



🇹🇷 ISMIR, TURKEY

Rev. Cagdas Coskun

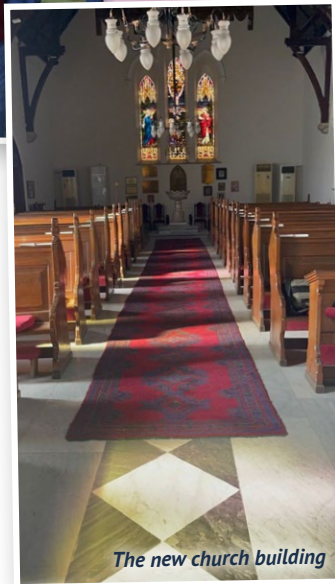
The Protestant Church of Smyrna

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Protestant Church of Smyrna (İzmir Protestan Kilisesi) is the first Reformed Church in Türkiye and through her, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has been faithfully proclaimed to the inhabitants of İzmir since 2001. I was introduced to Reformed theology when I was 16 years old in this church and by God’s grace, I have become the assistant pastor of the very same church in 2022.

The population of Turkey is 85 million and there are only around ten thousand Turkish Christians. The ratio of Christians doesn’t change in İzmir, either; the population of İzmir is around six million and there are only around a thousand Christians. Turkey is truly a place where “the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

On February 6, a 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Turkey. It was followed by a 7.7 earthquake. Officially, 50,000 people died in Turkey but the real number is at least four times more. After the biggest disaster of our history, all other local governments decided to demolish all buildings that were old and weak to earthquakes. Our church is on the eighth floor of a business center which was damaged after the 7.2



The new church building



earthquake in 2020. Consequently, the building that contains our church will be demolished soon, so we need a new place to worship. But, the Lord, in his providence, provided us with a wonderful place to worship as we wait until our old place is rebuilt. We’ll meet on Sundays at St. John the Evangelist’s Anglican Church at 5 PM, after two other worship services. It is a historical building that attracts many unbelievers to visit. So, we hope and pray that the Lord will provide us with many opportunities for sharing the good news.

Amid a transition to a new place, we continue to serve the disaster victims in the Southeast of Turkey. Thanks to the generous donations of many people, we donated six water purifiers that provide clean water for approximately 20,000 individuals daily and one new system is on the way.

We have been working on the translation of Westminster Standards since last year. There are just a few touches left. Lord willing, we will publish it in early 2024.

So please remember us in your prayers as we are making the transition to our new place, preparing Westminster Standards for publishing, and serving the disaster victims.

May the peace of our Lord be with you.

Izmir, Turkey

CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS TRAINING 2024

The dates for the CCMT 2024 are May 18 - June 15! If you are 18+, this month-long training will give you an opportunity to learn from experienced missionaries and pastors in how to share your faith more effectively across nations and cultures. Applications are now being accepted, but space is limited.

ST. CATHERINES, ON

Rev. Thabet & Wafaa Megaly



Rev. Thabet Megaly is an associate pastor in Trinity URC in St. Catherines, and works in local evangelism and outreach, as well as producing television programs throughout the Muslim world.

Dear Friends:

Greetings in the wonderful Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. First of all, I would like to give thanks to all of you who are praying for our ministry and support it financially. It is greatly appreciated!

Pastor Sam Perez invited me to help our sister church in Jersey City. I arrived there at 7 pm. Pastor Sam Perez asked me if I like to see the city after 8 hours driving, I said, "Sure!" God opened the doors to go from store to store and talk with people, most of them Arabic. Some of them asked me to pray for them. Pastor Sam and I returned at 11 pm. Although I was so tired from driving, I felt joy to see the response of people to the work of God. Again, Thursday morning, we visited two mosques. In the evening, I led a session about how to share the Gospel, how to open the dialogue when the people try to close it. Friday, we spent the whole day in street and stores talking with people with a group from the church. We gave Bibles and other Christian books, articles etc. It was joy to help our sister church.

We continue to globally broadcast a weekly three TV programs, two in Arabic and one in English. In these programs, I and my guests discuss topics that help people understand what the



Bible has to say in contrast to false teachings. The Lord is changing lives through this program. English TV is airing every Wednesday 7:30 pm. It helps churches and Christians to answer questions that Muslims ask about the Christian faith. We use a variety of teaching: the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession and other reformed resources.

God has also opened a door to share the gospel and help a group of people in Algeria to grow in the word of God. They were Muslim, but have now believed in Christ. I do this from time to time via zoom meeting. Please keep them in your prayers as they are under persecution. I

have been invited to India and Middle East to train leaders. Please pray for this opportunity.

I continue to visit Christian schools and churches on how to reach out to Muslims. If the churches need any in-person or online teaching about how to reach out to Muslims or to answer Muslims questions about our faith, please contact me.

In Christ,

Rev. Thabet Megaly