By Tracy Z, KOG Missionary

An Answer to My Prayer! My Trip to Turkey!



Istanbul, Turkey was my last stop on the 2024 ministry trip. I met pastor Maksim from Russia, and sister Merryl from Oregon, and we spent a very encouraging week together. I asked Merryl to share her experience with you. Thank you, Merryl!

It is with great pleasure to be writing about this trip to Turkey in August of 2024. This trip was one of a kind. It would not only be the first time I would be meeting Tracy and a Russian pastor in person, but it also was an answer to a prayer. My prayer was to dedicate my life through water baptism to God and to the human Jesus Messiah.

My eyes were opened about seven years ago, when I learned that Jesus had to be truly human. Not a pre-existent being, but a man born of a virgin by God's holy spirit.

My journey began after watching a discussion/debate of four scholars on the topic "Is Jesus God?" One of those scholars, Sir Anthony Buzzard, stood out. I decided to take a closer look at his website and videos. My understanding of scripture from Genesis to Revelation was coming together. I could now see the importance of following Jesus's teachings and the need to repent and believe in the Kingdom of God. (Mk 1:15)

As my bible reading and knowledge of scripture increased, I

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wanted to connect with like-minded Christians, who believed in the One God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jesus, the human Messiah, the Kingdom of God, the sleep of the dead and the resurrection of the dead through our lord, Jesus. I visited several churches in my area, but most were believers in the trinity. Although I felt like I was alone in my beliefs, I knew there had to be others who loved truth. I prayed to God that I would find His people, get baptized, and asked for that to come to fruition.

I found out about Tracy's website, Kingdom of God Ministry & Missions, and her women's weekly Bible study group from Restoration Fellowship (founded by Anthony Buzzard.) This study would be on Zoom, so I decided to join in November of 2022. It was so refreshing to delve into scripture truths, meeting (seeing) online with women from across the U.S., Canada, England, and Australia and sharing our faith stories.

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My prayer was answered in June, when Tracy asked our Bible study group if anyone was interested in going to Turkey in August. During this last week of her month-long mission trip, Tracy would be meeting Pastor Maksim from Russia. I just happened to have two weeks off from work and knew this was God telling me to go!

Though I didn't have a passport, I put everything in God's hand to make this trip work. I then told Tracy my desire to get baptized in Turkey. She said Pastor/Brother Maksim would be so happy and honored to baptize me!

Meeting Tracy and Maksim, a sister and brother in the faith, was wonderful. It didn't matter that we had never met in person or that we live in different states or countries, or that we spoke in different languages. We are united in Christ Jesus – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over and through all and in all. (Ep 4:5-6) It did make me appreciate Tracy's ability to be our translator. Language is a barrier, but the truth of scripture is for everyone and gives hope to those seeking God.

The highlight of our eight-day trip in Istanbul, Turkey was my baptism. But where would we go? The closest bodies of water were the Black Sea and the Bosphorus Strait. I wondered if we would we just happen upon some beach to do the baptism, like Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch? However, Maksim had other plans and was very insistent that we do it right.

We sought out a beach the day before and made sure it was suitable. Then we bought juice and flat bread for a communion service afterwards. The beach we found was a beautiful sandy beach on the Bosphorus Strait and it was pretty close to where we were staying. I truly appreciated Maksim for doing this for me. He showed that this was a special occasion and a very important day in my Christian walk.

Throughout this whole experience, I got to know Tracy and Maksim, and learned more about each of their stories of where they came from and how they are sharing the Kingdom gospel message. Maksim has giving up so much to do this full time, yet his love for truth keeps him strong. He is humble, at times quiet, and very respectful of people. He talks with people in his volunteer work, but he doesn't push his beliefs upon them. When he is able to share this message of hope, he invests much of his time, even years, providing literature, books and traveling hundreds of miles to do manual help, to encourage, and to baptize.

I also came to realize that paper reading material is very

important in Russia, as more people read physical books, newspapers, and literature. It is quite the opposite in our western world of paperless online reading.

Thank you, Tracy and Maksim, for a memorable trip. God bless your ministries!

By Merryl DeMott



<u>DONATE HERE</u> to partner in Kingdom ministry in Russia and other Russian-speaking countries. (Bibles, travel, prison ministry, online ministry, etc.)

(100% of all donations received go to Russian ministry.)

Pakistan Ordination



In September Save the Faith ministry in Pakistan had an ordination service. Due to protests that blocked roads, only about 130-150 people were able to come.

Pastor Haroon streaming in from the UK, and Pastor Rafi in Pakistan, ordained evangelist Pervez as a pastor and 5 others as evangelists, brother Rawish, brother Rashid, brother Nazir, sister Naghma, and sister Sania.

In order to minister in Pakistan you must have an ordination card. These are legalities and it also helps if they have local problems when evangelizing.

Please continue to pray for these faithful & courageous servants.

Consider <u>partnering</u> in monthly ministry donations for PAKISTAN <u>evangelism trips</u> & to help <u>print this essential</u> <u>material</u> (*Who is Jesus?* and *What Happens When We Die?*).

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We are not the ones in charge of saying which teachings of Jesus are essential. We need to keep seeking truth daily like the Bereans did. (YouTube SHORT: "Bible Truth & a Game of Chess")

Very many thanks for engaging with this grim but essential subject. Abortion is violent murder and perhaps will be seen to be the most horrific thing in human history. Pure evil has to be faced. I have great respect for those previously involved in the abortion industry, both doctors and victims who have repented of this unbelievable horror. Please pray for churches and pastors who are silent on this barbaric behavior.

Thank you. I will be sharing this so much good information. I learned a lot.

Thanks Tracy and Carla. I appreciate how you discussion with compassion.

(YouTube: LIVE "Abortion Discussion: Healthcare or Homicide?")



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