



Pray for Andrew and Turkey

31-Day Prayer Initiative • October 2018



This is a guide for prayers over Andrew Brunson and his family, and for the nation of Turkey. It is designed to last for the month of October. The first 13 days are found below, and the remainder of the month will be posted on the 14th, once we have processed news about the outcome of the October 12 trial. Andrew and Norine are called to serve Turkey, the very nation that is detaining him. Perhaps our prayers can be used by God to bring a release not only for Andrew, but also for the Gospel in Turkey.

October 1

PRAISE Read Psalm 1, and praise for the power of the Word through Bibles in Turkey.

PONDER Turkey was the cradle for the Gospel's worldwide advance. Now only a fraction of one percent believe (more info: [link](#)).

PRAY For individuals and ministries that bring Bibles into Turkey. May they be used of God to transform lives (more info: [link](#)). Pray that Andrew and Norine will find strength and comfort through God's Word.

October 2

PRAISE Read Psalm 2, and praise God for His sovereignty over the nations, even over Turkey.

PONDER The Northern Kurds live in the mountain areas near the borders of Iran and Iraq, making them difficult to reach (more info: [link](#)).

PRAY For God to bring the Gospel even to these dispersed Northern Turks. May the Lord empower believers in Turkey to be bold, despite opposition, trusting in God's sovereignty. Pray for the church Andrew pastored, Izmir Resurrection Church, to be blessed by God with strong leadership (more info: [link](#)).

October 3

PRAISE Read Psalm 7, and thank God for His protection for believers in Turkey.

PONDER There are some 65,000 Armenians in Turkey. They are 94% Christian. Fewer peoples in

the world have known greater suffering (more info: [link](#)).

PRAY Pray for the Armenian people to be protected by God and to be God's witnesses, even in Turkey. Pray for God's mercy and protection for Andrew, Norine as long as they are detained by house arrest, and pray for the three Brunson children, Jordan, Jacqueline, and Blaise, all in America, to know God's provision and peace.

October 4

PRAISE Read Psalm 8, and praise God for His majesty that will one day be displayed in heaven, with believers from all the people the world.

PONDER The Zaza-Dilmi in middle-eastern Turkey are a nomadic people with roots traced to the Medes and Persians. Almost 1.7 million strong, they are 00.00 percent Christian (more info: [link](#)).

PRAY Pray for God's majesty to be proclaimed through mission outreach, conversions, and churches planted for the Zaza-Dilmi people. Ask God to use the government-allowed Sat 7 Christian satellite television ministry in a mighty way to touch all the peoples of Turkey, even the Zaza-Dilmi ([link](#)). Pray also that God's majesty will be declared daily through the witness of Andrew and Norine, even touching the guards who watch them, and any visitors God sends to them.

October 5

PRAISE Read Psalm 9 and thank God for His wonderful deeds!

PONDER The Jesus film has had great impact worldwide, and even in Turkey (more info: [link](#); see also: [link](#)).

PRAY For God to use the Jesus film and other means to deepen the God's work around Turkey, even impacting the Arab Lebanese (see: [link](#)). Pray for Andrew and fellow pastors in Turkey who are using creative means to witness to all the peoples of Turkey.

October 6

PRAISE Read Psalm 10, and give praise to the God who brings down the arrogant and lifts up the humble.

PONDER In 1923, the "population exchange" between Greece and Turkey emptied the land of Greeks, who where and are primarily Christians. Hence the drop at the time from around 25% Christians in Turkey to about 2.5% (see: [link](#)). The nationalistic spirit

and pressure against Christianity has been unrelenting and now the percentage of Christians is below 0.25%.

PRAY That God will open the doors for the Gospel in Turkey despite the nationalistic spirit. Ask for President Erdogan to be humbled, and to enact policies that honor God and all the people he serves. Pray for God to use the almost 4,000 Greeks who remain in Turkey to be His witnesses (see: [link](#)).

October 7

PRAISE Read Psalm 11, and give praise to the God who provides refuge to His people.

PONDER There are only several hundred Hungarians in Turkey, part of a people group that is almost 90% Christian (see: [link](#)). They need God's refuge.

PRAY Pray for Hungarians to know God's grace, and to share it in Turkey. Pray also for God's protection over Andrew and the Turkish pastors who are preparing for the October 13 trial. May they know God's refuge as they travel and soon assemble to support Andrew.

October 8

PRAISE Read Psalm 12, and praise God for His help for the downtrodden and oppressed.

PONDER The American people comprise the second largest (next to Han Chinese) people group in the world. They are 77% Christian. Approximately 25,000 Americans live in Turkey (see: [link](#)).

PRAY We don't normally think of Americans as the oppressed. Andrew may seem to be the exception. However, American missionaries serving quietly in Turkey can easily become overwhelmed with a sense of oppression and even despair. Pray for God's Spirit to embolden His people, including all Americans. Pray for missionaries in Turkey to see great fruit, and for God to use Andrew's house arrest to embolden others.

October 9

PRAISE Read Psalm 13. David cries out, "How long, O Lord?" Praise God that in the right time, God's great purposes are fulfilled, even as they were in David's life, as his kingship became a picture of the coming reign of the Messiah.

PONDER God used David's trials to shape his character that he might be a witness to the nations, one from whose progeny the Messiah would come. We too cry out, as we pray for Andrew, "How long, O Lord?" May God somehow allow Messiah Jesus to be

revealed and glorified in great measure, even as a result of Andrew's detention.

PRAY The Serbians in Turkey, 9,400 strong, boast an 80% Christian population, but very few really know Jesus. It is a cultural religion. Pray for a breakthrough (see: [link](#)). Andrew is being detained, in part, due to accusations that he was reaching out to Serbs. Pray for such charges to be turned around, to be seen as a blessing, and for God to prepare strong and positive testimonies for the October 12 trial.

October 10

PRAISE Read Psalm 14, and praise God for wisdom promised for those who ask, even for the foolish.

PONDER There are 44,000 Macedonians in Turkey. As we pray for them (see: [link](#)), we can recall how God led Paul to Macedonia through supernatural guidance (Acts 16:9). May such wisdom also guide Andrew's upcoming trial. If God can guide His servants, and If God can move the heart of a king (Proverbs 21:21), God can move government leaders, court officials, and the proceedings of the trial.

PRAY Pray for God to prepare all of the players in the trial the prosecution, the defense, every witness, and Andrew himself. Pray for God's wisdom to prevail over all aspects of the trial, especially its outcome.

October 11

PRAISE Read Psalm 15, and praise God for the truth that if we are holy before God, we will be protected and helped by God.

PONDER The American government at the highest levels has been advocating and pressuring for Andrew's release. This very fact is amazing evidence that God answers the prayers of the righteous. How often does a bold Christian become such a focal point for the international media, even a flash point between nations? God is using Andrew as a witness.

PRAY The media around this trial can bring God great glory. Pray for all of the media representatives in the trial to be safe, and for journalists to create reports that will glorify God (see the work of Open Doors: [link](#)). Pray for Andrew to be emboldened to give a clear Gospel witness. Pray for the Turkish press and also for the guards (Jandarma) in tomorrow's trial to hear the Gospel (see: [link](#)).

October 12

PRAISE Read Psalm 16, and praise God that He will keep Andrew and all who attend the trial safe, and that God will accomplish His great purposes.

PONDER What happens in the courtroom today can impact many lives, and even nations.

PRAY Remembering that Turkey is between 7 and 9 hours head of American, depending on the time zone you live in, intercede through the day, praying for God to lead and to use this trial for His glory. Pray for Andrew and all who testify, to be bold, proclaiming God's sovereign grace (Ephesians 6:19). Pray that unless the Lord has a purpose we cannot yet see, that Andrew will be deported and his charges dropped.

October 13

PRAISE Read Psalm 17, and praise God that He enacts justice for His people and for Andrew's release!

PONDER More than 150,000 people have been imprisoned or detained in Turkey over the past few years. We can rejoice that Andrew has been released. Let us also continue praying for Turkey, and for the ministry God will open to Andrew as he heads home.

PRAY For the Lord to grant Andrew and Norine safe passage to America. Ask the Lord to grant them the rest and restoration they need, physically, mentally, and spiritually. May their meeting with President Trump this afternoon be guided by God. Pray that their reunification with their children, Jordan, Jacqueline, and Blaise, be blessed.

October 14

PRAISE Read Psalm 18. This glorious Psalm would fit perfectly with heartfelt praise God's people can offer for Andrew's release. Speaking of God reign, it also reminds us that whatever purpose the Lord has next for Andrew and Norine will be made known and fulfilled.

PONDER The Brunson's were forced to leave Turkey for now, but their heart for the blessing of their church, Izmir Resurrection Church, and for the people of Turkey, remains. The percentage of Evangelical Christians in Turkey is approximately .04%. Yet, the growth rate for Evangelicals in Turkey is about 1.2%, slightly less than the global average. Let us not give up hope, or cease to pray for Turkey. It is currently one of the least evangelized countries in the world, and the prayers that released Andrew from his detention can be used by God to release the Gospel throughout the land. Commit to finishing out this guide for the month, and encourage others to do the same!

PRAY Ask the Lord to guide the Brunsons as they settle in. May their testimony be used of God and may ministry open before them in a way that is right for them in this time of adjustment. May their witness in America be powerful as it was in Turkey.

October 15

PRAISE Psalm 19 wonderfully reminds us of the general witness to God's existence through the world (the creation) and through the Word. As the Brunsons share the Word in America, may it continue to spread also in Turkey. Praise God that His Word can reach Turks through groups that migrate into the country from other parts of Europe, including Germany.

PONDER Turks and Germans have intermingled since the days of the Ottoman Empire. There are somewhere between 2.5 and 4 million people of Turkish descent living in Germany, and some 50,000 Germans live in Turkey. These Germans in Turkey are nearly 65% Christian (about 2.1% Evangelical). German believers were aware of Andrew's plight and they prayed with us for Turkey and for Andrew's release. Still, some of their own reporters remain detained or imprisoned in Turkey. For more information see: [Link](#)

PRAY Ask the Lord to use Germans to impact Turkey with the Gospel, and pray that the many Turks living in Germany will also be touched with the grace and life offered through Jesus Christ. May the Turkish church in Germany grow strong and bring the light back into Turkey.

October 16

PRAISE Psalm 20 reminds us that even in our lowest moments, God reigns from on high, and He gives us victory while on earth. Paul wrote some of his greatest letters from prison. Paul's life and faithfulness while behind bars multiplied God's work in the outside world as his example inspired faith and boldness in others (Philippians 1:12-18). Praise God for using even trials to test and strengthen His work! May the Brunsons find the right balance between rest and fellowship and the work that must be done as they get settled back in America.

PONDER The Brunsons are freed from prison, but they would have us remember the many who are not. By downloading Open Door's "World Watch List," you can see how Christians are persecuted and Christianity repressed in nations around the world. History shows, however, that when brought through fiery trials, Christ's Church and His followers become refined, purified, bolder, and stronger. And the kingdom of God advances! It is not pressure from without that weakens the Church, but compromise from within.

PRAY Pray that the American church, which has become weak due to compromise within, becomes purified through the fires of revival. Ask God to use Andrew's witness, and that of persecuted Christians around the world, to stir Americans to become wholly devoted to the Lord.

October 17

PRAISE Psalm 21 speaks of God's blessings on the King, with Messianic overtones. It reminds us that "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He will" (Proverbs 21:1, ESV). Give praise to the God who reigns on high over the nations!

PONDER Looking back, Andrew was primarily imprisoned in October of 2016 because of one man. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, president of Turkey, came into power as head of state on August 28, 2014. In order to consolidate his power, he has promoted a spirit of nationalism that pressures Turks to become Muslims. This turn away from Turkey's former democratic ethos has led to increased persecution for Christians. Erdogan's efforts to maintain control over Turkey is the primary reason for the closing of churches around the country. For more information, see: [Link](#).

PRAY Pray that the Lord, who can move the heart of a king, will move Erdogan to slacken restrictions and to allow friends and coworkers of the Brunsons more freedom to do God's work. Pray for the Church in Turkey to grow and expand. May Erdogan become a "Cyrus" who supports the work of God, even if he doesn't know the reasons why. Ask the Lord to show the Brunsons ways they might eventually stir more prayer and mission support, as well as the sending of missionaries, to the Muslim world.

October 18

PRAISE Psalm 22, describing our Lord's crucifixion and sufferings, closes with a message of hope and trust in God's redemptive power. Andrew, Norine and the family need God's healing touch. They have been through a lot. And the Lord can use it all for good. Praise God that no matter what we, or persecuted Christians face, God is sovereign over all. He is working out a great plan that will fulfill our hopes and dreams in the end. God can and will use even the work of Satan to accomplish a greater good.

PONDER Ancient Jerusalem was subjugated and its people brought into exile by Babylon, which fell to Persia. The Persians gave up their original pagan religion (Zoroastrianism) to another (to become Shia Muslims) when the Arabs conquered them. Despite the fact that its government is one of the most oppressive to Christians, the Church in Iran is one of the fastest growing in the world (see: [Link](#)). Pray for the more than half million

Persians (Iranians) in Turkey, that they would come to know salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ ([Link](#))

PRAY Ask the Lord to bless the Bransons with His sustaining and strengthening power. Pray also that the very places where the extremes of Islam have been so evident, such as Iran, will become open doors for the Gospel to reach Muslims in Turkey and throughout the Middle East. Pray for God to use the online Bibles in Farsi and other technological resources available to offer God's Word to Turkish Persians (for details, go to: [Link](#)).

October 19

PRAISE Andrew left Turkey, a land that has its martyrs. Psalm 23, one of the best-known chapters in the Bible, reminds us that God is with us even "in the valley of the shadow of death" (v. 4). Praise God that death for the believer is but a shadow ... a passage-way into glory!

PONDER Best known among Turkey's recent martyrs are the employees of a Bible publishing house who were attacked, tortured, and murdered by five Muslim assailants on April 18 of 2007 ([Link](#)). Even under the dark shadow of such satanic hate, the Good Shepherd guides His sheep into higher tablelands of glory. Nothing can stop the work of God.

PRAY Ask God to help believers who serve in Turkey to remain faithful, even if they face imprisonment or possible death. May the Good Shepherd guide them to rich pastures and quiet waters, allowing goodness and mercy to follow them all the days of their lives. Pray that Andrew's witness over time helps American believers live with such boldness as well.

October 20

PRAISE The Brunson's were forced to leave Turkey. Others who remain ask for our prayers that they might be faithful. Psalm 24, reminds us that the whole earth (including Turkey) is the Lord's. It bids us to pray for the gates to be opened for the King of Glory, the Lord Almighty to enter. Praise God that there are no doors that can remain closed in Turkey when God's people pray.

PONDER There are many missionaries in Turkey, but none whose ministry should be displayed on the internet (for security reasons). Ministry works best in that land through humble and quiet witnesses.

PRAY Pray for Andrew, Norine, and for all of the missionaries in Turkey, to be quietly yet

powerfully successful in sharing the Gospel throughout the land. Ask the King of Glory to open the doors for such an advance, and for an increase in ministries and missions that come into Turkey.

October 21

PRAISE Psalm 25, is a declaration of trust in God, even in times of trial and turbulence. We want to go around hardships, and God wants us to grow through them.

PONDER James 1 reminds us that trials come into our lives to make us stronger (v. 2-8). May Andrew and Norine be gifted with a faith in God that makes them stronger in ministry, even as they process all that has gone before. Ponder how the Lord can help you receive the same blessing.

PRAY Pray for Andrew and Norine to receive insights from God about the journey ahead for them. May the Lord inspire them with truths such as found in Psalm 25. Pray, likewise, for believers throughout Turkey to receive a fresh infusion of hope and joy and purpose for their lives and ministries.

October 22

PRAISE Psalm 26, is a prayer for vindication. It fits with Romans 12:17-21, which reminds us that through the Lord, all will be made right in the end. Praise God for his justice.

PONDER We prayed for Andrew's release and saw God answer gradually and yet mightily. There are many intercessory ministries and networks we can tap into as well ([Link](#)) for the ongoing effort. As we continue to pray for Turkey and for the Brunsons, may God impact the nations to bring God's grace, mercy, and justice into the world.

PRAY Ask God to strengthen all who are using this 31-day prayer guide. Pray that a network of intercession will continue to grow until a new wave of Gospel breakthrough in Turkey needs becomes realized.

October 23

PRAISE Psalm 27, is a song of praise to the God who becomes our fortress and protector. Join the Psalmist in worship that drives away fear and brings forth the wondrous kingdom of God.

PONDER Some of the great enemies of Israel were the ancient Sumerian nation of Assyria and Babylon in the region now called Iraq. Almost 100% Muslim, Iraqis need Jesus. There are now more than a hundred thousand Iraqis in Turkey. They reside mostly in

Istanbul and are predominately refugees. In their displaced condition, they may be more open to the Gospel than those in their homeland.

PRAY Pray for a move of God to impact the Iraqis in Iran, and Turkey, along with each of the unreached people groups there. Pray for the Brunson's church, Izmir Resurrection Church, to find new strength and vision and leadership for their ministry among all the peoples of Turkey.

October 24

PRAISE We jump to Psalm 30, which reminds us that God saves us from the "pit." Today, as Jesus has given us more understanding about the afterlife, we can praise God that no matter what we go through, we have eternal life.

PONDER If any people in Turkey have been saved from the pit of this world's destruction, it is the Kabardians. It is surprising that any Kabardians survived the century-long Russo-Circassian wars that ended in 1864, resulting in the killing, expulsion and emigration of ninety percent of the Kabardian population from their Russian homeland. Yet there are more than a million Kabardians in Turkey.

PRAY For the small handful of Kabardian believers, perhaps less than a hundred out of the 1.1 million Turkish Kabardians who need the Gospel. May their witness be bold, powerful, and impactful. Pray for each of the 45 unreached people groups in Turkey to have a core witness within their group as well ([Link](#)). Pray also for Andrew and Norine to find fresh vision and boldness in their intercession for the land of Turkey.

October 25

PRAISE Psalm 31 tells of the refuge we find in the Lord. Praise God that Andrew and Norine are safe in the Lord's care and can know the abundance of God's goodness every day (v. 19).

PONDER Even as Andrew and Norine tell others about their experiences in Turkey and their detention there, God's work continues to work in that spiritually barren land. There are approximately 33,000 Dutch within the nation, a people group that is about 48% Christian. (See: [Link](#)).

PRAY Ask the Lord to use the Dutch as witnesses to the grace of the Gospel, and to be their refuge.

October 26

- PRAISE** Psalm 33 reminds us of how “blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (v. 12). America may not be a fully Christian nation, but when contrasted with Turkey, we can rejoice in the freedoms we have because of the Christian values on which America was founded.
- PONDER** The Gospel of freedom first bore fruit in Turkey before being released throughout the world. In this sense, America and Turkey are connected. Ask God to bring the Gospel back to Turkey from America ([Link](#)). Andrew, now back in America, can inspire others to continue to pray for Turkey and even to go there for quiet and impactful ministry.
- PRAY** Pray for the Lord to provide a fresh anointing and every spiritual and practical provision for all of the missionaries from our country who are serving in Turkey and other Middle Eastern countries.

October 27

- PRAISE** Read Psalm 34. Even in difficult times, David urged people to “taste and see that the Lord is good” (v. 8). Give praise to God that every person in the Middle East can have opportunity to taste of the goodness of the Lord.
- PONDER** Turkey is a gateway for the Gospel into the Middle East ([link](#)). More Muslims are coming to faith in Christ in our day than every before in history. Pull up a map of the Middle East and ask God to open the gate wider each day, touching each nation that touches or surrounds Turkey.
- PRAY** We can pray according to the ancient promise of God’s blessing over Ishmael to be realized each day through a Gospel advance that reaches the Muslim world (Genesis 17:20-21). Pray for the Lord to continue to use even visions and dream among people who currently have no strong witness to salvation through Christ.

October 28

- PRAISE** Psalm 35 is a prayer for God to “contend” with those who contend against us. God has done so for Andrew and Norine, releasing them from Turkey. May believers in Turkey continue to contend for God’s kingdom. Praise God that even opposition to the Gospel will ensure its advance. May this be the case not only for Christians in Turkey, but for Jews ([link](#)).
- PONDER** Genesis 16:11-12 describes the contention that would mark relations between Ishmael’s descendants and Israel through the ages. There are approximately 77,000 immigrants

and descendants of Turkish Jewish communities in Israel — may they know the Lord ([link](#)). And as the Muslim nations that surround Israel put pressure on that small nation may Jews turn to the Lord for salvation.

PRAY Pray that even as the Gospel advances into Muslim nations, that God will impact Jewish people in Turkey and throughout the Middle East.

October 29

PRAISE Psalm 37 is a beautiful promise of blessings for those who trust in God. It can be a basis for praising God boldly for the joy and rest and restoration that Andrew and Norine and their children will continue to experience (v. 40).

PONDER As we continue to rejoice in Andrew's deliverance, let us remember in prayer all who are detained in Turkey and other nations. The very experience of imprisonment can open a person to God and things most important.

PRAY Pray for the release of others who are imprisoned for their faith. Consider using the prayers written here ([link](#)).

October 30

PRAISE Psalm 40 is a poetic call to patience and perseverance. Praise God for His guidance and inspiration as we plan to continue praying beyond October, for the Gospel's advance around the world. Our prayers are bearing fruit around the world, and none have gone unheeded.

PONDER When this daily prayer guide ends, may we continue in prayer for Andrew, for Turkey, and for God's work around the world. And we are called to "remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them" (Hebrews 13:3). Let us plan to connect with various ministries that can keep the fuel of our prayers hot (For e.g.: [link](#)). Consider using the excellent resource, whether in book form or on the internet of Operation World ([link](#)).

PRAY Ask the Lord to show you and your church and friends ways to keep prayers for the nations fueled with a clear sense that the sovereign Lord is using every prayer for His great and eternal purposes.

October 31

PRAISE Psalm 41 could have been a prayer right out of Andrew's mouth while he suffered in prison. Praise God once again for his release, and remember the followers of Christ

worldwide who likewise cry out for God's deliverance.

PONDER We have prayed for a month for the Brunsons and for Turkey. Just as the Gospel reached the world through the open doors in Turkey, may our prayers impact the world as we focus beyond Turkey. One day we will see God in glory and will realize the great importance of every prayer we have offered. They will be as incense before the Lord (Revelation 5:8). Let us then continue a daily practice of prayer. Look over the resources of the Joshua Project, and consider keeping their app on your mobile device, even as you continue the daily practice of praying for Andrew and Norine and their children, and for the nations that need the Lord (see: [link](#)).

PRAY Pray for the Lord to show you your part in the Divine call to continue lifting up the Brunsons, missionaries on the field, and persecuted Christians worldwide. May we never stop believing and praying for the glory of God and the Gospel to cover the world as the waters cover the sea!

