

Reaching every *nation*,
one *ship* at a time.



TURKEY It is commonly said that some countries are considered “Closed Countries”. They allow no missionaries to enter, they forbid any Scripture to be brought or printed, they threaten the lives of those who express interest in the Gospel... CLOSED... But not to GOD! After gaining some insight from seasoned missionaries, Instead of labeling these restricted countries as “closed”, I now prefer to call them “Creative Access Nations”. We may not be able to enter the country proudly as a missionary, but we can still get the Gospel to them... in fact, I believe we MUST! One such country is that of Turkey. It is situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea and bordered by Greece to the west, and Iran to the east. It was frequented by Paul on his missionary journeys such as Ephesus, Colosse, Perga, Miletus, and more. One of the greatest revivals in all the Bible happened in the heart of this land. (Acts 19) However, with the

rise of Islam, nearly all believers were massacred in the Armenian Genocide in the early 1900’s. Only those who renounced Christianity and embraced Islam were permitted to survive, and that scarcely. Although the majority of the country is Muslim, there is a rising percentage of “Infadels” who have rejected Islam, but do not know what to believe. This month, the Lord put us in contact with one such young Turk. His name is **Emre**. I approached him on deck and offered him a Turkish Gospel of John. He told me that he has never seen a Bible before but could not trust it because of what he was taught about it in Islam. But one by one, all of his questions about God, the Bible, and life itself were clearly answered by the Word of God. Then, Emre admitted to me that in his heart, he already renounced Islam and was searching for the true God, but had not found Him yet!!! Maybe for sake of argument, entertainment, or even cultural norm, the Muslim officers warmly welcomed me aboard the ship for the next three days. My time was spent conversing with the men about their souls over cups of Turkish coffee and tea in between coughing out second-hand cigarette smoke. I did not get to spend as much time with Emre as I would have liked, but I have his contact information and we will continue to correspond as often as he is able.

Answered Prayer Thank you for faithfully bringing our requests to the Lord on our behalf. One such request was that the Lord would open up the door for us to gain access to more ships. After spending a whole day running around trying to pick up items for a Burmese/Korean ship, we got to the pier a little tired and with a sense of unprofitableness. When we arrived, I was approached by two representatives of ITF (International Trade Federation). They had never heard of us before, but are excited about what we are doing. They have the ability to get us into any port in the world. Please pray that God will use this contact to grant us more opportunities to reach seafarers with the Gospel! Secondly, we asked for prayer regarding an unspoken request. When we finally returned to VA in April, we unexpectedly came home to a church without a pastor. With no leadership in place, it was quite the burden to say the least. But after months of prayer and seeking God’s wisdom, the Lord gave us a pastor from within! All the men of our church are in agreement that he is the Lord’s man for this job, and we are grateful for his willingness to take up this position of leadership. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for praying!



Countries Impacted Vietnam, Philippines, Myanmar, China, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine, Korea, Greece.



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