

# PRIORITY 100: PLACE SOUTHEAST TURKEY

## Turkey

*The Southeastern region of Turkey is home to 9 provinces and about 8.5 million people. Southeastern Turkey's economy is rural and based on stockbreeding and agriculture. As of 2021, in the 9 provinces, there are 5 where there is no known church at all. In the other 4, there is only 1 church in each province known, and there are less than 250 known believers across the region. The Southeast shares a border with Syria, Iraq, and Iran...the three countries with the highest number of refugees in Turkey.*



GAZIANTEP

BATMAN

KEY CITIES

DIYARBIKAR

ŞIRNAK

KEY CITIES

MARDIN

ŞANLIURFA



## WHY PRIORITIZE THE SOUTHEAST?

IN THE SOUTHEAST, THERE ARE VERY LIMITED AMOUNTS OF WORKERS, IF ANY. THIS AREA IS ONE OF THE LEAST INHABITED AND HOSTS THE LOWEST CONCENTRATION OF WORKERS ACROSS ALL AGENCIES. THIS REGION OF THE COUNTRY IS ONE OF THE HARDEST TO GAIN ACCESS TO AND ONE OF THE HARDEST PLACES FOR WORKERS TO GAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENCY. THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT KEEN TO GIVE ACCESS TO OUTSIDERS, BUT THERE ARE NO STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THIS INSTITUTIONAL SUFFOCATION.

AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY HINTS OF MOVEMENTS OF DISCIPLES OR CHURCHES IN THIS AREA, LARGELY DUE TO NON-ENGAGEMENT. WE NEED CREATIVE, LONG-SUFFERING, AND APOSTOLIC PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON THIS REGION IN TURKEY SO THAT WE CAN BRING THE GOSPEL TO PLACES WHERE IT IS NOT KNOWN.

## OPPORTUNITIES?

AS OF 2021, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY TEAMS IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION. WE ONLY KNOW ABOUT 6 WORKERS LIVING IN THE REGION OF 8.5 MILLION RESIDENTS. THAT WOULD MAKE THE WORKER TO RESIDENT RATIO AROUND 1:1,400,000. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW WORKERS IS AS VAST AS THEIR IMAGINATIONS AND CREATIVITY.

IN TURKEY, 94% OF THE POPULATION ARE URBANITES. THE SOUTHEAST REGION OF TURKEY IS DIFFERENT IN THAT 50% OF ITS POPULATION LIVES IN AN URBAN SETTING. MAKING IT A UNIQUE PLACE THAT OFFERS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKERS COMFORTABLE IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN SETTINGS.

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE FEW OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN A WORK ALREADY EXISTING, THERE ARE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO PIONEER A NEW WORK! INCLUDING OPPORTUNITIES IN FARMING AND AGRICULTURE, REFUGEE ASSISTANCE, BAM/B4T, AND ANY ESTABLISHED BUSINESS THAT MAKES SENSE TO THE LOCAL POPULATION AND GOVERNMENT.

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO ENGAGE THIS REGION WOULD BE LIVING IN AND BUILDING, A CREDIBLE BUSINESS IN A BIGGER CITY IN THE WEST. THEN ESTABLISHING WORKING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SOUTHEAST WITH OTHER PARTNERS. DOING THIS WOULD PROVIDE CREDIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE IDENTITIES FOR LIVING AND WORKING IN THIS AREA.

## HOW TO PRAY?

- PRAY THAT THE PEOPLE IN THIS REGION WOULD GAIN ACCESS TO HIS GOSPEL, HIS CHURCH, AND THE POWER OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT.
- PRAY THAT WORKERS, AND LOCAL BELIEVING TURKS, WOULD BE GRANTED LONG-TERM RESIDENCIES IN THIS REGION.
- PRAY THAT THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN CAMPS OR POOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE ENGAGED AS THEY ARE HELPED SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY.