

Turkic Belt Ministries

Registered Charity Number: 1163762



**Trustees Annual Report and Accounts
For the year ended 30th September 2021**

Turkic Belt Ministries
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for the year ended 30th September 2021

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Turkic Belt Ministries
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 30th September 2021

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30th September 2021. The trustees have opted, under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act'), to prepare receipts and payments accounts.

Objectives and Aims

The charity's objects as set out in the charity's Trust Deed are: "The advancement, encouragement and support of the Christian religion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively amongst the Turkic-speaking peoples."

The "Turkic Belt", from which the charity takes its name is a swathe of land stretching from the Balkans in the West to China in the East, occupied by peoples who linguistically speak one of a number of Turkic languages. In view of the size of the charity, the trustees, in consultation with the Founder and the CEO Rev Elnur Jabiyev, have decided for the present that the main (but not exclusive) focus of the charity should be towards working with Turkic peoples living towards the Western end of the Belt.



The Turkic Belt countries in which TBM seeks to operate. Current work is focused in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey

The strategies employed to achieve the charity's aims and objectives are to:

- Organise, provide speakers and stage conferences for Christian teaching and the encouragement of the faith of Christians living within the Turkic Belt.
- Provide support for church leaders and Christians who may have been imprisoned and tortured for their faith.

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- Educate Christians in the UK and other European countries about the conditions facing Christians living within Turkic Belt countries and providing them with opportunities to visit and take part in training conferences in the region.
- Provide literature including translated Bible material in the main languages of the Turkic Belt region.
- Establish links with churches in the USA and Europe to encourage them to be part of its work and mission within the Turkic Belt.
- Provision of financial and material support for a number of workers from some of the countries in the region.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and consider that the activities of the charity meet its charitable objectives and provide a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

This has been a difficult year for the Turkic Belt region and challenging one for TBM. At the beginning of this year, none of us knew what awaited us. The entire world, including the Turkic Belt, was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Azerbaijan only small shops and essential businesses were allowed to open. Persecution continued in various forms even in the pandemic, including discrimination in the workplace. Christians could not get regular employment and had to rely on “casual” work, which was hardest hit by the pandemic. Hence, many of them lacked work and had no income. Because of this, many Christians struggled to pay their rent and to keep up with other financial commitments for some months. Some could only afford to eat when they got work, others could not afford to pay for essential medication.

The beginning of the year was also marked by fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh territory. The Russian-brokered peace agreement allowed Azerbaijan to re-take large areas of land previously lost to Armenia in the 1990s. Both these major crises created huge humanitarian needs and TBM responded by stepping up our direct support to church leaders and other Christians affected in the region. Praise God that He really does bring good out of bad situations. During the conflict, Christians reached out with practical help and the Gospel, including in Ganja, a city subjected to rocket attack. Many New Testaments were given out. As a result, many new home groups sprang up. Since the war, the Azerbaijan government appears to be more tolerant of evangelical Christians. One group of evangelical Christians was granted registration of their house-group movement after 18 months of trying. A church in north-west Azerbaijan was sent a letter of permission to meet as a church for two hours each Sunday. This is the same church that in 2016 was forbidden to meet, with the Pastor and 36 members of the congregation being arrested.

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Another impact of the pandemic was that the Azerbaijan border with Georgia was closed. This prevented Christians travelling there for ministry, and TBM from holding conferences there. We can, however, praise God that Elnur was able to pray and teach online regularly for Christians in the Turkic Belt. These sessions, some of which continued well beyond midnight, brought tremendous encouragement. TBM also developed further its online ministry, both live and using pre-recorded material. Elnur had the opportunity to preach to churches in India by Zoom, to counsel and encourage many believers in the region and to go through a discipleship course with individuals in Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Elnur began the year on a visit to Turkey with the Chair of TBM Norway, Mr Ingar Nicolaison. His aim was to give discipleship training, encourage the church and its leaders, baptise new believers and provide financial support to keyworkers. Elnur spent a week with the Iranian Baptist Church in Izmir, who were very happy to see their visitors. The church continued to grow during the year, with many Muslim converts. During Elnur's visit, three or four pastoral meetings were held each day with Iranian Christians from the church, both individuals and families. Each evening there was a training session for up to 40 people, with Ingar and Elnur teaching. They also held two baptisms in the sea. It was a joyous occasion. Sadly, this was the only visit that Elnur was able to make to the region during the year because of COVID restrictions.

The Iranian church in Izmir continued to meet throughout the year for Sunday services and midweek meetings, albeit only in small numbers with social distancing and wearing masks. However, the church continued to grow and was blessed with converts. With the economic problems in the region many more people continued to come to Turkey to seek work. The congregation was quite fluid with many people passing through the church during the year. Some refugees made their home in Turkey and some were accepted by another European countries or by Canada. Others were required to return to Iran. Life is getting more difficult for refugees as the government passes more regulations, and wants more refugees to move out of towns into the countryside. COVID has made them even more needy, both physically (hunger, housing, lack of employment) and spiritually. Unlike in the UK, refugees are not entitled to state benefits or accommodation.

Following this visit, TBM decided to provide regular support for Ismail, a long-standing Azeri friend, who serves as a part-time leader of a small church in Istanbul. He felt that God was calling him to full-time missionary work in Turkey. He has powerful gifts of evangelism, preaching and teaching. He knows the bible well and speaks many languages.

Istanbul is a truly cosmopolitan city. Large numbers come from many of the central Asian countries to work there, so it presents a massive opportunity for evangelism and ministry. Ismail made good progress during the year. He met daily with people in many parts of Istanbul, sharing Jesus and praying with them. He relies on God to bring him together with new contacts, and he is being given two or three each week. He is now looking to having group Zoom meetings. He is a leader of a growing church where he often preaches.

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During the year, TBM provided spiritual and practical support for those persecuted for their faith. In November we had news about 26 believers arrested in Iran earlier in the year and tortured for being members of house churches. They were later re-arrested and required to attend court again in December. Sixteen of the 26 were released. The other ten were given a sentence of five years (which is less than is usual), and each given the option of having the sentence reduced to 10 months if they paid a fine of £1,500. Another Christian charity provided eight of the ten with funds to pay the fine and TBM was able to support the remaining two women, who were then allowed to pass their sentences under house arrest rather than in prison. We have also supported a church leader who was arrested after a long period in hiding. Christians face severe treatment when in jail, but many also testify to God's intervention in response to the prayers of his people. You can really sense the joy of the Lord in these Christians in spite of their persecution. Elnur interviewed a few of them when they were baptised in Turkey and can remember seeing the love of God shining out from their faces.

Some of the other examples of support that we provided during the year included:

- We sent money to help twenty families who had been struggling to buy food. The Baptist Union of Azerbaijan was in charge of buying and distributing the food.
- We sent another three months of support to the home groups we had been supporting in Iran, which are growing.
- We provided money for a family that was struggling to pay for their food and rent.
- In June 2021 we were able to distribute food aid to 37 families.

We completed two encouragement videos in Azeri, one about seeking God first, and uploaded them to our new Azerbaijani language YouTube channel. They have had over 2,500 views. Several people wrote very positive comments and Elnur received an enormous number of encouraging WhatsApp messages from Azerbaijanis living in Azerbaijan, Turkey, Georgia, Austria and France. Iranians watched the video in Turkey and Iran. Turkish people watched it in Sweden and Turkey. It was also shared with people in Germany and USA. Elnur's Muslim relatives watched it in Azerbaijan, and his Muslim school friends watched it in Moscow! He received a few messages from people saying that they'd also shared it with Muslim friends, and that they had been deeply touched. This is the first time that this kind of video has been professionally produced in their own language by Azerbaijani Christians. We thank God for calling Elnur to do this, and for bringing Daniel Webb along to make these videos in his studio.

Overall, this was a challenging, but fruitful, year for TBM. We saw people brought to faith and disciplined by Zoom and WhatsApp. The internet enabled us to travel the world from our living room and we are so thankful to God for what we were able to do despite the pandemic. Elnur joined the church in Izmir online every Sunday to preach, and for mid-week meetings. Our work was supported by an online prayer meeting which continued to grow during the year, and God answered our prayers powerfully. We look forward to resuming more direct contact and visits to the region as COVID regulations allow.

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Volunteers

The charity relies on voluntary help for the organisation and running of its conferences and training sessions.

Over the past 12 months, 20 volunteers have taken part in these sessions (2020: 20 in the year).

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The trustees consider the reserves held at the year end to be sufficient for the ongoing needs of the charity.

There was a 2.5% decrease in Receipts in the year to £79,858 and a 4.5% increase in expenditure to £87,337 resulting in a net deficit of £7,479 (2020 surplus: £5,703)

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

Reserves held at 30th September 2021 after taking into account outstanding pension and payroll costs represent 6.8 months expenditure (30 September 2020: 9.85 months)

Amount of reserves held

Total Unrestricted Reserves held at 30th September 2021 were £36,136 (30 September 2020: £43,615)

Structure, Governance and Management

Charity constitution

The Charity is governed by Trust Deed dated 8th January 2015 (as amended 28th September 2015)

Trustee selection

Trustees are appointed by seeking people with relevant skills and experience. Induction and training are provided on a personal basis as appropriate.

Structure

The day to day running of the charity is committed to the Chief Executive. Policy and major financial decisions are made by the trustees, whilst the Chief Executive is responsible for applying these decisions. The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Chief

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Executive Officer, supported by a part-time
volunteer working on planning and fundraising.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Turkic Belt Ministries
Registered charity no.	1163762
Charity's principal address	PO Box 3369 South Croydon CR2 1PE

Names of the charity trustees

Trustee name	Office	Dates appointed
Rachel Greenwell	Secretary	April 2014
David Trim		Feb 2018 to Dec 2021
Pierre Okusi	Chair to Jan 22	October 2019
Peter Grant	Chair from Jan 22	November 2020

Chief Executive Officer	Rev. Elnur Jabiyev
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Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature:



Full name: Peter Grant

Position: Chair

Date: 11 July 2022

Turkic Belt Ministries

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Turkic Belt Ministries

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Turkic Belt Ministries (the Trust) for the year ended 30th September 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Magnus Proctor FFA
Fellow of the Institute of Financial Accountants
Lindisfarne
Landkey Road
Barnstaple
EX32 9BW

Date: 4th May 2022

Turkic Belt Ministries

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

for the Year ended 30th September 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Receipts				
Donations and legacies	56,107	23,751	79,858	81,863
Gift aid received	0	0	0	7,383
Other	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	56,107	23,751	79,858	89,246
Payments				
Salaries	33,771	10,625	44,396	46,624
Pension	8,450	0	8,450	8,900
Overseas conferences	0	0	0	16,220
Missionary support	17,422	13,126	30,548	3,175
Meeting expenses	522	0	522	228
Insurance	1,184	0	1,184	803
Postage and stationery	365	0	365	361
Telephone	461	0	461	472
Travel and accommodation	300	0	300	6,100
Office equipment	576	0	576	490
Subscriptions	235	0	235	170
Legal and professional	300	0	300	0
Total payments	63,586	23,751	87,337	83,543
Net receipts / (payments)	(7,479)	0	(7,479)	5,703
Reconciliation of funds				
Transfer between funds	0	0	0	0
Total Funds brought forward	43,615	0	43,615	37,912
Total Funds carried forward	36,136	0	36,136	43,615

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
At 30th September 2021

			2021	2020
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
	0	0	0	0
Current Assets				
Debtors	833	0	833	1,833
Cash at bank	36,136	0	36,136	43,615
	36,969		36,969	45,448
Current Liabilities				
Creditors				
• Pension costs	600	0	600	741
• HMRC PAYE	642	0	642	642
	761	0	761	1,383
Total Assets less Liabilities	35,608	0	35,608	44,065

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 11 July 2022
and were signed on its behalf by:



Peter Grant, Chair

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements and assessment of going concern

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis as permitted by law for smaller charities.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2. Movement in Funds

	Balance Oct 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance Sept 2021
General Fund	43,615	56,107	(63,586)		36,136
Restricted:					
Administration support	0	10,625	(10,625)		0
Missionary support	0	13,126	(13,126)		0
Overseas Conferences	0	0	(0)		0
Total Funds	43,615	79,858	(87,337)		36,136

	Balance Oct 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance Sept 2020
General Fund	37,912	58,796	(53,093)		43,615
Restricted:					
Administration support	0	20,000	(20,000)		0
Pastor support	0	1,928	(1,928)		0
Overseas Conferences	0	8,522	(8,522)		0
Total Funds	37,912	89,246	(83,543)		43,615

3. Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity.