

PRIORITY 100: PLACE ISTANBUL, TURKEY



BYZANTIUM...CONSTANTINOPLE...QUEEN OF CITIES...
ISLAMBOL...THE CITY!

Istanbul was the capital city
of the Roman, Byzantine,
and Ottoman Empires...from
330 to 1920!



With a population of 20 million it
would be big enough to be the
10th largest country in Europe!

Of the 39 districts in the city, 29 of
them, 11 million people, have 0-1
workers living there.



Istanbul is the epicenter
of Turkish media, arts,
music, food, history,
education, and politics.



About 20-25% of the whole
country lives in Istanbul!
And about 94% of Turks
now live in urban
cities...mainly in the western
part of the country.



Top 5 districts of
Istanbul with no
churches, no disciples,
no workers...at all:

- 1.Esenyurt: 957,000
- 2.Küçükçekmece: 790,000
- 3.Bağcılar: 737,000
4. Sultangazi: 537,000
- 5.Gaziosmanpaşa: 490,000

Istanbul Turkey

WHY PRIORITIZE ISTANBUL?

Potential spread is the main reason to choose Istanbul. Istanbul is the cultural, economic, and historical center of Turkey. If the gospel transformed this city, the ripple effects would quickly reach every province of the country and the Balkans. Istanbul is THE domino that makes all the others fall.

Istanbul is home to 3 million Kurdish residents, making it the largest Kurdish population globally. With more and more access to Turkish Kurdistan being denied to workers and local Christians, Istanbul provides unique access to the largest concentration of these predominantly inaccessible and unengaged people. The same is true for Syrian refugees.

Because of urbanization in Turkey, Istanbul now provides an opportunity to engage with people from the more rural provinces that are difficult/impossible to gain long-term residence. For example, there are more residents from the provinces of Sivas, Tunceli, Erzincan, Kastamonu, Sinop, Giresun, and Bayburt in Istanbul than there are in those provinces. To reach the East, we can start in the West.

Unfortunately, most workers in Istanbul stay in the same areas of town and cluster together instead of spreading out into the poorer, more devout, and more opportunity-rich neighborhoods.

OPPORTUNITIES

- We have people working in the arts and photography reaching out to all sectors of society through this sector.
- People are working at multiple levels in the education sector: high school and university teachers, students in Master's and Ph.D. programs, and independent coaches for educators and other professionals.
- Anything an innovative, creative, and apostolic mind can think of is possible in Istanbul. There are opportunities for every kind of person, calling, gifting, and passion in this amazing city!



PRAYER

01

That more workers would come with a vision for unengaged regions and communities in the city, some of which are larger than many whole Muslim people groups and even countries.

02

Pray that more workers would come and engage with these vast sectors of influence in the city (arts, media, education, politics, etc.)

03

Pray for the enormous opportunity to engage with the refugee populations of people from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, China, and Somalia in Istanbul.