team and her little sister of perhaps 8 yrs always wanted to join in on Sunday. Well, that 8 year old is now leading worship in Germany and her little brother (who is a big strong 18 yr old now) were here with their family and are strong in the Lord, full of the Holy Spirit. They organised a time of worship with other young people at the villa. Lovely!

The high summer temperatures have arrived with 35° C being normal and higher temperatures to come. Lynda has returned to cooler England as she cannot take the heat any longer but will return in September when the thermostat is on the way down again.

Fethiye Church leader deported

David and Monica were finally deported between Christmas and New Year and are now back in USA. Pray for them to settle into their new lives "back home" as they recover from being uprooted. The church is currently led by a team of six Deacons and continues in all ministries except for the cafe which has been closed due to the high cost of running it at a loss. I have been asked to speak on July 20th which will be the first time since we

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stood down almost 8 years ago. Pray for me to speak the message that the Lord has for me to give.

There continues to be leaders deported or prevented from re-entering if they have travelled elsewhere. It is very difficult for those affected, so do pray for them.

Church Unity

I continue to seek unity amongst the three churches in our area and once the summer period has ended we hope to meet together again to seek ways in which we can work together to build the kingdom and reach out to local people with the Good News.

Some really sad news

This is so very, very sad. Bulent, who some of you will know and all of you heard about, fell into sexual sin earlier this year. The result of this is that he is no longer a Pastor and has moved with his family to Izmir, away from the church he led in Istanbul. Please pray for them. The enemy truly does roam around like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour, along with all the good things that are happening across Turkey. Bulent fell, and fell badly, but we can see this as a reminder to take every thought captive, to walk closely with the Lord, to be honest and open with an accountability partner and to nip every sinful thought and act in the bud and stay pure. I will visit them later this summer.

Even more sad news is that this sin appears to have been widespread amongst the men of the church and I am told that not a single Babayigit family member remains in the church (there were about 40 adults plus youngsters) and they have scattered around Turkiye. Do pray and shed a tear for them.

Updates on other Young Couples in Ministry

Latest news can be read in the attached Giving Hope to Turkey Prayer letter attached. But good things are happening.

Martin and Sandie's trip to USA

Martin and Sandie have again travelled to meet churches in the south of USA and have been welcomed, encouraged and supported in many ways. They are due back in Turkey in a few days time to attend a camp with many other Turkish believers. They have so much energy! Pray for them and their gifting.

Partners

We minister in partnership with a few people and organisations, not least with Drop Inn Ministries, and we plan to reconnect with those in Turkey and possibly welcome short term mission teams as they come to share with and encourage the people of this wonderful nation. Maybe you should consider visiting too? Come and see, come and pray come and encourage. You will be blessed.

How can we pray for you?

Do let us know, we are all in this together.

May the Lord of the harvest use each of you in wonderful ways as you are witnesses to the Love of God every day. We thank God for you and bless you with an abundance his love.

Paul & Lynda