



Day

16

Sept. 28, 2007

Muslim Kurds in Canada



Kurds have been coming to the United States and Canada from Turkey, Iraq and Iran for decades. Thousands fled Iraq during and subsequent to Saddam Hussein's mass killings through chemical and conventional warfare.

Around six thousand Kurds now live in Southern Ontario, Canada - two thousand alone in Hamilton, a city of half a million people. Most of the Kurds there come from Northern Iraq; all of them are weary of the violence, persecution and killing still continuing in Iraq today.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *Pray that Canadian believers can show their Kurdish friends how to follow Christ. May Kurds find the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).*
- ▶ *Pray that God will send dreams and visions in order that the Kurdish community will see their spiritual need and God's provision through Jesus.*
- ▶ *Pray that Kurds will want to understand more of God's story through the Bible and Christian films.*

Over 90% of the Kurds in Hamilton are from a Muslim background. Today, many Canadian Kurds have shed their Muslim identity, with a few even turning against it. Although still believers in God, they tend to be suspicious of any religion.

In Hamilton, many Kurds run their own small businesses, working long hours seven days a week. Kurdish refugees and immigrants love the freedom to gather freely and to speak their own language. However, materialism is creeping in and many are drying up spiritually. For the second generation there is also the pull of a different culture and language. To counter this, Kurds in Hamilton run a language school for their children in order to maintain their cultural and linguistic roots.

In recent years some local Christians have sought to establish a movement of Kurdish house churches. However, although there is an openness to the Gospel and some Kurds have professed faith in Christ, many are reluctant to make a commitment. Please pray that the Lord leads many more Kurds to discover Christ and to live their new-found faith in a fully Kurdish manner.

An encouragement for prayer

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5:17-20)

Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.