

## NEW LEADERSHIP FOR EVANGELICAL CHURCHES IN TURKEY

The Association of Protestant Churches in Turkey (TEK) has chosen a new president and board of directors, reports SAT-7's Turkish channel, SAT-7 TÜRK.

Following voting by other pastors, Mr Ali Kalkandelen, the pastor of Life Family Church, Istanbul, was elected as the new president of TEK. The association, which began informally in the 1980s and was formally established in 2009, represents around 150 fellowships – the majority of Evangelical fellowships in Turkey. Mr Kalkandelen replaces Ankara-based pastor Ihsan Ozbek and will serve in this role for the next three years.

Pastor Kalkandelen said his priorities will be to consolidate the place of Protestant churches in Turkey and to strengthen relations with the nation's more historic (Orthodox and Catholic) churches.

One task will be to guide churches in the legal steps to take when direction signs to their meeting places have been unlawfully removed from the streets as has happened on a number of recent occasions. Attacks on church properties, occasional threats to individuals and organisations, and misrepresentation and hate speech in parts of the media are problems that TEK monitors in an annual report on violations of the right to freedom of religion in Turkey.

SAT-7 TÜRK Broadcasting Manager, Gökhan Talas, asked for prayer for the TEK leaders. He said, "These are very sensitive positions and, because these pastors represent many of the Protestant churches, they are always open targets for hostile groups."

**As well as requesting prayer for their safety, he said Protestant churches need wisdom and God's help as they grow and seek to register as associations under Turkish law, as "persecution comes in different forms, and as they share the Gospel in an open way".**

**Please pray for the new leaders of TEK as they serve Turkey's growing but relatively tiny Protestant community and share the Good News of Jesus in areas where many have never heard it.**

# Prayer + News



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*Christian refugees returning to Nineveh plain*

## MAKING HOPE VISIBLE

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## IRAQI CHRISTIAN REFUGEES RETURN

Hundreds of Iraqi Christians took part, on the evening of Monday August 6th, in a procession that took place along the streets of Karamles, a town of the Nineveh Plain traditionally inhabited by Christians.

With the community gesture, the Christians from Karamles wanted to commemorate the events that on the night between 6 and 7 August 2014 forced many tens of thousands of Christians to leave the towns and villages of the Nineveh Plain, in front of the offensive of the jihadist militiamen of the self-proclaimed Islamic State (Daesh).

The procession was preceded by a reflection on the pain and suffering that accompanied and followed that dramatic mass exodus, read in the light of the mystery of the cross. The Gospel passage in which Jesus promises that he will pray to the Father to ask him to send the Holy Spirit, the "Comforter" to his disciples was also read.

Then the procession began, and along the way the participants recited Psalm 150, celebrating in this way also the "new beginning" represented in their lives by the return to their village and their homes, after the years of jihadist domination.

Karamles, with the other villages and towns of the Nineveh Plain, represented the historical landmarks of the native Christian communities of ancient Mesopotamia. It is precisely around that Plain that the project of an "autonomous region" to be assigned to Christians began, in order to achieve at least in part the ancestral dream of a "national home" reserved for the Chaldean, Assyrian and Syrian communities.

After the definitive defeat of the jihadists of Daesh, information that is difficult to verify on the consistency of the return of the Christian inhabitants displaced from the Nineveh Plain to their villages circulates. In Karamles, the 300 Christian families that had already returned last December have already been able to celebrate together the last liturgical solemnities of Christmas and Easter.

**Pray for the Christians of Iraq as there are still looming questions and uncertainty about a peaceful future.**

SOURCE <http://www.incontextinternational.org/2018/08/08/iraqi-christian-refugees-return-to-nineveh-plain/>



# MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

**From a young girl in Syria** We need your prayers for us ... In the middle of this war, God has kept us safe. Thank Him for His protection. Ask for the shooting and explosions to stop.

**From a viewer in Egypt** My husband thinks it is his duty as a man to beat me when I can't do something he wants me to do. Pray for me and for somebody to teach him a better way to be a husband.

**From a viewer in Iran** We believers in Iran suffer from having no church, fellowship, or Christian teachings. Pray our hands will never let go of the hands of Jesus.

**From a viewer in Sudan** I'm nineteen years old. My siblings and I follow the program *Family of Jesus*. Pray the Heavenly Father will protect and keep you to help kids get to know Jesus and how to worship powerfully.

**From a viewer in Egypt** Christ saved me five years ago, but I have been drawn into ungodly practices. I realise I was unfaithful to the Lord, and I want to return to Him. Pray for me to know what to do now.

- Support in prayer the preparations for SAT-7's annual week of prayer 4-11 November. It will emphasize Faithful Witness in a Changing World.

## TURKISH VIEWERS RESCUED BY GOD'S LOVE

SAT-7 viewers Sedat and Gülay Torun are among the comparatively tiny number of Christians in Turkey, a country of almost 80 million people. At a time of great hardship, they turned to Jesus – and since then, He has done miracles in their lives. Here they share their remarkable story and their love for SAT-7 TÜRK.

“I was so scared. I kept hearing a voice saying, ‘Don’t be afraid’. Then I saw him so clearly, dressed in white. He said, ‘I am He. Don’t be afraid.’”

With tears in her eyes, Gülay recounts the moment she encountered Jesus in a hospital room. Seven months pregnant and facing the possibility of lifelong disability, she was at rock bottom.

### STARVING FOR LOVE

This moment was not the first time that Gülay and her husband, Sedat, had faced adversity. Brought up in Turkey’s majority faith, they found little meaning in what they had been taught. So, when they struggled financially and life became overwhelming, they couldn’t see a way out. “We were completely lacking love from others,” says Sedat. “When we realised what was missing in our lives, we started searching.”

### “OUR HEARTS WERE READY”

The couple wondered if Christianity might hold the meaning they were looking for. At first, it was difficult to find a church. But when they visited one congregation in their home city, they received a loving welcome.

“We found what was missing,” Sedat remembers. “Our hearts were ready. We had been longing for so long.”

### GOD IS FAITHFUL

This was only the beginning of God’s work in Sedat and Gülay’s lives. Although they have continued to face hardship, they have seen His hand at work many times, from unexpected practical provision to healing.

- Pray for those seeking God’s love. Pray that they will meet Jesus Christ.

Read full story: <http://www.sat7sa.org/Real%20Life%20Stories.php?id=rls201807>



# MEET OUR VIEWERS

Please pray for the following viewers while reading their messages:

**From a viewer in Tajikistan:** “My family has disowned me because I recently called Jesus my Lord. Pray for my faith to grow in spite of this and for material provisions.”

**From a viewer in Iran:** “Jesus was a prophet, so why do you call him God? Do Christians worship one God or three gods?” (Pray for clear understanding concerning this viewer.)

**From a viewer in Kuwait:** “Drugs are ruining my two teenage sons. Pray they will be delivered from drugs, can think rightly, and can get steady jobs.”

**From a viewer in Turkey:** “I can't really attend church...but your programs help me remain on the path of Jesus and find my way whenever I am lost. Thank God for the SAT-7 programs.”

- Praise God for the fourth season of *My School*, enabling viewers to learn languages, maths, science, health, and critical thinking. Pray for resources to expand this program to cover a wider audience.
- Thank the Lord for recent survey results showing SAT-7's programs influence how viewers understand and accept others of differing denominations and religions.