

Tosk in Belgium



Photo: International Mission Board-SBC



Map: Joshua Project / GMI / IMB

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

People Name	Tosk
Country	Belgium
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	95,000
Language	Albanian, Tosk
Religion	Islam - Sunni
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Gospel Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	1
Workers Reported	0

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

The Albanians are believed to be descendants of the Illyrians, who were the original inhabitants of the western Balkan Peninsula. In the sixth century, migrating Slavs began to settle on Illyrian territory and pushed the Illyrians into what is present-day Albania.

The Albanians fall into two major groups, the Tosk and the Gheg, according to which Albanian dialect they speak. The two dialects differ slightly in vocabulary and pronunciation. In the 1950s, it was decided that the Tosk dialect would be used in all Albanian publications.

Albania's economy became a mess when communism fell in the early 1990s, so many of their people have had to flee to places like Belgium where they could find jobs.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The collapse of the communist regime in 1990 brought on numerous traumatic and rapid changes in Albania, leaving the people with an identity crisis. The people were shocked to discover that they had been reduced to poverty.

Hurt, angry, and confused, they are still struggling to find their identity. Some have joined criminal gangs, even in countries where they flee to for better jobs. Gangs

have forced Albanian women to be trafficked in places like Belgium.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Apostle Andrew obeyed Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19 by going to Illyricum (ancient Albania.) A small remnant of believers remains. But centuries ago, many Albanians were converted to Islam by the Ottoman Turks. They practiced a type of folk Islam, which embraced occult and practices such as praying to the dead, seeking cures for sickness, and praying for protection from spirits and curses.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Albanian Tosk need to know that hope and security can be found not in a religion, but in the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. That is true for those who live in Albania or Belgium.

PRAYER POINTS

* Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Jn 4:35)

* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in

this people group where Christ is not preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)

SOURCES

<https://goo.gl/dFjXl9>
<https://goo.gl/FzmeXo>
<https://goo.gl/dLQwfh>
<https://goo.gl/82xOat>
<https://goo.gl/reYw5L>
<https://goo.gl/KOIo3n>