## 中亚祷告网络消息　2007/10/29

亲爱的代祷者：

谢谢您持续地在祷告中宣告神在丝路国家的心意。以下有些从中国及土耳其而来的具体代祷事项（两国均以丝路为「终点」），期盼能协助您在祷告时有更充分的信息。

### 中国新疆

恳请在此时此刻持续地为中国，特别是新疆省「艰困的」情况来祷告。目前有更多的基督教同工被迫离开此省，其中有一名同工在被驱离这个国家之前，遭到超过 3 天的长时间审问。这位同工写道：「中国政府将那区域视为他们在经济上重新注入动力及满足经济缺乏的希望，而那区域之外 (如：维吾尔、哈萨克、吉尔吉斯及塔吉克民族) 是不具价值的。他们希望这些族群在教育及其它领域方面缺乏权力地位；中共当局也早在 12 年前，在地理位置上就展开西进策略。他们拥有主要工作权，现在大都成为老板。目前的目标在于快速地撤除像我这样会说几种语言的人离开那里，而这只不过是第一阶段而已。至于撤除那些从我们这儿受到影响的少数民族，明显的将会是下一阶段的目标。我同时也听说有个政府的新法令，从七月起不但将我们撤离，同时也会波及到我们在当地的朋友。至于我的一些朋友，已经被询问遭受拘留。」

**请为下列事项代祷：**

周含（译名），一位在新疆乌鲁木齐家教会的主要领袖，已经被逮捕并以违法经营管理的名义遭到起诉。8 月 3 日，周含接获某人送给他的一批印刷圣经送达通知单，没想到在没有拘捕令的情况下，却立刻遭到公安局人员扣押，显然地，他们期待周含被拘捕。

周弟兄在狱中受到非人权的待遇。他第一天被捕时，公安人员就用手铐铐住他。同时在头一个月，周弟兄被迫睡在坚硬的地板上，直到 CAA 报导了他被捕的消息传出后，才提供一张床给他使用。周弟兄和其余 14 位室友一同挤在这小小的牢房里，这些人被命令要使他屈打成招，诱使他做伪证推翻自己的供词，然而周弟兄拒绝这样做。8 月 31 日，公安局下达一项正式对周含不利的罪名，并将他转送到新疆乌鲁木齐的监狱。

周含的太太陈虹（译名）及当地的律师张君，已尝试以交保方式要求释放周含，让他能与家人团聚。但这项请求已在 10 月 16 日遭到拒绝。

如同使徒行传中所记载的，在这段被逼迫的时间，求主使信徒变得更刚强，并且神要以超自然的方式运行，带来教会增长。

### 土耳其

最近约有 70 名基督徒聚集在首都安卡拉，进行约 55 小时不停止的赞美祷告。过去从未有过如此多基督徒聚集，长时间敬拜神，并为土耳其祷告。我们感受到有一个突破正在土耳其展开。

然而，在这个关键时刻我们需要以祷告来遮盖当地的情况。请为土耳其和伊拉克边界的和平祷告。为土耳其人与库德族人之间的和好与协议代祷。为土耳其人与亚美尼亚人之间的和好及饶恕祷告。

以下的文章是由当地一位主要同工所写，并在最近寄给恰克・皮尔斯（Chuck D. Pierce）牧师。我加进这篇文章，目的是希望能帮助代祷者在祷告时，更了解拦阻福音在土耳其广传的根源问题，也同时邀请您一起加入代祷的行列。

从 2006 年 5 月到 2007 年 3 月间，土耳其发生了三桩谋杀基督徒的不同事件，并且都上了国际新闻版面。第一件是在黑海附近特拉布松市一名天主教神父被杀。第二件是一位知名的亚美尼亚记者遭杀害，他曾为了全国性关系的恢复公开提倡土耳其应与亚美尼亚恢复合好关系（过去土耳其曾屠杀亚美尼亚人)。第三件是大部分宣教士都知悉的 — 一间广传福音教会里的三名会友惨遭杀害，而他们都曾经参与在安卡拉东部城市的圣经销售发行事工。

这些事件不但震动全国，也引起许多人质疑过去土耳其在回教世界中所引以为傲，包容世俗主义、伊斯兰教、民族主义及民主的本质。我们相信这些谋杀事件，与今年 5、6 月所发生支持艾塔特克主义行动的大规模示威抗议有关连。今夏的选举后，拥有统治权且主要源起于伊斯兰教派(从被禁党以来)的公义发展党，在国会获得稳定多数的席次，有权从该党选出一位总统。此举使军队大感恐慌，因为军队的主要任务是与总统一起共同保证及高举世俗主义和民主，这是他们所谓的国家原则！

即便被卷入这些纠纷中的基督教族群，在全国 99%都是回教徒、总数七亿的人口中不超过五千人。然而因着这些谋杀事件，过去 9 个月，耶稣基督的福音正以前所未有的方式在土耳其被宣扬及证明开来。

在上述亚美尼亚记者(Hrant Dink)于今年 1 月 19 日被谋杀后，大约有 10 万人(大部份是土耳其人)竟然在伊斯坦堡的街上，带着上面写着「我们都是亚美尼亚人」及「我们都是 Hrant Dink」的告示牌游行。Hrant 的太太 Rakel，也是一位火热的基督徒，她在上全国电视频道时声明：「人为朋友舍命，人的爱心没有比这个大的。」接着在那天稍晚的时候，一位真实信仰基督的亚美尼亚教会主教也在全国电视频道上，传讲了一篇勾勒出福音本质的讯息。这篇讲道也同样的被刊登在全国性的报章媒体上。

两个月之后，土耳其全国上下竟然目睹了三位基督徒被谋杀，其中两位还是今年 3 月从伊斯兰教背景改信基督的。这几起谋杀事件的本质，包含了暴力与腐败，主要在传达一个讯息：凡没有遵守大多数人的信仰，或为国家带来羞辱的人，在土耳其的下场便是如此。然而，借着两位罹难者遗孀的响应 (再一次被刊登在全国性报纸的头版)，却对全国传递一个全然相反的讯息：「天父，饶恕他们，因为他们不知道他们所做的。」根据当地一位记者报导，几天之后，在丧礼中，他们不仅借机以相对的灵响应，并以一种「比过去 100 年宣教工作所做更强而有力」的方式来传达福音。

这个月将开始审理这些谋杀案。每一件谋杀案都是由 18 岁以下的年轻人所为。他们早已习以为常，因为他们通常在狱中会获得减刑。这样的审判不仅成为调查幕后指者的一种方式，也成为极端国家主义者重申对那些会「羞辱土耳其人」(处以监禁)，或者更糟「分裂国家团结」(处以死刑) 者的平台。

最重要的是，这些声明已经在 8 月间由反诽谤联盟（简称 ADL），针对在土耳其的亚美尼亚历史做出发表。亚伯拉罕・法可斯曼(Abraham Foxman)与解除第一次世界大战 1914~15 期间所发生的种族屠杀有关，然而这位 ADL 主任于八月下旬，在一个公开发表中已改变他的立场。总之，他承认奥图曼土耳其帝国在 1914-15 年对亚美尼亚族群所发动的种族屠杀事件。在第一次大战期间，处于过渡期的奥图曼帝国的土耳其领导政权，因为害怕亚美尼亚少数族群的

背叛，于是强迫亚美尼亚族群从他们原本的家乡小亚细亚中部被放逐(之后是根除)到叙利亚的沙漠。这事件曾被当地一位基督教宣教士亲眼目睹，后来被一位美国大使亨利・摩根编辑记录下来。直到今日，这件事在 1923 年战争之后成立的现代土耳其共和国中仍争论不已。但对于许多亚美尼亚人和其它研究这些事件的人而言，却仍保留了「这段被遗忘的种族屠杀记忆」。

在我们多年来的生活、服事及祷告中，神持续带领我们回到否认亚美尼亚种族屠杀的景况，而这正是拦阻土耳其教会增长及属灵突破的一项主要障碍。

事实上，有很长一段时间，中东地区几乎没有什么地方能够较公开地分享福音(例如有宪法保障)，或者传福音给更多的人，让圣经能更多的发行，以致对神国度而言只有极少的影响。为什么会如此？犹如当一个人回避某个特别的问题或罪时，会在之后造成极大的破坏，对一个国家而言也是如此。正如在以色列的历史中，一次又一次，为了实践她的呼召和命定，这个国家必须面对全国性的罪。拒绝面对罪只会造成一种至终导致被逐出应许之地的错误循环。同样的，当土耳其这个国家否认祖先在领导国家现代化过程中所犯的错，也会因此遭受这些行动所带来属灵方面的苦难。

这整个议题也与犹太人大屠杀有重要关联，也塑造了现代以色列国的主体定位。此外，这声明具有更重大的意义，一方面主要是因为以色列-土耳其人之间的关系，另外则是在宗教方面，也与犹太教和伊斯兰教之间有重要关联。我们希望，这样的结果会是和好过程的开始，能医治一个国家的伤痛，而她的百姓能从祖先所犯的罪中得释放。但是和好要发生，需要双方同时付出代价与努力。视自身为「第一个基督教国家」的亚美尼亚人，向土耳其人释出饶恕，将是促使属灵突破发生的重要关键。我们都从主的话了解，饶恕对于攻破仇敌的坚固营垒，以及更新与神之间的关系非常重要。求神使亚美尼亚的百姓和属灵领袖得着饶恕方面的启示：「免我们的债，如同我们免了人的债」。

因此，请为土耳其这个国家祷告，包括她的领袖、教会，并那些快要接受主名的未信者，因为他们是最具重要性的。如同以色列一样，土耳其在物质及属灵上正处在十字路口。一方面她正朝向一个较保守或伊斯兰教的方向前进，而这将为土耳其国家主义注入支持的力量。另一方面，有一股强势的世俗力量长期捆绑着统治阶层。如果这两个或三个因素结合在一起，将会带来什么样毁灭的结果呢？
其它两个需要祷告的焦点包括：
1. 政府拥护宗教自由
2. 当地信徒的见证—在面对逼迫及威胁时，仍能靠主大能继续勇敢的宣扬福音真理没有惧怕或惊慌。

愿神赐福您

中亚祷告网络（CAPN）同工

Dear Friend,
Thank you for continuing to declare God's purposes along the Silk Road through your prayers. Here are some specific prayer needs from China and Turkey (both "ends" of the Silk Road) to help you be more informed as you pray.

Xinjiang, China

Please continue to pray for the "tight" situation in China and especially Xinjiang province at this time. More Christian workers have been forced to leave the province. One worker was interrogated for many hours over a period of 3 days, before being expelled from the country. This worker writes, "The Govt. has huge plans for that part of China as it is their hope to refuel and supply a huge lack in their economy. What is above the ground (the Uygurs, Kazak, Kyrgyz and Tajik people) are of little value. They definitely want them to have no positions of power in education or any other field. Chinese were geographically ordered to move out West around 12 yrs ago. They hold all the key jobs and are bosses now. Presently targeting rapid removal of ones like me who speak some of the languages out there is just Stage One. The minority peoples who have had influence from us... are obviously next. I heard too it was a new govt. decree to get us out from July on and then go for our local friends. Already some of my friends have been held for questioning..."

Please pray for the following situation as well:

Zhou Heng, a prominent Christian house church leader in Urumqi, Xinjiang, was arrested and accused of illegal business management. On August 3rd, Zhou received the delivery notice for a batch of printed Bibles someone sent to him. He was immediately detained without a warrant by the Shayibake District Public Security officers, who were apparently anticipating his pick-up.

Zhou suffered inhumane treatment as a detainee in custody. The officers hand-cuffed Zhou behind his back on the first day of his arrest. Zhou was forced to sleep on a concrete floor for the first month, and was only provided a bed after CAA reported about his arrest. Zhou shared the cell with 14 other inmates, who were directed by the officers to beat up on him as an attempt to make Zhou testify against himself, which Zhou refused. On August 31st, a charge was formally issued against Zhou, and he was transferred to Xishan Prison in Urumqi.

Zhou's wife, Chen-Jihong, and his local lawyer Zhang Jiunong, have been trying to post bail so Zhou can reunite with his family. But that request was also rejected on Oct. 16.

Pray that during this time of persecution, as in the Book of Acts, the believers will grow stronger,

God will move supernaturally and that the church will multiply.

Turkey

Recently, about 70 believers gathered in Antalya for 55 hours of non-stop praise and prayer. This was historic as never before had so many people gathered for such an extended period of time to worship God and pray for Turkey. We sense that breakthrough is beginning in Turkey!

However, at this critical time there are situations that need to be covered in prayer. Please pray for peace on the border of Turkey and Iraq. Pray for reconciliation and understanding between Turks and Kurds. Pray also for reconciliation and forgiveness between Turks and Armenians. Below is an article written by a key worker in this part of the world and sent out recently by Chuck Pierce. I am including this here to help with understanding of the root issues in Turkey that may be blocking the Gospel from advancing and ask for your prayers.

From May 2006 until March 2007 Turkey witnessed three different killings of Christians that made international news. The first was of a Catholic Priest (Jesuit) in the city of Trabzon on the Black Sea. The second was of a prominent Armenian journalist who was an open advocate of Turkish recognition of the Armenian genocide (for the purpose of national reconciliation). And the third was the one most evangelicals are familiar with - the killing of the three members of an evangelical church who were involved with a Bible distribution ministry in the eastern city of Malatya.

These events have both shaken the nation and caused many to asks questions about the nature of secularism, Islam, nationalism and democracy in a nation that has in the past prided itself on it's tolerance within the Muslim world. We believe that these killings were part of the reason for massive protests in support of the principles of Ataturkism (after the founder of the modern nation Mustafa Kemal Ataturk) during May and June of this year. After elections this summer, the current ruling Justice and Development party, which has roots in a (since banned) Islamic party, secured a firm majority in the Parliament and thus was able to elect a President from within its party. This action was much to the dismay of the military, who together with President, are supposed to guarantee and uphold the secular and democratic principles of the nation.

Caught in the midst of this struggle is the rather small believing Christian community, numbering not more than 3-5,000 in a nation of 70 million plus, 99% of whom are Muslims.. Yet as a result of these murders, the message of Jesus has been both declared and demonstrated over the last 9 months in a way that no one would have ever expected.

After Hrant Dink (the Armenian Journalist) was murdered on January 19, 2007, an estimated 100,000 people (mostly Turks) turned out to march on the streets of Istanbul, carrying placards that read "We are all Armenians", and "We are all Hrant Dink". His wife Rakel (also an active Christian)

then went on national TV and declared "No greater love has a man than he lay down his life for his friends." Subsequently later that day, also on national TV, the head of the Patriarch of the Armenian Church, a true believer as well, preached a message that basically outlined the Gospel. This message was printed in the national press as well.

Two months after this the nation witnessed the murder of the three evangelical believers, two from Muslim background, in March of 2007. The nature of these murders, both in violence and banality, was meant to send a message to those in Turkey who do not follow the majority religion or would bring shame to the Turkish nation. However, the response however by the widows of the two of the men (printed once again on the front page of the national press) sent an equal but opposite message to the nation: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing." The funeral for the pastor of the fellowship a few days later also presented the Body with an opportunity not only to respond in the opposite spirit but also to present the Gospel by a national believer in a way that was 'more powerful and effective than the last 100 years of missionary work', according to a local journalist.

This month marks the beginning of the trials of the murderers. Each of these murders were carried out by young men under the age of 18. They were used as they usually get reduced prison sentences. The trials then become not only a way to investigate the people that sent them, but also a platform for ultra nationalists to restate their threats for those who would 'Insult Turkishness' (a crime punishable by jail in Turkey), or worse, 'Dividing the Unity of the Nation' (a crime which carries the death sentence).

Over and above all this has been the declaration by the Anti Defamation league in August regarding the history of the Armenians in Turkey. After firing it's New England regional director over the ADL's non committal position regarding the events leading up to the Armenian Genocide of 1914-15 during World War I, Abraham Foxman, the director of the ADL changed his (and the ADL's) position in a public statement issued in late August. In short, he acknowledged that the events of 1914-15 did constitute genocide by the Ottoman Turkish Empire of it's Armenian community. During World War I, the transitional Turkish leadership of the Ottoman Empire, fearing a revolt by it's Armenian minority began a policy of forced deportation (and subsequent extermination) of its Armenian community from their historical homeland in Central Anatolia to the Syrian Desert. The events, eye witnessed by Christian Missionaries in the region and then compiled and recorded by US Ambassador Henry Morganthau, are still disputed today by the Modern Turkish Republic established after the war in 1923. For many Armenians today and others who have studied these events, they remain 'the forgotten genocide.'

In our lives, work and prayers over the years the Lord has continually led us back to the denial of the Armenian genocide as being one of the main obstacles to a spiritual breakthrough which would result in the growth of the Church in Turkey.

In fact, no where in the Middle East has the Gospel been shared more openly (guaranteed by a secular constitution), to more people, with Bibles distributed more widely, for a longer period of time, with so little corresponding impact for the Kingdom of God. The question remains as to why this is the case? As an individual's avoidance of a particular issue or sin can create havoc later on, so it's true in the life of a nation. Time and time again in the life of Israel, the nation had to confront it's national sins in order to fulfill it's calling and destiny. A refusal to do so only created a cycle of behavior that ultimately led to it's expulsion from the land of promise. Similarly, as the nation of Turkey has denied the wrongdoing of its ancestors leading up to the formation of the modern nation, it has therefore suffered the consequences spiritually of it's actions.

This whole subject also has an important link to the issue of the Jewish holocaust that has shaped the identity of the modern nation of Israel. This together with the importance of Israeli-Turkish relations on one side, and Jewish-Muslim relations on the religious side, makes this statement all the more significant. We would hope the result would be the beginning of a process of reconciliation that would heal the wounds of a nation and it's people held in bondage by the sins of it's ancestors. But for reconciliation to occur we need two parties at the table. In light of the fact that the Armenians refer to themselves as the 'first Christian nation' their role in releasing forgiveness to the Turkish people is crucial for a spiritual breakthrough to occur. As we understand this from the words of Jesus, forgiveness is crucial both for breaking the power of enemy strongholds and for renewing fellowship with God. Pray that a revelation of the need for Armenians to forgive 'as they were forgiven' would come to both its people and their spiritual leaders."

Therefore prayer for the nation of Turkey, it's leaders, it's believing community (the Church) as well as those 'who are yet to believe in the name, because of them' is of utmost importance. Like Israel, the nation of Turkey is at a crossroads both physically and spiritually. In one way the nation is moving in a more conservative or Islamic direction that has also fueled support for Turkish nationalism. On the other side exists a strong secular block that has long held on to the reigns of power. What would a clash of these two or three elements bring about?

Two other areas our prayer should be focused on include:

1) freedom of religion to be upheld by the government
2) the witness of the believing community in the land - that in the face of persecution and threats they would remain empowered and bold to continue to proclaim the truth of the gospel without fear or trepidation

Blessings,
CAPN Coordinator