



***"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand."*** Isaiah 41:10 (HCSB)

This was the verse that God had given to Shema Media Group for 2023! Little did we know how much we would have to take God at His word. We are leaning hard on Him.

- A 7.8 earthquake followed shortly after by a 7.5 earthquake in the same region.
- Over 2,000 aftershocks in less than a week.
- 10 cities completely destroyed in southeast Turkey and 13 million people affected.
- A destruction zone of 288 miles 75,000 injured.
- Over 33,000 dead with the numbers still climbing.
- More than 1 million homeless people.



*She sent a message saying "I cannot even find words to describe things here, and I pray you never have to understand the full scope of what is going on. It is horrible, just horrible!! People who are not here cannot even understand the hard conditions we are living through currently. Our home is*

*standing, though it has a huge crack in it, and it will probably need to be torn down. The building beside us is standing, but everything else has fallen. Our church building is destroyed too. There really is no safe building left in Antakya. At least 350 people in my neighborhood that we*

*know are dead, maybe even more. These are the children and women who came to the church for different events.*

*I have a relative who lives just a ten minute walk from my house and I cannot even make it over there. Our relatives are beg us to leave, but we couldn't even if we wanted to. The conditions do not allow it. They did not understand until they came and saw the conditions for themselves. Everyday rescue teams are pulling out dead bodies. However, Friday, 5 days after the quake they were able to pull out 3 people alive!!*

*Praise God, we have a few supplies and can use the bottom part of our home as a sort of market, to help meet people's needs. We are giving food, have set up a tent and given out other supplies to the people here. But we are hurting, we are worn! May the Lord give us wisdom and grace to pour out God's love on these people, to embrace them and offer them hope. But how can we reach even half of these people? We need God's help, strength and wisdom. Please pray!!"*



This was from a dear sister who is in Antakya. This city is mostly in rubble. They say that of the few buildings that are still standing many of those will need to be torn down as they are not safe to leave standing.

Antakya is only one of the 10 cities that was hit hard by the earthquakes. We praise God that we see a strong coordinated effort among the Turkish churches to reach out to the people that are in this area. We also praise God that He is moving many of you to give toward the earthquake efforts. We here at Shema are praying to raise at least **\$100,000** toward the efforts. We rejoice that at least \$30,000 has already been reported to be given.

These funds will be probably be used in three ways: 1. To start up the Antakya broadcast again. 2. To support the relief efforts being carried out by the Turkish Church. 3. To produce trauma and healing specific programming to use through all our media venues. If you are able to give toward these efforts you may do so at this link:

[www.guidelines.org/turkeyaid](http://www.guidelines.org/turkeyaid)

Just a short update on Antakya's broadcast: we were able to get our equipment out safely from the office it was located in. This equipment will be moved up to the antenna which is standing firm. Praise God there is electricity there. We are trying to get internet and then we hope to start broadcasting hope over the air once again. In the near future we will set up a container there that will house all the needed equipment to fully broadcast until the city center is ready to move back down into again.

Also, Lord willing before February is finished N. Cyprus's broadcast will be switched over to our broadcast! Please pray that the message there will be well received, especially during hard days like these.

If you would like to give toward the earthquake relief, Guidelines International is collecting funds for us. To donate for this aid, you can give at [www.guidelines.org/turkeyaid](http://www.guidelines.org/turkeyaid)

Pray:

- For God to strengthen the staff in these days. Many have family affected. May we all be able to focus on the ministry before us with clear minds.
- For our broadcast to offer hope and healing to those hurting physically, mentally, and emotionally
- For God to continue to meet our normal running cost budget during these hard days.
- For wisdom and strength for the Turkish church as they work hard to minister in the hit areas.
- For the ability to create programming to help people during these days and the ones ahead of us.

For those who would like a more full report on what is happening here write us and we can send it.

We will keep you updated.  
Shema Media Group's Team