



## IZMIR, TURKEY

*Rev. Çağdaş Coşkun*

### Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This spring, the Muslim world celebrated two major holidays: Ramadan and the Sacrificial Feast (Eid al-Adha). These times have always been challenging for Turkish Christians, because they are the moments when we feel most distant from our own communities. We are not welcome to celebrate with our own families or friends. While everyone around us seems happy and enjoys their friendships, Christians may feel alone and isolated—especially when there are only 15,000 Turkish Protestants among 86 million people (just 0.017% of the population).

But the Lord is at work. Every week, 15–20 unbelievers walk into our service and hear the gospel of hope and salvation. They do not leave without receiving a New Testament. More than 200 people attended our Easter service, and at least 50 additional visitors could not even enter the church. Every season we witness new conversions—a true and real miracle of the Holy Spirit. We baptized six new believers in May. Numbers cannot fully express the joy of witnessing hearts being changed; we are truly blessed to be able to see these conversions. The Lord is good to our church.

We lost our worship center about two years ago. Since then, we have been renting an Anglican church building in the city center for three hours every Sunday. However, we needed a place for weekday activities and Sunday classes.

The Lord provided us with a place last January, and we have been renovating the building ever since. The building has six floors, but each floor is only about 600 square feet, giving us about 3,600 square feet in total. We will use each floor for a specific purpose. We will even have space for the seminary when we begin accepting students. Lord willing, we will start using the building at full capacity in August.



By God's grace, we also continue to translate books into Turkish. I would like to thank Word & Deed for their faithful support. We have been working together for the past three years and have produced many books together. I especially want to mention two books we recently translated: Reformed Doctrinal Standards and Introduction to the Old Testament by Dr. M. Barrett. For the first time in our history, a Reformed standard has been published. It includes the three ecumenical creeds and the Three Forms of Unity. We also translated the Three Forms into Turkish for the first time. Dr. Barrett's book is currently in the typesetting phase; Lord willing, we will publish it in September. It will be the first Old Testament introduction book in Turkish. The Lord has been granting us all these privileges. Our greatest hope and prayer is that our efforts will be used for the good of His people and the glory of His name. May His name be praised in Turkey by millions of Christians in the future.

Your brother in Christ,  
Rev. Çağdaş Coşkun





## MINTS INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY

*Rev. Melvin & Jane Dotinga*

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Papua New Guinea (PNG) the church services can include unique visitors. The church buildings are open structures, often without doors and walls, and it is not out of the ordinary when a dog or a cat wanders inside. Some of the churches where I preached had other unusual guests such as cassowaries (a large, flightless bird), chickens, and on this last trip that I made to PNG, I saw a big, black rat crawl across the stage.

My preaching opportunities can also be unusual. One such opportunity occurred at an Assembly of God church in a jungle village named Wagu, about an hour boat ride up the Sepik River. Before preaching, the church members greeted me with a lei of flowers for a decoration around my neck. Many aspects of the worship service were what you might expect at an Assembly of God church, but that morning, the service included a solidly Reformed sermon which showed that all the Scriptures speak of Christ. I suspect my preaching held little similarity to what that congregation normally heard, but the people were receptive, and some even recorded the whole sermon on their phones.



The main reason for my trip to the Sepik region was to teach at the annual pastor conference in the village of Ambunti. This was a meeting for men who serve churches in the villages along the Sepik River and its tributaries. This year I continued teaching lessons I began last year using the Ancient Church History course published by MINTS International Seminary. The pastors who attended the conference, now, look forward to learning the church history of the Middle Ages when I return next year.

In late August Jane and I will return to PNG, but instead of venturing to Ambunti in the East Sepik Province, we will spend our time in the capital city of Port Moresby. While there, I will once again teach at the Reformed Churches Bible College and preach in the churches whenever the opportunity arises.

Jane looks forward to interaction with the ladies and children at the college while building relationships and educating the nationals. We are thankful to the Lord for providing good rapport with students and staff and for using our efforts in making disciples of all nations as we prepare Papua New Guineans for ministry.

In Christ's service,  
Rev. Melvin and Jane Dotinga

