

## **Cyprus: Faith building Love and Hope**

### **Beautiful**

Cyprus is a place where many come to find peace. Walking on its white sandy beaches and gazing at the sparkling sapphire waters, the beauty of God's creation gives life to its observer. In the quiet back streets of Nicosia, conversations in Greek, Turkish, and English mingle with the aroma of coffee, reflecting the island's diversity and its love of hospitality. Yet just around the corner, weathered Cypriot architecture gives way to white barrels and rusty barbed wire, revealing how the island's wonders are overshadowed by division and loss.

### **Broken**

While the world recognises only the Government of the Republic of Cyprus established in 1960 and a member of the European Union since 2004, not all of the island is under its administration. Since the Greek orchestrated coup and subsequent Turkish invasion in 1974, Cyprus has been divided. One-third of the island is now controlled by the government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, a body recognised only by Türkiye.

### **Being Restored**

The Republic of Cyprus is renowned for its vibrant culture and stunning beaches. Its population is majority ethnically Greek, practicing Orthodox Christianity. The Church of Cyprus, an independent member of the Orthodox communion, traces its roots to Paul and Barnabas. The tomb of Lazarus, once resurrected by Christ, is also found here. The country ranks well among EU states for the quality of life for its citizens and maintains a strong economy.

North of the buffer zone, the landscape and many aspects of daily life are similar. The region also has beautiful beaches and warmly welcomes tourists. The population, once mostly Turkish Cypriot, is now a mix of Cypriot and Anatolian Turkish people, with Islam as the majority religion. Foreign nationals from Iran, Russia, Africa, Asia, and Central Asia also live, study, and work here. In contrast to the South, the North is less developed due to international law and diplomatic restrictions on trade, but Turkish interests have backed local infrastructure development and have invested in various aspects of the economy, which make living conditions constrained but comfortable for most.

### **In Need of Healing**

Often concealed by the beauty of Cyprus laying just beneath the surface is corporate loss and a deep sense of grief and pain. Its source takes little exploration to find and arises quickly in most conversations. Stories of neighbours turning on neighbours, driven to acts of unthinkable violence and betrayal by clashing ideologies. Hundreds of thousands forced into exile in their own homeland by deep-seated generational hatred and mistrust. More than fifty years on, as the buffer zone scars the land, so too do old wounds remain in Cypriot hearts.

Cypriots are loved by God, but like all people, they experience the effects of sin and brokenness in themselves and in their land. Some hold tightly to religion as a source of identity, or abandon it in every way but name; in both cases, they remain distant from worship in spirit and in truth. Others, their moral compass so damaged by pain and pride, engage in crime and the trafficking of drugs and human lives. Yet many others are warm and hospitable people, simply living according to what they believe is true, hoping to build a good life for themselves and always searching for a fulfilment that seems to escape them. Regardless of the particular manifestation of their brokenness, we know that God desires to be at work in their lives, bringing healing and meeting their needs, just as He has done for us.



### Pray for Cyprus:

- Pray that God would continue to use this island to give life to many as they seek rest and shelter here.
- Pray that God would redeem people's capacity to worship and restore a desire in the hearts of all who live in Cyprus to truly know God the father as revealed by his Son through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Please pray for peace in Cyprus. Recent attacks on British military bases have raised serious security concerns for Cyprus and many have been affected particularly those who remember the conflict of 1974.
- Pray that God would heal the wounds of all Cypriots and bring resolution to the conflict.
- Pray for the Church to model reconciliation and for its members to be empowered to love and serve their enemies.
- Pray that God's mercy and forgiveness be released and "...let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

*Nate serves in full-time ministry with a particular passion for prayer, believing it is where the work of God begins. He longs to see God at work in the world and, in recent years, has sensed a growing call to pray for Cyprus and encourage others to do the same. When he is not praying or serving in ministry, Nate enjoys spending time with his family, exploring new places, and sharing great coffee with friends.*

**To learn more how to pray for Cyprus (e.g. politics, economics, society):** <https://pray4cyprus.org/>

### Europeans United in Prayer Gathering in Cyprus

From April 24–29, 2026, Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, will host the next Europeans United in Prayer (EUiP) gathering. Participants from various European countries will fly to the island to pray together for Cyprus, Europe, and current issues. Preparations are well underway. From the very beginning, we have experienced great openness from the local churches. Several outstanding speakers, including the author of this article (Nate) have accepted our invitation to help us better understand the island's religious, cultural, and political situation. In keeping with our traditions, we would like to visit the Cypriot parliament so that we may intercede for the country within its walls as well. We will dedicate one day to traveling to the north part of the island, which is under Turkish control, to meet and pray with the pastors and missionaries serving on the northern side.

**We kindly ask you to pray for this April gathering.**

*Csaba, Friedrich and Monika, Ineke, Stefan and Daniela, Nick*

*Photos: Pixabay*



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