

Armenia: The Hidden Place

Wow! Armenia has an incredible heritage as the **first nation to adopt Christianity** in AD 301. Why doesn't the whole world know about it? The terrible tragedy of the Armenian Genocide 99 years ago should be in the global consciousness alongside the Jewish Holocaust. Yet today most nations ignorantly turn their back on the fate of two million Christian martyrs.

If God hadn't have placed it on our prophetic agenda, we too would have been blissfully unaware. A year ago, God spoke emphatically to us that we needed to take a strategic prayer team to Armenia & SE Turkey. After researching the history, it was obvious to us why God had mandated this assignment. The Armenians call South East Turkey 'Western Armenia' and it was the scene of a hidden crime that later Hitler would refer to, inspiring his officers to execute the Jewish Holocaust.

What follows is a headline report of the strategic prayer journey to Armenia and SE Turkey in September 2014 with a team of 28 prayer leaders and intercessors.

Armenia's 4th Century House of Prayer and Worship

During our five days travelling the length and breadth of Armenia there was one place that resonated strongly with us as it continues to echo the calling of this firstborn Christian nation – The Monastery of the Psalms (Saghmosavank).

Gregory the Illuminator who is credited with leading Armenia to Christianity in 301AD is said to have built the first church here for the continuous singing of Psalms and prayer. With the Kasagh River Gorge itself crying out in praise to our God, the peace-filled chapel that stands atop of it today dates from the 13th century.

Our team had received insight from God on how to pray for Armenia's destiny in the weeks before we stepped on to this faithful land. The Lord had given us **three levels of transformation to pray for**. Each transformation can be referenced to the colours in Armenia's flag.



The first level is the RED 'sacrificial blood of Christ', the once and for all sacrifice that redeems creation and addresses the cry of spilled innocent blood on the land. Many religious Armenians have not

appropriated the forgiveness and healing that Jesus' blood offers. They are not able to see beyond the injustice of their ancestors' martyrdom in the Genocide. A root of bitterness has taken hold that needs to be removed through forgiveness before their wounded spirits can heal.

The second level is the BLUE 'living water of the Holy Spirit'. God wants to pour His Spirit on Armenia, yet He patiently waits for angry hearts to find peace. This will be a season of equipping in the gifts, fruitfulness in characters and restoration of callings, both individual and corporate.

The ORANGE 'holy fire of Father God' is the third level of transformation that will see **Armenia step into its calling as a 'House of Prayer for All Nations'**. Their calling to intercede in the throne room will release Kingdom authority and see God's glory made manifest across the Middle East and the rest of the earth.

Armenians will proudly tell you that they are mentioned in the Bible in Jeremiah 51:27, being called to 'raise a banner'. Our guiding scripture over the last 8 years in praying for a highway of worship to be built across the Middle East is Isaiah 62:10,

*"Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations."*

We find it most promising that Armenia's calling to 'raise a banner' fits in context with the 'highway revelation' that God is revealing to us for the Middle East region.