

MISRATA

*This is what the Lord says—
he who made a way through the sea...*
Isaiah 43:15-21



There is more...

than bombed out buildings and masses of Africans drawn here by the promise of work and a way to Europe.

Misrata is also a place rich in relationships, generous hospitality, and the world's oldest luxury carpets. It is a beautiful, coastal city that is welcoming, warm, and generous. Relationships are the foundational web of this city, and they are large. The first question a Misratan will ask another when they meet is, *"What is your family name?"* But even an honorable outsider can be warmly embraced by a family network.

Misrata is centrally located on the northern coast, and is a center of influence over politics and industry. As an outwardly religious city, men and women live segregated lives. Women in the streets are all covered in dark colored <abayas> which keep their modesty. Even in the home, men and women socialize in separate rooms except in very close relationships.

Misrata, like other Libyan cities, has much to rebuild. Jennifer Rose Ratka (UNPIO) aptly describes the crippling effects of conflict on this once wealthy country and the resulting dichotomies, *"The beauty of its people versus the cruelty of the conflict. Libya's wealth of resources versus unaffordable essentials such as food and medicine. Insecurity forcing people to flee from their homes versus migrants and refugees continuing to come in, many hoping to cross the Mediterranean Sea to find a better future."*

QUICK FACTS

POPULATION:
380,000

Libyan Arabic & some Italian; Amazigh (Berber) & Bedouin

Social Media outreach, Jesus Film, & growing Scripture are available.

*"They say,
'the devil is in the details'...
every detail in Libya
has 10 devils, at least."*

MUSTAFA FETOURI

Is God calling you to his beloved Libya?



GREATER HOPE

and a future for the people of Misrata

A movement to Christ here will have wide impact. No known expat workers currently live in this city. Flexibility and the ability to tolerate ambiguity as well as a desire to be very relational are essential.

Every expat needs a solid work platform. University teaching, nursing and healthcare, trauma and healing professionals, engineering, water and desalination, business, technology & marketing consulting, leadership seminars, and exports are all possibilities for visas – with a secured position. One strong possibility, with a lot of groundwork already done is a factory that makes products like sugar and syrup from dates.

Despite exquisite history and beauty, Tourism remains mostly closed to outsiders.

*"...forget the former things:
do not dwell on the past.
See. I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?"*

A Fragile Unity

The 2011 popular overthrow of the 42-year regime of Gaddafi achieved its aims, but at a high price. Unity eroded into chaos as regional factions turned against each other, vying for power. After a decade of civil war, weary Libyans look with measured hope to a recent "permanent" ceasefire agreement. Geneva hosted 75 regional and tribal leaders in early 2021 to agree on an interim Prime Minister and a three-member Presidential council. These recent enemies must forget the past to secure a future for their people. They must resolve questions of how to deal with corruption, allocate economic re-sources, disarm militias, and prepare the country for successful and safe elections in December. Urgent needs are to restore the production and export of oil and to evict foreign fighters. Pray for peaceful leaders with sincere desires to bring peace.

*"I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.*

ISAIAH 43:15-21



*"Then young women
will dance
and be glad..."*

*...young men
and...*

*...old as
well..*

"...I will turn their mourning into gladness: I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."

JEREMIAH 31:13