

Well quite literally quite literally there's nowhere else in the world that Dana and I would rather be than here this morning with you all and the reason for that is because you are such an encouragement to us uh but we've been away from you for for four and a half years uh serving in turkey again and uh so finally we marked it on the calendar counting down the days and finally we're with you once again for the missions conference quite literally there's nowhere else we would rather be uh this morning we've been back we've been back eight weeks now uh we're adjusting I thought I'd give you an update on that uh an update our on our adjusting um grocery stores now have self-checkouts I wasted two minutes uh uh staring at this machine trying to figure it out I thought I had figured it out but just two days ago I wasted two more minutes because it told me to wait and so I was waiting uh apparently I was there it was waiting for me um and restaurants now have this has this touch screen and apparently you tip your waiter before you're served right they ask you what percentage you want to tip and you haven't you haven't had a server come to your table yet that's new to me I guess when in Rome do as the Romans do um gas pumps are very intimidating um I don't know if you know that those of you who live in America you get used to gas gas pumps those are intimidating they're they're not standardized and and I still don't think I figured them out um you know in Turkey we have metal detectors everywhere everywhere we go we're going through metal detectors and still I find myself when I go into like big buildings like the library or a church I find myself uh grabbing my cell phone and my keys and getting them ready to go to through metal detectors so I'm not quite there on that and probably the worst one is yielding for pedestrians uh and in Crossways and parking lots I I'm just not used to that just confess that I'm still I don't know if that's an American thing or not but it's certainly not a Turkish thing and I'm still not slowing down like I out to yet for pedestrians um so uh our our conference team is uh my story and so we're gonna I want to pick a my story from the Old Testament connect it to missions and talk about turkey as well but before I do that I thought I'd just share a little bit about my own uh background story my my back story with you this morning um I grew up uh just up the lake in in Sheboygan uh wrestling was a huge part of my life I started wrestling uh when I was in third grade my coach was Jim cowdy um he is a Believer he's also a very gifted evangelist uh eventually years later when I got my um my driver's license he helped me to pick out a good Bible teaching Church to go to in Sheboygan in fact he was so important in my life that years later I invited him to be in my wedding uh so this uh this tournament I think I remember took place in Nebraska a long long time ago any other wrestlers with us this morning no there's a few few old guys there yeah we'll have to wait for the next crowd to see if there's more more wrestlers um I I hated losing that's me there on the left I hated losing fortunately I didn't do that very much between third grade and my high school graduation in 19 1988 and um you know wrestling uh is what the Lord used to bring me to faith in Christ in this picture behind me is Ben Peterson Ben Peterson was a two-time Olympic medalist he won silver in 1972 and I'm sorry gold in 1972 and silver in 1976. he's a passionate believer and with his success he established a camp of Champs summer Wrestling Camps um in northern Wisconsin and so with Jim cowdy's encouragement I went to this Camp when I was 12 years old and I'll never forget the first night of Camp um we were in our cabins and the counselor said I want everybody to Bow their head and close their eyes I had never heard that phrase before I complied and the person said my counselor said if you want God to work in your life this week raise your hand and I thought well that's a dumb question right I thought of course I want God to work in my life and I raised my hand and you know that week

um in addition to learning wrestling um Ben had we had short bible studies where he explained the cross of Jesus Christ and at that camp was the first time that God gave me ears I didn't have ears to hear that my sin separated me from Christ I hadn't had ears up until that point to understand that I was condemned in my sin and then to understand for the first time that Christ because he loved me stepped into my shoes chose to pay my debt be a sacrifice for me pay my Ransom and so on the last nights of camp in this um in this Lobby uh in this um Lodge my counselor again said Brian you know you raised your hand at the beginning of the week you've heard the story of Christ what do you want to do with this and I said you know what I'm ready to Believe In Christ and so they're in that Lodge I prayed with my counselor came to faith in Christ and just moments later moments later Ben Peterson came in and so my counselor shared the good news of Ben Peterson Ben Peterson put his medals around my neck and took a picture and we celebrated my coming to faith in Christ in 1982. this picture is very symbolic to me and let me explain it to you this picture was taken 40 years after camper champs this is I'm with Ben Peterson again this time rather than being in northern Wisconsin we're in Israel this is this picture was taken in Israel and if you've been a tourist you may notice the spring and the cave in the background and you might recognize that this is caesarea Philippi caesarea Philippi what famous words did Jesus speak to his disciples from caesarea Philippi he said this I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not Prevail against it I will build my church and the Gates of Hell shall not Prevail against it and so Jesus is speaking of the of the flow of the Gospel beyond the Jewish Nations to all the Gentiles all over the world so here I was in caesarea Philippi with my spiritual father celebrating 40 years of being in Christ and thinking about how we're in the very place where Jesus spoke these words and how God intersected my life with Ben's life to bring the gospel to me and then from me to Turks for the last 28 years in Turkey so just an amazing symbolic picture that I count precious and then finally this is uh Dan and I 25 years old with eight bags packed the nights before we flew to Turkey for the very first time for the very first time so that's a little bit about Mac's story and like I said I want to um very quickly look at God's word and I want to pick a story hopefully and maybe a little bit of an odd story so that it's memorable for us this morning and we can connect and tie to missions so if you have your Bibles invite you to turn them on with me to second Samuel chapter 5 verse 4. second Samuel chapter 5 verse 4 and this is the story of Jerusalem's City walls Jerusalem's City walls biblically speaking this is a 550 year old story this story starts with David in the Bible and it ends with Nehemiah and so we're going to look at these two these two bookends second Samuel chapter 5 verse 4. is where I'm beginning David was 30 years old when he began to Reign and he reigned 40 years at Hebron he reigned over Judas seven years and six months and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel in Judah 33 years and the King and his men went to Jerusalem against the jebusites the inhabitants of the land who said to David you will not come in here but the Blind and the lame will Ward you off thinking David cannot get in here nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion that is the city of David and David said on that day whoever would strike the jebusites let him get up the watershaft a weakness in their defense let him get up the watershaft to attack the lame and the blind who are hated by David's Soul therefore it said the blind and the lame shall not come into the house and David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David and David built the city all around from the Milo Inward and David became greater and greater for the Lord the god of hosts was with him so here we have a jebusite prediction the jebusites say said you will not get in here the lame and the blind

could repel you the disabled and the physically challenged among us could Ward you off this must this taunts this taunt must have had had some kind of legitimacy to it after all Israel had been in the land now 40 years and and this this Enclave had not still had not been been conquered and so here we have this foreign Enclave that was persisting in Israel until the time of David and of course considering who they were speaking to God's people this their mock was ultimately a miscalculation this is a Defiance against the Living God they were spiritually lame and unwilling to stand up and walk near to their creator they're spiritually blind and refuse to see the glory of God and as much as that is true then this story and these this Dimension makes it relevant as we think about missions let me talk to you about this daunting task the Fate that we Face called missions much like that jesusites Enclave 1.9 billion Muslims in the world today 1.1 billion Hindus most of them in India 500 million Buddhists in the Far East 400 million adherents to Chinese folk religion of course China itself 1.4 billion people 400 million of them following Chinese folk religion 250 250 million members of tribal religion tribal religions Pockets here of 100 000 Pockets there of 200 000 all over unreached difficult places and all together 7 000 least reached people groups so from Muslims and Hindus Far East Asians tribal peoples uh missiologists tell us there are about 7 000 unreached people groups turkey being one of them continuing on 2 000 languages in in the in the year 2023 there are still 2 000 languages without a single verse of scripture and eighthly 100 million displaced today there are 100 million displaced people that number has doubled in the last 10 years used to be 50 million now it's 100 million If This Were A Country it would be the sixth largest 16th largest country in the world people displaced because of wars and because of natural disasters Ukraine Ukraine just added eight million people to this list turkey and the earthquakes just added two million more people to this list and so the the task of reaching the the least reached is daunting and it's difficult and it's in these places where the government say you will not get in here like the jesusites and if the governments aren't saying it then the most religious portions of the communities are saying you will not get in here with your gospel or perhaps it's the topography right because the remoteness of where they live whether it's desert or jungle but it just screams you will not get in here or maybe it's the difficulty of the language or the difficulty of the culture but screaming you will not get in here and if you do get in here then they will mock you by saying a child if you debated a child a child could could um debate you and refute to Christianity the Blind and the lame could refute just Christianity friends these are places where you know if people who go unless they're there for 10 20 30 or 40 years they will make no impact these are difficult places and when you think about the the task being that difficult it's like man these walls are too high you know these are places where you have these sub goals and you have these sub steps that you have to take like selling your house like getting training like learning the language and the net effect is this is this mock that screams take your high aspirations elsewhere you will not get in and yet just as God allowed David and his men to conquer Jerusalem there are stories of missionaries all over the globe reaching going into the least reached places of the world God providing Victory so hopefully in just a little bit we'll talk about turkey and let turkey illustrate that let's continue on our story of um uh Jerusalem's City walls uh the next story takes place 550 years later this is now after the Exile this is nehemiah's story so let's go to Nehemiah Ezra Nehemiah Esther job let's find Nehemiah turn to chapter four Nehemiah chapter four I'm going to read verse from verse 1. now when sand ballot heard that we were building the wall this same wall Jerusalem's wall he was angry and greatly enraged and he jeered at the Jews and he said in the presence of his

brothers and of the army of Samaria what are these feeble Jews doing will they restore it for themselves will they sacrifice will they finish it up in a day will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish and burned ones at that tobiah the ammonite was beside him and he said yes what they are building if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone walls hear o God for we are despised so here we have sand ballot and Tobias prediction their prediction went something like this your walls will be as feeble as you are you will fail in your Enterprise and of course the problem here is different from David's situation David's situation was overconfident Defenders on the inside but now we have belittling onlookers on the outside and the name of their game is to dissuade their near naysayers they say a 12 pound Fox tear down what you're doing well those of you know of you those of you who know your Bibles well know that chapter 6 reports that Nehemiah was successful in fact the construction project was completed in 52 days 52 days but you might not know so one other detail about this wall so turn with me to uh Nehemiah chapter 12. Nehemiah chapter 12. and I'm going to read beginning in verse 27. and at the decade education of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness with thanksgivings with singing with symbols Harps and Liars now drop down with me to verse 31 verse 31 then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks one went to the south on the wall now drop down with me to verse 38 verse 38 the other choir of those who gave thanks went to the north and I followed them with half of the people on the wall finally verse 43. and they offered great that great sacrifices that day and rejoiced for God had made them Rejoice with great joy the women and children also rejoiced and the joy of Jerusalem Was Heard far away so so much for the threat of a 12 pound Fox quite the opposite when this construction progress project was completed Nehemiah got two large choirs on top of this wall one went clockwise the other one counterclockwise both praising God for what he had done and this strong structure served God's people for many many years and of course the the Enterprise that they had undertaken was a spiritual Enterprise it was spiritual work that Nehemiah and his people were doing and and had it far far far the opposite of being a feeble ending rather this task went from daunting to done to done so I'd like to take this story now and apply it to how God's working in the church age and this daunting story going from daunting this task going from daunting to done and simply use turkey to illustrate that so let me give you a map of turkey and talk about turkey's demographics turkey is straight North of Israel so I think of it as kind of forming an umbrella North of Israel the turkey's population is 85 million people uh it's the 18th largest country in the world did you know that turkey is the 18th largest country in the world 99 of the people would call themselves Muslim uh in terms of the Gospel turkey is probably the largest unreached country in the world there are only seven on seven thousand five hundred Turks who are following Christ in turkey that's nine one thousandths of one percent of the population can you imagine that not nine percent of the population not nine tenths of one percent of the population not nine one hundredths but nine one thousandths of one percent of the population if we took that same uh proportion and applied it to uh Wisconsin that would be like saying in all of Wisconsin in all of Wisconsin there are only 530 followers of Christ can you imagine how much that would change Wisconsin's culture and we we need more than 530 people in this church to reach our immediate surroundings much less um much less our entire States much less our entire state so the church is small but let me ask another question how quickly is the church growing is it feeble is it a feeble church and to answer that question I want

to share with you some statistics we've been in Turkey now for 28 years um and just want to talk about the growth of the Gospel over the last 28 years when we moved to Turkey we moved to Turkey in 1995 there were 60 million the population was 60 million a young person recently reminded me painfully that I moved to Turkey in the 1900s so I guess that's technically true I've been there since the 1900s and when we moved there where there were 1 000 Believers today the population is 85 million Believers I'm sorry 85 million people the population was 7 500 believers what that means then is that the popular the general population has grown in 28 years by 40 percent but the church but the church has grown by 650 percent over that very same time or to say it another way the church has grown 16 times faster than the population friends the church is small but is not feeble it's bold we're going to talk about just a little bit of our contribution over the uh our ministry's contribution over the last uh 28 years uh we we've seen about 130 to about 140 people make a new profession of Christ praise the Lord for that we've seen uh 109 people get baptized in uh 28 years and that's just amazing because we we've been in Turkey uh 28 years about 6 500 people have come to Faith if we if we've baptized 109 that means our tiny little Ministry has contributed has constituted 1.7 of the overall National growth of the Gospel I just amazes amazes us to think about that we've planted five churches during that time three of them are still ongoing uh the two that kind of fizzled out and that's fine that they fizzled out they served the Lord in his purposes for a time uh one was one hour away and so we were only going there like you know midweek once a week we were going there the other Church plant that we tried to start was three hours away and we went there about every three weeks and uh both uh fellowships were growing uh but for various reasons they fizzled out the Believers that were there are now Faithfully serving Christ in other churches but now three of those churches are continuing on today um One Pastor and his wife that this church supports of course two other church planting families came to Faith through our ministry and now on the Black Sea serving the lord church planting our church currently has a deacon and our church also currently has a church a Ministry intern that I'll talk about in just a little bit and this is important friends because you know um leadership probably everywhere in the world is the bottleneck leadership is the bottleneck to seeing churches planted so to have some leaders come up through our ministry is just amazing so the statistics just clearly show that um the church is not feeble that God is blessing his laborers all around the world so let me talk specifically about our church plant right now we live in Ankara Ankara is the capital city of Turkey six million people and this picture is the very most main intersection main Crossroads of the capital city okay and that big building is a mall and our church that our space that we're renting is right behind that big building okay so now we're gonna go right behind that mall to that big behind the mall in the mall's Shadow to this building and we rent two floors we're renting on the fourth and fifth floor and so we're right smack downtown and very often times people say Brian you know man you're so Central very obvious is it is it safe is it legal to be a Christian no I get that question very often so I want to answer that right away uh what we're doing absolutely is legal absolutely it's safe uh but it's very uncommon and it's very unwelcome and so what that means is that if you've lived in Turkey long enough it's just a matter of time before you have run-ins with the police for example uh twice while I've been doing a literature Distribution on the streets for various reasons I wanted to get out and distribute tracks twice I've had had uh run-ins with the police uh one of those times uh they picked me up uh they put me in their police car unfortunately and took me to uh to the north side of the city where they gave me a breathalyzer

test I guess they thought man this person must be inebriated to to to have the guts to do this and of course I passed the that test and and then we got back in the car and taking me to another place and we got lost and so from the second from the back seat I was directing the police helping them get where they wanted to go and um so we got to another police station we went into the basement and there was a sergeant there and the sergeant said I don't even know what to do with you I have no clue what to do if it was Saturday and and my boss won't be here until Monday we're just gonna have to put you in detention and they took my belt off and they emptied my pockets and they took my shoes off and I was like wow I'm going to be in detention for two days at least fortunately they changed their minds and they gave me all my stuff back and the reason for that is like I said what we're doing in Turkey is not illegal it's just unwelcome so they they like to shake the trees one time I was just simply minding my own business in a in a bus terminal doing an Evangelistic Bible study with somebody and apparently uh what we were talking about got overheard so they called in the police the police picked me up and we went to the police station all together probably the uh the most stressful time was the time the police actually kind of raided my my office at nine in the morning and so I opened unsuspectingly opened my door and these uh eight plainclothed policemen came pouring into my tiny little office and uh and and they began looking around in my shelves and my drawers and my desk and then they explained they explained to me uh we've received complaints against you uh we've received complaints that you're a Satanist and a missionary a Satanist and a missionary talk about having the book thrown at you right talk about getting the book thrown at you and so they said we're here to investigate and so that's their whole process not nine in the morning eventually we got the police car went to the to the to the police station got in an elevator went up to the fifth floor the fifth floor elevator doors opened and it said counter terrorism units they're processing me in the counter terrorism units I couldn't believe it and then one of the police said why are you here why are you here why are you here do eskimos need refrigerators why are you here and guys that's a hard question when you're with the police do do eskimos need refrigerant I don't know no they don't need refrigerators and we don't need you and your in our country why are you here so it's a stressful kind of a time eventually they let me they let me call Dana and that was before we had cell phones in in those days and so I used their phone and I called Dana and I said Dana I'm with the police I've been with the police since nine in the morning pray and and Dana said this I'll never forget it Dana said well um do you think you're going to get home by seven o'clock tonight because I was gonna go to the movies you know and I I think Dana had that peace that passes all understanding and uh So eventually uh I was let go and uh a few weeks later we got a letter from the from the District Attorney's Office like this is huge I'm in Turkey I'm getting a letter from the District Attorney's office so I waited to open it uh for when I was with Dana we sat down together and we opened it and there's my name my accusation Satanism and missionary activity and at the end it said the the conclusion of Investigation insufficient evidence so don't tell the missions evidence for being a missionary and again the reason why it was written that way is just simply because it's not illegal uh what we are doing in the country and uh so now we're going to the inside of the church um there are about we've been planting this church for nine years now we have about 25 to 30 regular attenders we praise the Lord for that by the way a church of about 30 25 to 30 is is really in the medium to medium large size Church large size for turkey a church of 100 people would be believe me would be a mega church in Turkey to have 100 people and this is a picture of me uh

sharing the gospel with some University students and uh you know sharing the gospel is very different in Turkey than the way we do things in America I just want to illustrate that just with one thing just with one point um and that is this you know the topic God is a topic of interest in Turkey God is something that people are naturally interested in talking about it's not Taboo it's not something that's suppressed and I like to I like to illustrate it this way in America if I want to get your attention I could say something like this hey I know something about Aaron Rodgers that you never heard before and you'd hush down your ears would be perfect right can you imagine in Turkey you could say hey I know something about the prophets that you've never heard before and they would say wow what is it let me know can you imagine that that's the interest that's there so all other things the question to ask them the question to ask then is all other things being equal which culture would you rather live in right culture that's interested in talking about the prophets in the bible and God um I didn't want to go forward quite yet so the the girl here who's covered her her name is nurse and many of you know that for years and years and years now we've been giving away free Bibles on the internet giving away free Bibles and then inviting people to get together to talk about what they're reading and that's how we we met Noor she this is a girl that's covered there and uh this is a picture I was taken very soon after we got to meet her she was willing to come to the church uh she eventually came to Faith uh and she didn't want to take off her head covering which is fine I mean for her it was a modesty issue and of course we're we're all about modesty and there was no problem whatsoever but of course it also isn't it is a symbol of Islam So eventually she decided that she wanted to uncover and she did that and so this is Noor uncovered like whoa nor dyes her hair red how cool is that we didn't know that and you know Noor just loves the Lord she loves God's word she's changing it's just every week she's changing growing learning learning the words she's wanting to be involved in Ministry this is her with her parents her parents still don't know that she's a Believer that's a super hard step for young person to take to tell their relatives that they've come to know Christ one day Noor said to me Brian you know we have Facebook we've got websites we got all these other things we need to do Instagram we should have Instagram and I said okay that's great let's do it what's Instagram right so she's like no no we gotta do Instagram so I said that's great let's do this so this in this picture Noor is videoing uh Xenon and I'll talk about him in just a little bit uh she's uh um producing content for our Instagram uh accounts and would you believe that this Instagram account just like the things that we've been doing Nora's Instagram account is generating one face-to-face visit per week in fact two days ago so this is something we're used to now we've been doing it now for probably four or five months and she told me just two days ago that somebody's come to know the Lord who is an original Instagram contact so we just praise the Lord for Noor and over the last four years we've seen about 40 people come to faith in Christ four years four I'm sorry 40 people get baptized so on average nearly one person a month praise the Lord for that the Lord is working among Muslim background people this is sinan uh of course we don't want to see people just come to know the Lord we want to train leaders see non in the purple we met him through the internet he came to the Lord very quickly and God just absolutely the grace of Christ absolutely changed his life so much that his wife she had like into to in in into get involved and investigate and and get engaged and she eventually came to Faith as well I'll never forget we were celebrating Christmas during kovid we were celebrating over zoom and on a zoom phone call she let our church family know that she had come to faith in Christ their children have also come to Faith

we saw sinan growing in the Lord and eventually said we would like you to train to become a deacon would you will be willing to take that challenge and he took that challenge I began meeting with him for about a year year and a half every Wednesday night in his home with his family and last December we uh appointed him as a church Deacon and of course not only do we want to see our church grow we want to see other churches uh grow and so uh Pastor Spencer talked about moamer who's the pastor of our very first Church Plant let me tell you uh the the story of this uh first and second generation when we moved to kaiseri when we moved to kaiseri the city population was 750 million uh 750 000 people that's three quarter million people and there was not one known believer in the entire city in fact from that City if you wanted to attend a Bible study you would have to travel five hours north south east west take your pick you would have to travel five hours to get to the next nearest Bible study and the Lord led us to this city and we saw people come to Faith one of the very first people to come to face with faith was moamer and his wife and he too went on God's grace growing changing learning God's word we eventually sent him to Bible school he graduated with his wife and um uh but during that time the the children came to Faith by the way so his son is a twin both twins came to Faith um and obviously Esau his name is Esau he's grown up now um and by the way uh recently more mayor celebrated the 25th relative 25th among all of his relatives 25 people now have come to faith in Christ and Esau said to me he said Brian you know I if the Lord would allow I would love to follow my dad into Ministry I want to serve in the church and I said Issa if that's true then I have a great idea for you I'm going to be in America for all of 2023. why don't you move to Ankara and why don't you do a church internship for the whole year in our church plants and he said I love to do that and so Esau is at our church plant right now in fact he preached this morning a few hours ago he preached and so what I'm saying is we went to this church that was completely unreached and now from one family two generations of leaders and 25 other relatives have come to faith in Christ it's just amazing I want to talk just at the end here what it's like going to church we've talked about some of the fruits some of the people that have come to Faith what about our what about our church service how is our church service in Turkey different than in America so first I want to understand where we're at in this picture I'm in our building I'm on the fourth floor or the fifth floor and I'm looking down on the street below and I took this picture so every Sunday the police show up to our church plant to to protect us with two two police cars here one in the back has three uh plainclothed policemen in a circle and then the other car has seven uniformed policemen and so uh can you imagine the police themselves estimate that the threat is great enough that they allocate resources to protect us they themselves estimate that there's a threat there so that begs the question would you come to church if the police themselves are estimating that there was a threat that they would send resources second difference uh between church planting in America in Turkey is that unfortunately we're not allowed to share the gospel with minors we're not allowed to share with share the gospel with people who are under 18 years old who are not adults and you know what that means for us on a regular basis in our church building we have high school kids that are lying to us about their age because they want to get in they're lying to us about their age because they want to see the inside of a church they want to get a copy of God's word they want to talk to Christians they want to come on Sunday and see what a service they're lying high schoolers to come into the church and some we catch some we don't and it's difficult but it's amazing just just kind of it just kind of speaks to the interest that people have to get a copy of



God's word you know the last difference that I would mention is let me put it this way I wonder if there's anybody here that would be bold enough to raise their hand and admit something to us this morning to raise their hand and to admit to this that it's true I'm I'm hiding the fact that I'm in church from somebody in my life there's somebody in my life that and I don't want them to know that I'm in church and I'm hiding that fact and probably there's nobody in this church that would raise their hand and say yep that's true that's me I'm hiding that from somebody but you know in Turkey nearly everybody is hiding the fact at least from one person that they've come to Faith or for that matter that they're in church on that Sunday many of the people are hiding that fact from everybody in their lives and so it makes Church attendance very very tricky for them as they know that if their mom or dad would find out that they would they would get kicked out of the home at least temporarily or if they get if their mom or dad would find out at least temporary temporarily they would lose lose help in paying college bills but you know that that threat is also true for people older people who have adult children now let's think about this why is it that older Believers would hide the fact that they're in church from their adult children what power would adult children hold over these older folks such that they would hide the fact that they're in church and the answer is this threat well if you're a Christian then you will never see your grandson again if you're going to church then I will never let you see your granddaughter again that that just repulses me and I want nothing to do you will not see your grandchild again and it's because of that threat that older Believers be even are hiding the fact that they're going to church from their adult children now this church has a few pastors I wonder how many pastors would still be here this church if that threat were here these pastors enjoy this uh this um army of a supporting you know congregation how would this congregation be changed if that threats were true like it is in Turkey so we considered uh Israel's walls Israel's the wall is the story of Israel's walls the story began sorry Jerusalem's wall starts with David ends with Nehemiah the first the first mockery came from the jebusites who said you will not get in here sandbell and Tobi eventually said your efforts will be feeble and yet God gave them Victory gave David and then Nehemiah victory and in the same way God is giving Victory to those who are going to the least reached nations of the world so I hope this story the story from God's word the story from Turkey encourages your hearts to be involved in this task that we sang about this morning this task of praying for the least reach giving for the least reached and going for the least reached spring Lord it is a whole different world in places like turkey and we would like to think that our faith would be strong to keep us on our feet even in those kind of contexts thank you for the opportunity to to to test our hearts to examine our hearts bless us make us bold give us resolve help us to be sure of the hope that we have in Christ it's his name we pray amen