LIBYAN ARAB & NAFUSA AMAZIGH

STAND AT THE CROSSROADS AND LOOK;
ASK FOR THE ANCIENT PATHS, ASK WHERE
THE GOOD WAY IS, AND WALK IN IT, AND
YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

TRIPOS.

JEREMIAH 6:16



Population 1.2 mil Modern, Capital City Economic opportunity and conflict in hometowns draw many

NAFUSA MOUNTAINS

Population apx 200,000

AMONG THE WORLD'S LEAST ACCESSIBLE COUNTRIES, LIBYA IS OPENING UP.

In the wake of the Arab Spring (2011), unity against Dictator

Muammar Gaddafi eroded into a decade of devastating chaos as regional factions turned against each other, vying for power. At the same time, an unparalleled number of people are choosing to follow Jesus. Even so, total numbers are still very small. Country-wide, war-weary Libyans look with measured hope to a recent "permanent" ceasefire. But many obstacles remain as enemies must forget the past to secure a future for their people.

Tripoli is a strategic place that influences all of the country. Libyans come from all regions for work in the capital. It is particularly important as a starting point to reach the Amazigh (Berber) people in the nearby mountains and on the coast, and to reach nearby Misrata to the east.

The **Amazigh** people, the Nafusa, live in towns and villages in the mountains. They are ethno-linguistically related to mountain people in Tunisia.





THEN THE NATIONS AROUND YOU THAT REMAIN WILL KNOW THAT I, THE LORD, HAVE REBUILT WHAT WAS DESTROYED AND HAVE REPLANTED WHAT WAS DESOLATE. I, THE LORD, HAVE SPOKEN, AND I WILL DO IT.

EZEKIEL 36:36

Specific Issues for Workers

<u>Risks</u> - Libya continues to be a dangerous and unstable place. **Visas** - Although visas are possible, especially for Tripolitania, there are consistently obstacles in getting visas to enter, to stay, and to leave.

<u>Tentmaking</u> - Demanding tentmaking positions have limited the number of workers, as well as their ability to interact with locals and learn the local dialect. Workers have often sought employment in teaching, but now some are beginning to branch out successfully into the business sector.

<u>Working with Libyan believers</u> - Some believers have left the country due to persecution those still in the country are often hesitant to associate with other believers, local or expat.

Within the country, the number of believers is growing every year. However, fear of persecution dominates many minds. The result is that, of these believers, there is only one known group (local church) that meets consistently throughout the country.

An excellent business platform and official invitation are necessary. Language instruction, medical workers, consulting services, factories, engineering, or upper educational instruction in English are possible.

There are current part-time jobs available that will help children and youth heal from the traumatic affects of civil war. Even an expat-run beauty salon was a successful business here in the past. One's own areas of expertise and experience are a great place to start when considering work that can build and bless the local community.