

KURDISH OUTREACH

Crescent Project moved from central Indiana to Franklin, TN in 2019. Shortly after resettling the headquarters, our leadership began to look, first, around our new home, to explore the Muslim communities in and around the greater Nashville region.

We were pleasantly surprised to discover the largest Kurdish community in the United States right on our doorstep! About 20,000 Kurds live in and around Nashville, the largest Kurdish community outside of “Kurdistan”.

Kurds began moving to the area in the mid-1970’s due to severe persecution in Iran, Syria, and Turkey, where to this day, Kurds are still persecuted due to their ancestry.

Of all places to migrate, why “Middle Tennessee”? As Kurds needed to find a safe haven, once they came to Nashville the hospitality that so many have found inviting also made them feel quite at home. Several generations later, what started out as a small movement of people has become a significant group of men, women and children, all of whom live, play, worship and work as valued citizens of Music City U.S.A.



The Salahadeen Center, the local Kurdish mosque, opened in 1998 and is believed to be the first Kurdish mosque in the U.S. There are numerous Kurdish owned shops and amazing restaurants. The historical marker (see photo) is located near the Salahadeen Center along Nolensville Pike, south Nashville.

Our outreach goal is to equip congregations and motivated Christ followers to build bridges of credible friendships among the Kurds. We are finding that like their non-Kurdish counterparts, the younger generations are far more open to explore their spiritual options.

Crescent Project sponsors a gathering of Christian leaders who desire to see the same goal reached: That every Kurdish Muslim open to having faith dialogue has at least one Christian friend with the hope that one day many Kurds will accept Jesus as the Messiah and Savior.

We also are working among like-minded churches in Europe with the same goals. In Europe there are large numbers of Kurdish refugees who have fled the same areas due to persecution. Many are “newcomers” still in those European countries and struggle integrating into the communities.

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