

Arise Shine Morocco

Prayer Bulletin #111

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Arise Shine Morocco administrators are still seeking the Lord's choice saints to take up their ASM prayer advocacy role on behalf of God's Kingdom in Morocco.

Might that be you? Let's talk!! Write to us at the address above. This bulletin has been done somewhat differently than most... Recent events continue to occupy the minds of most Christians in Morocco. Here are some of their thoughts from various locations as expressed in their own words...

The Paralyzing Effects of Bad Report

As the scenario of expulsions continues unabated in our country, the church is faced with the negative fallouts of all these uncertainties, intimidations, harassments, etc on one hand, and her God-given mandate of being His witnesses among the nations on the other. The twelve spies sent by Moses from Kadesh to spy out the Promised Land faced a similar dilemma: The land is a good one, flowing with milk and honey, but the Giants are there. The land flowing with milk and honey suddenly became "a land that devours its inhabitants..."

But Joshua and Caleb kept their God-given vision of the land: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land... a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread, their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them." Numbers 14:7-9

So what are we seeing right now - a land that devours its inhabitants or an exceedingly good land? The Church needs the Lord to help her see beyond the expulsions and threats, to the promise of an exceedingly great harvest. May the Church in Morocco be liberated from the crippling effect of bad news.

Pray for the Church:

- ✂ We are in a spiritual combat zone. Ezra 3 talks about the people building in spite of threats. This is what we need. Let the Holy Spirit fill the hearts of the local believers, that they will be bold. Pray that the church will be built. We need the Lord now more than ever.
- ✂ May the Holy Spirit take hold of us and take us to higher ground. May He use us to push back the limits of darkness!
- ✂ We have not received the spirit of fear but of courage of love and sound mind, so may God fill His people with joy and peace. The joy of the Lord is our strength.
- ✂ Pray for those who have been expelled or are being interrogated, for grace and assurance. May they know that the Lord is near them and has not forsaken them!
- ✂ Pray for those who are still weak in their faith, that they will be strengthened.
- ✂ Ask that the Church will be united in doing the will of God.

Pray For the Land

- ✂ Ps 2:10-12: ***And now be wise, O kings, be instructed O judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish from the way...***
- ✂ Pray for the king and other governing authorities that they might learn the wisdom of fearing God before it is too late.
- ✂ According to a regional expert, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has put pressure on Middle Eastern and all African countries to purge themselves of all Christians and demonstrate their Muslim credentials. This has defined a zero level tolerance for the followers of the Messiah. Please pray that God will hasten His word which He has spoken to many of His children here concerning the land to come into effect. Pray particularly with Ps. 37:9,22 and 29.
- ✂ Pray with the following words of Kevin Prosch's song He is the Lord, He reigns on High "...Your Gospel Oh Lord is the hope for our nation, You are the Lord. It's the power of God for our salvation, You are the Lord. We ask not for riches but look to the cross, You are the Lord. And for our inheritance, give us the lost, You are the Lord. Show Your Power..."

Another writes:

"Hello Prayer Warriors,

As you know, the assault against followers of Jesus across Morocco continues unabated. We hoped the actions to block our good works would be limited, but they only intensify. Attempts to counter with legal challenges have so far been to little avail. The enemy's weapons are vast and his tactics unpredictable. In a classic Biblical example of right being called wrong, authorities seem to be applying "fitna," the Koranic doctrine that states any action that would draw a Muslim away from his faith is to be stopped, including the compassionate works of Christians. The prevailing accusation now is that we are a "threat to national security!" because our acts of compassion tempt Moroccans to consider Christianity and thereby they betray the King of Morocco who is head of Islam, as well as the state. We all marvel at how fierce the battle is becoming, signifying that our Lord is nearing a great harvest in these last days."

"More have to watch from afar as now nearly 100 have been expelled or blacklisted. A pattern of weekly expulsions of about a dozen workers seems to be emerging. Those remaining ask, "Am I next?" We are under a deluge of information and trying to sift, sort and make sense of it, seeking to make proper and Christ-like responses during these uncertain times."

And from another:

"Things here are challenging, scary, uncertain, stressful—and encouraging all at the same time!?! There are huge things going on in this country, with huge potential spiritual consequences, good and bad. There are quite a few things we can't share.

We are really encouraged at the way a key local family is digging in and, at the risk of their lives, standing for the truth. So it is satisfying to help them from behind. Together they form the nucleus of a family church, which draws in others. We are certain this is where God wants us at this time in our life."

NORTHEASTERN REGION:

"Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, knowing that HE is in control of everything in this land! We ask that you pray for the translation projects that are going on, that we would be able to work while it is still day and that the Seed will then fall on prepared soil. Pray also for our dear sister who is still fighting cancer and the effects of chemo. She will then have radiation. Pray God will continue to minister to her and uphold and surround her with His love."

SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION:

"We know it is a privilege to be walking this path at this time, and are glad to give something of ourselves to see the birth of the church in this land. We were given a wonderful prophecy recently: of a mountain path with little candles along it which were being snuffed out one by one (the expat workers); then a crack appeared in the mountain and a blaze of light shone from underground, where God had been preparing His church in secret. They poured out down the hillside, a riot of color, and joyful singing and dancing, praising Him. That's what it's all about!"

Pray for an important new project being proposed to assist the poor here.

SOUTH-WESTERN REGION:

Pray for the government here. Pray for strength and endurance for the workers. Pray for the local believers to be strong. Pray a worker would grow in discernment and that He would keep her in perfect peace as she keeps her mind fixed on Him.

Please continue to remember two unemployed believing brothers for jobs and income. Pray for a village woman called "Helpful," who has been living with a believing family. She is now open due to their kindness and love.

Another worker sends a call to action from those in the USA:

"We covet your prayers and your letter writing skills for the hearing to be held on June 17th in the United States Congress, as Representative Frank Wolf (R-Virginia) examines the recent expulsion process of foreigners by the Moroccan government. As far as Morocco is concerned, what hangs in the balance is their international reputation as a

moderate Muslim country which is ruled by civil law **and** close to 700 Million dollars in US foreign aid. Congressman Wolf will be asking the US government to withhold this huge amount of aid to Morocco. Please pray for a God ordered outcome that leads to the Gospel's advance.

We ask that you write Congressman Wolf in support of his efforts to bring political pressure on Morocco in light of their decision to expel US citizens without due process or reason.

Please be very general in your wording and do not mention any work or worker specifically. We do not want to further expose any workers to future actions. Email him in care of **elyse.anderson@mail.house.gov** "

Text of Congressman Wolf's letter to Secretary of State Clinton:

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
2201 C St NW Ste 7276
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I write today to express my grave concern regarding the recent deportation of approximately 40 American citizens from Morocco without due process, which I believe calls into question the continuance of Morocco's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) funding.

In September 2008, the clock started for the official five-year period for project implementation under the MCC Compact with Morocco. The United States has pledged \$697.5 million in assistance to the Kingdom of Morocco through this Compact. As a precondition to receiving MCC funds, the government of Morocco was evaluated on 17 key indicators of eligibility, six of which fall under the category of "ruling justly." I submit, however, that these recent events raise valid questions regarding the Moroccan government's willingness to abide by the principles outlined in the MCC indicators.

In early March, the Moroccan government deported approximately 40 U.S. citizens and scores of other foreign nationals for allegedly proselytizing, which is against Moroccan law. However, authorities presented no evidence or explanation of the proselytizing allegations. Among the individuals who were deported or denied reentry were businessmen, educators, and humanitarian and social workers. Many of these individuals have resided in Morocco for over a decade in full compliance with Moroccan law.

Additionally, those deported were forced to leave the country within two hours of being questioned by authorities, leaving all their belongings behind. The manner in which these expulsions were carried out and the Moroccan government's refusal to grant those affected with a hearing flies in the face of

the principles of due process. Furthermore, the manner in which authorities expelled these individuals violates not only the general principles of international law but Moroccan law, as well.

The mandate of the MCC is based on the assumption that "aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance." Rather than making strides toward accountable and democratic governance since receiving the MCC grant, Morocco has regressed. Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World Report noted backsliding in Morocco "due to the increased concentration of power in the hands of political elites aligned with the monarchy" over the course of the last year.

At a time when the United States owes more in debts and commitments than the total combined net worth of all Americans, it is unacceptable to provide \$697.5 million in taxpayer dollars to a nation which blatantly disregards the rights of American citizens residing in Morocco and forcibly expels American citizens without due process of law.

The decision to suspend a MCC Compact due to a significant deterioration in good governance is not unprecedented. At my urging, the Board chose to suspend the MCC Compact with Nicaragua due to the violence and blatant thuggery exhibited by the regime of President Daniel Ortega surrounding the November 2008 elections.

The United States must send a message to the Moroccan government that it is unacceptable to expel American citizens without due process under the law. I ask that you withhold Morocco's MCC funding until the government of Morocco demonstrates that it is willing to follow its own laws and thus ensure that those expelled receive a fair trial and work toward a mutually acceptable solution to this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

**All of Morocco has been shaken by recent events.
More than ever we need to "press in" in prayer for God's people there.**