

When recent earthquakes decimated 140,000 square miles of Türkiye and Sabiha lost everything, she discovered that hope still stands. Sixty-year-old atheist Sabiha was fiercely independent. When she lost her home and all her possessions, more than the physical structures around her were shaken. “My identity collapsed,” she explains. “I prided myself on never needing anyone. I suddenly and utterly experienced need.”

Sabiha relocated to the capital of Ankara, searching for help. Someone directed her to Pastor Izzet, an FMI-supported national church planter, as his congregation was coordinating relief efforts on several fronts. As she decided to attend Izzet’s church, she began to understand her spiritual needs, too. Within two weeks, she surrendered her wearisome self-reliance and found rest for her soul as she placed her faith in Jesus Christ.

The relief work across Türkiye performed by FMI’s indigenous partners is captivating hearts like Sabiha’s and capturing the attention of officials in the impact zones. In the southern province of Hatay near Syria (more than 400 miles away from Ankara), authorities requested that Izzet’s ministry organize and implement children and youth activities for the next twelve months in one of the tent cities established for families who have lost their homes. “May the Lord use us to touch the hearts and souls of these kids,” Izzet says, “and as a result of developing relationships with the kids, may we have deeper and effective [spiritual] conversations with the parents.”

FMI partners across Türkiye are demonstrating excellence and thoroughness in their care for survivors. Church members from Pastor Dante’s and Pastor Enver’s congregations volunteer a week at a time to set up tent villages to shelter displaced families and serve tens of thousands of meals at the impact zones. Beneficiaries comment that they would prefer to receive help from the Christian community than from any other sector. *The Christians see us. They take time to talk with us. They care enough to give us the best — new items, not used, worn out things.* Insulated tents, nearly 100 square feet to provide emergency shelter a family of four, cost \$550 each. Backpacks loaded with school supplies and other items designed to help traumatized children cost \$55 per piece. A van to be used in Pastor Izzet’s new youth ministry has a price tag of \$40,000.

Through the generosity of a friend of FMI, every dollar given toward Turkish earthquake relief administered by FMI’s national church planters, gets doubled up to \$50,000. Right now, and through the end of May, contributions to our **Hope Stands** campaign will be matched through FMI. For example, your \$100 gift becomes \$200 in the hands of a Turkish disciple-maker; a gift of \$250 becomes \$500. As the total contributions reach \$50,000, they become \$100,000. Let’s watch what seismic shifts the Lord brings to Türkiye as we fortify our brothers and sisters there to reflect the unshakeable hope of Christ across the country!

Our Church Giving Sunday:



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