

Uighurs in Istanbul, Turkey



The Uighurs are a Turkic-speaking people who converted to Islam in the 10th century, and they primarily live in Xinjiang Province, China. Recently more than a million Uighurs have been detained in Chinese internment camps, where they are being indoctrinated in the ways of communism, speak Mandarin, and denounce their culture including Islam. Many have sought refuge in other countries, and several thousand of them are presently living in Istanbul.

Ministry Obstacles

The oppressive treatment of their people has caused the development of several militant Uighur groups in Turkey that want Xinjiang Province to separate from China. Since they use Islam as their banner, they are more resistant to any Christian witness. The Turkish people often don't accept the Uighurs as they see them as troublemakers. This compounds the Uighurs' distrust of those outside their community, including those who want to take Christ to them.

Outreach Ideas

Places like Australia, U.S., and Canada have accepted Uighur immigrants from China and Turkey, and they are allowed to maintain their cultural traditions. This gives believers an opportunity to show interest in their lives, which can open the



POPULATION: 900

LANGUAGE: Uighur

RELIGION: Islam

BIBLE: Complete

STATUS: Unreached

doors to introducing them to Christ.

Pray for the Entire Group

Pray that God will give wisdom and guidance to Christ followers who reach out to the Uighurs, so they will desire to know God and accept His grace through Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Pray for a movement to Christ among the Uighurs.

SCRIPTURE I am dying from grief; my years are shortened by sadness. Sin has drained my strength; I am wasting away from within. Ps 31:10

PRAY that this people group will understand that sin drains and destroys, but the Lord offers forgiveness and spiritual refreshment.