

Update From the Disaster Zone



Dear friends in Christ,

"Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death" (Pro. 10:2). I was thinking about Proverbs 10:2 as I was walking between the collapsed buildings of Antakya, a city that is no more. I was wondering if some of the engineers would have built these buildings without stealing from the building's materials; if the government would have checked the buildings; if they were in conformity with applicable rules and regulations; if people who were living in these apartments would have taken the earthquake risk more serious, maybe the scale of the disaster wouldn't have been bigger. And I had to agree with God's word as always, there is no gain when righteousness is abandoned!



I went to Adana early Wednesday morning and drove to Mersin to help and support Christians who fled from Antakya. Our main goal was to find out the legal procedure of how to build shipping container houses in the disaster zone and make to necessary connections. After helping the disaster-victim Christians in Mersin, we drove to Antakya on Thursday. Several Christian groups who heard about our trip asked us to bring their needs from Mersin, so we bought whatever we could and filled the car, and left early at 4 am.

There is no way that I can describe the destruction in Antakya. There is no Antakya anymore. Every single building either collapsed or took heavy damage. People have begun to live in tents, but many are

still waiting at a collapsed building that once was their home, for authorities to come and take the corpses of their loved ones. Otherwise, the city was abandoned.

We met with local Christians and some local businessmen in Antakya for the purpose of how to proceed to build a container house village in the town. They all agreed that this is something they need immensely. It was encouraging for us to see the reaction: we are hoping to accomplish something that is very much needed in the disaster zone. They are ready to help with anything! I was so thankful and filled with joy in seeing how our brothers and sisters have been serving the disaster victims! Some of them are the victims, yet they serve with all their hearts and souls! This is truly something from God.

We arrived home on Thursday evening. I am exhausted after only 6 hours sleep the last four days and am still processing what I witnessed in the area, but all I can say is that the destruction was bigger than I imagined. And we witnessed the destruction in one city, there are still other 10 cities that were hit as hard as Antakya.

Providing shelter is one of the biggest needs in the area now, and with your support, we can, and pray, that we can be used to love those who are perishing. Please continue to pray for us, and our ministry, and for God to open a door for the gospel in this devastated country! Please send us aid to support our planned project! Thank you for your prayers and what you are already preparing to do. God bless!

You can contribute to our efforts by sending donations earmarked for "Turkey Earthquakes" to 6607 Center Industrial Dr., Jenison, MI 49428, or by donating online at rms.org/donate/turkey-earthquakes.

