

STAGE 1	EUROPE	DUISBURG, GERMANY	TURKS IN GERMANY & BULGARIA
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Turkey is the largest unreached country in the world with a 99.9% Muslim population. Seventy percent of Turks living outside of Turkey reside in Germany, primarily in urban centers. Berlin has the most. The B. family had prayed and sought to reach them for many years.

When they returned to Germany in 1992, after living a year in Turkey, they settled in Gelsenkirchen, a city located in the middle of the Ruhrgebiet, the region with the largest concentration of Turks (400,000 of the 2.4 million Turks in Germany). Twelve percent of the city was Turkish. During

several years, they established relationships with both German and Turkish believers. In 2000, God used a prayer walk and a request for help to get them involved in Duisburg where 14% of the population is Turkish. Mr. B. began to meet regularly with a German medical student to pray for his friends, many of whom were Turks. This monthly prayer meeting grew. At the end of August, they were asked by a pastor if they had any interest in establishing a ministry center in Duisburg.

Sensing God's leading, the B. family moved to Duisburg in 2002. About 50% of the inhabitants of their neighborhood were Turks. They were able, with God's help, to purchase a ministry center and start a non-profit, Die Bruecke (The Bridge), which was soon recognized by the government. It is a location for Germans and Turks to come together, where German believers can show Turkish Muslims God's love for them. For German believers, who often find Turkish culture strange or frightening, they offered "Discovery Day" seminars with walks around the neighborhood to meet Turkish neighbors.

The B. family and their German partners developed three goals: 1. Planting house churches through personal evangelism, small group Bible studies, and compassion ministry. 2. The support of Turkish churches and believers through spiritual input (modeling, teaching, discipling, etc.) and resources (literature and the use of buildings). 3. The training of believers to do outreach among Turkish people, in order to multiply the workers. Teams from the USA and from an international school called the Black Forest Academy came to Duisburg to work with Turkish youth using the center. Favorable contacts were made with a number of families.

In July 2009, God opened a special door among Turks that had emigrated from Bulgaria. They began a weekly Bulgarian Turkish Bible Study, which grew to between 20 and 30 in attendance. Seven of them (former Muslims) came to the Lord within two months. Some have said that they had dreams about the B. family before meeting them. The new believers invited others and, for a

while, people came to Christ almost weekly – primarily through relationships and outreaches of the ministry center. They began meeting as a local assembly to worship God in the Turkish language. In 2009 there were about 70 MBBs (Muslim background believers) meeting on Sundays and between 20 and 45 Bulgarian Turks in a Monday evening Bible study. Quarterly, several Turkish churches come together totaling about 200 MBBs. An Imam among the Bulgarian Turks also asked for prayer as he read the Gospel. The local Turkish mosque (the largest in Germany), has even displayed books about Jesus' love for children and God's love (atypical themes for most Muslims).

Some Bulgarian Turks secretly took video clips of the local meetings and sent them through the internet to Bulgarian Turks back home. These clips stimulated a response from Bulgaria, so that the pastor from the Turkish church in Duisburg was invited to visit Bulgaria. He took with him Jesus Film videos and testimonial DVDs. As a result, we have heard reports that over 100 have come to the Lord in Bulgaria, along with family members of the Bulgarian Turks in Duisburg.

Compassion ministry also helped to open the door. B. writes: "When we first arrived, we immediately began to help with language lessons, reading lessons, and I did translation for them to register, go to the doctor, to the school, etc. They have then recognized our help and love for them. Some have said that we were sent by God to help them. We have also been doing children's weeks, homework help, etc. They are poor, and fall through the social services cracks, so we have become advocates for them in official government contexts. It is obvious to us that the main influence has been that of God's Spirit moving and the prayers of others. He is the one who has brought everything together and opened the hearts of Muslims through the message of His Love and Hope."