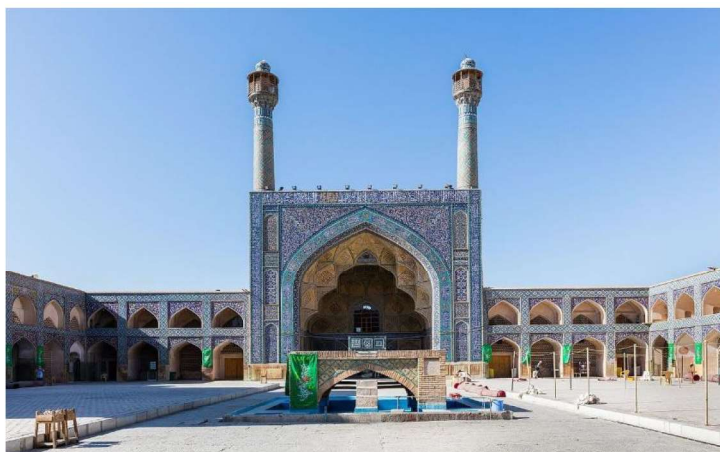


You have the opportunity to make a difference in Southwest Asia. Are you up for the challenge?

Isfahan

Iran



"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

— Isaiah 43:19a —



For two centuries, Isfahan, also spelled Esfahan, was the capital of Persia. Nowadays, Isfahan is Iran's third largest city and the capital of the province of the same name. It is a city with a rich history, famous for its architecture, grand boulevards, palaces, tiled mosques and minarets, as well as its main square, *Maidan-e Naghsh-e Jahan*, a UNESCO world heritage site. It is also one of Iran's major educational, cultural, industrial, and agricultural centers and home to a small number of religious minorities, including Christians, Zoroastrians, and Jews. Iranians say "Isfahan, nesfe jahan!" - Isfahan is half of the world!

Quick Facts

Population (city): 2 million

Gospel resources: Bible translations, Jesus Film, gospel recordings, satellite TV

Languages: Persian. Small minorities speak Luri, Qashqai, and Georgian and Armenian languages in some parts of the province.

Opportunities to Engage

The main opportunity is to study Persian at the University of Isfahan on a program for foreigners. This could be short term for a few months or for up to two years. Unfortunately, in the present geopolitical climate, it is unlikely that American passport holders would be successful in applying for a student visa. However, for African, Asian, Latin American and some European and other passport holders, it seems that this opportunity is viable.

It is possible for expatriates (providing they can get visas) to start businesses in Iran, especially those that will contribute to job creation for Iranians. There is also the potential for teaching English or other foreign languages in Isfahan.

An alternative is to learn Persian in your passport country, or in another country in the region. As well as this, there may be opportunities to work with Iranians in other countries in the region with a view to residing in Iran when more doors open into the country.

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

— Isaiah 43:19b —

Ways to Pray

- For God to open doors to workers to go to Isfahan and beyond.
- For the Believers in Iran to grow in faith and boldness.
- For Iranian Believers in the diaspora: there are thought to be in the region of 200,000 Iranian Believers outside of Iran. While unity is often seen as a challenge, these Sisters and Brothers are highly active and generous regarding ministry into Iran and among other Iranians abroad. May God increase their impact and draw many to return to Iran for the sake of the gospel.
- For young people: they make up nearly two-thirds of the population under the age of 30 and are particularly responsive to the gospel.
- For God's blessing, direction and protection on the ministries working to reach Iranians in the diaspora and in Iran.



Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of South West Asia? Contact us.
We would love to help you get there!

