



[WATCH & PRAY](#)

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Cyprus is a major base for Christian organizations ministering to the surrounding Middle Eastern states.

[PRAY FOR:](#)

- Pray for a shattering of bitterness and prejudice between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.
- Pray for Muslims in the north to place their hope not in economic prosperity but in Jesus.
- Pray for discipleship, spiritual maturity, and bold witnesses among ethnic minority believers.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw religious Cypriots into a living relationship with Christ and for renewal within the Orthodox Church.

CYPRUS

OPERATION
WORLD

the definitive prayer guide to every nation



For thousands of years, the fertile plains and arid mountains of Cyprus have borne witness to the rise and fall of numerous empires. Located just south of Turkey, this third-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea has been ruled by no less than eleven world powers over the past three millennia. Cyprus is mentioned numerous times in the Bible, and Barnabas, one of the earliest Christian missionaries, was a native Cypriot. He and the apostle Paul traveled and preached across the island almost 2,000 years ago.

Having gained independence from Britain in 1960, Cyprus struggled to achieve stability, and a 1974 Turkish invasion and occupation of the north has divided the island to this day, creating as many as 230,000 refugees. The Republic of Cyprus, claiming authority over the whole island, is recognized internationally as the official state, while only Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which encompasses one-third of the island. With a greater degree of interaction over the past decade, deep divisions between Greek and Turkish Cypriots have begun to soften. While negotiations for reunification have continued since 2008, a seeming majority of Cypriots approve. Unfortunately, Cyprus also finds itself in dire economic straits, with heavy exposure to bad foreign debt and an economy largely dependent on tourism and financial services - both of which saw significant declines during the recent global financial crisis.

The Orthodox Church is a key element of Greek Cypriot culture and identity. While Cyprus is one of the more religious countries in the European Union, and roughly two-thirds of the population consider themselves Orthodox, those who do attend church are increasingly rural and older. Negative prejudices against Evangelical and other Protestant churches are easing but continue to be a stumbling block to many. The strongest recent advancement of the Gospel has been among minority communities, including Russians, Sri Lankans, Filipinos, and Iranians. While freedom of religion exists, proselytism by these ethnic minorities is closely monitored. Small numbers of Turkish Cypriots, over 99% of whom are Muslim, have become followers of Jesus.

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JOSHUA PROJECT

Although there may be a few believers or even a few churches, they are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.

A total of 5 People Groups are Unreached –
232 000 people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.

PRAY FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

The Northern third and 55% of coastline is almost completely Muslim, but also quite secularized. Pray that the historic, ethnic and cultural prejudices against Christianity would not prevent spiritual openness.

Small numbers of Turkish Cypriots have become believers.
Pray for numerical and spiritual growth.
Pray for protection, wisdom and fruitfulness for those seeking to share Christ with those in the North.



REDEMPTIVE GIFTS OF THE NATION

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