



Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

Imagine responding to the great commission (Mat 28:19-20), going and planting seeds for many years, then suddenly being told to leave within 10 days. Many experienced “workers” (missionaries) have been expelled from Turkey in the past 3 years, but they have moved to the South Caucasus instead: Armenia, Georgia & Azerbaijan.

In Acts 8:1-8, persecution also drove many away from Jerusalem, so they preached in other towns, e.g. Philip in Samaria where many were healed and set free. “So there was great joy in that city.” This joy is desired also by the workers in the South Caucasus region today – they feel a kind of “holy jealousy”. The movement to reach the lost there has grown rapidly and miracles have become normal. Can you join us in being “jealous” for the peoples of the Caucasus to know Christ?

The Caucasus

Lying between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, with the tallest mountain range in Europe, the Caucasus is a region where Europe merges into Asia.

- South Caucasus – Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan – independent from USSR in 1991
- North Caucasus, e.g. Chechnya, Dagestan, stayed in the Russian Federation
- 66 ethnic groups, mostly Muslim and unreached (especially in the mountain villages), also Orthodox, Evangelical, Catholic & Greek mythology; speaking a variety of languages with Russian as a common language
- Many Jews and synagogues also, a refuge in this region, yet also a need to prepare for Aliyah
- Part of the ancient Assyria region (Isaiah 19:23-25), and occupied by many empires over the centuries
- Tensions & conflicts today between Armenia-Azerbaijan, Armenia-Turkey, Georgia-Russia; plus it is not far from Russia-Ukraine

The People

- Nations of warriors, related to each other, a shared history, shared languages and cultures, yet with differences and conflicts
- Non-stop wars, destruction and rebuilding. Where are the Good Samaritans to love their neighbours? Luke 10:25-37
- Musically skilled, with an authentic voice
- Dreams & visions of Jesus are common – many are waiting for someone to reach them! If one family member converted, the whole family would easily come to faith too!
- We hear many stories of believers reaching out, even teenagers preach to the children. Some Azeris have been reaching out to people in Dagestan and Chechnya for years.

But what just happened between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

The Armenians are the ancient inhabitants of the region, a Christian nation since 301 AD. Over the centuries they have been pushed back by Turkic invaders. Then, as part of the Soviet Union, Stalin gave an Armenian enclave (Artsakh or Nagorno Karabakh) to the Azerbaijan soviet republic. This was bad enough (persecution of the Armenian minority) but then the USSR broke up and the soviet republics became independent countries. Result: a war in 1994 which the Armenians won and Artsakh came under Armenian rule. Then in 2020 and September 2023, Azerbaijan, with new weapons bought by oil money, conquered Artsakh, forcing the Armenian population to flee to the republic of Armenia nearby.

Now the fear is that Turkey and Azerbaijan will invade Armenia itself and create a corridor connecting their two countries. **The Armenians are crying out to God for intervention. Let's cry with them!**

Prayer focus

1. *Speak Life* – Believers from the three nations to rise above the conflicts and to work together for the Kingdom, bringing their different giftings and anointings. Armenia has a rich history of sending out missionaries, may the others join them!
2. In particular, Georgia to be a training centre, where Turkish and Azeri disciple-makers are trained and sent back to their countries
3. For the Jewish people of the region to be able to make Aliyah and move to Israel
4. *Holy Jealousy* – We pray for there to be “great joy” in the Caucasus!

Israel

As rockets continue to fly into Israel from Hamas and from Israeli air raids into Gaza, let us maintain a barrage of prayer for all those caught up in this conflict.

Let's weep with those who mourn and pray for the Lord's comfort for them.

- Pray for all the hostages, that they will be returned home safely.
- Pray for those who are vulnerable, suffering and who fear for their lives.
- Pray for Godly wisdom for all the leaders involved in this conflict, and for international leaders who can speak into the situation.
- Pray that this conflict will be "contained and restrained" and not escalate into a wider regional war. It is not a time for world war but for revival!
- Pray Isaiah 51:12-16 for the Jewish people. They need not fear their enemies, but should look to the Lord who stretched out the heavens, their God, the Lord Almighty is his name, who says to Zion, “You are my people.”
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for God to pour out His Spirit so that many more will recognise Jesus as Messiah and the Prince of Peace and that Jewish and Arab peoples see Jesus as their Messiah

Additional Prayer Points:-

At the same time, remember Ukraine where Vladimir Putin is trying to take advantage of the fact that all eyes are on Israel. And as we have written, remember Armenia.

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