

I WILL LEAD THE BLIND BY WAYS THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN,
ALONG UNFAMILIAR PATHS I WILL GUIDE THEM;
I WILL TURN THE DARK-NESS INTO LIGHT BEFORE THEM
AND MAKE THE ROUGH PLACES SMOOTH.
THESE ARE THE THINGS I WILL DO; I WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM.

I S A I A H 4 2 : 1 6

SFAX

The Industrial Capital of Tunisia



Sfaxians are proud to be the Industrial heart of Tunisia with a robust economy not dependent on tourism.

Scattered around the country for work, they maintain a uniquely strong identity and are loyal to their regional traditions. A shrewd reputation precedes them.

SFAX FACTS

POPULATION

City: 350,000

Region: 1 million

99.99% Muslim

LANGUAGES

spoken: Tunisian Arabic

trade language: French

written: MSA

Sfaxians are masters, whether crafting tiny pastry delights or buildings.

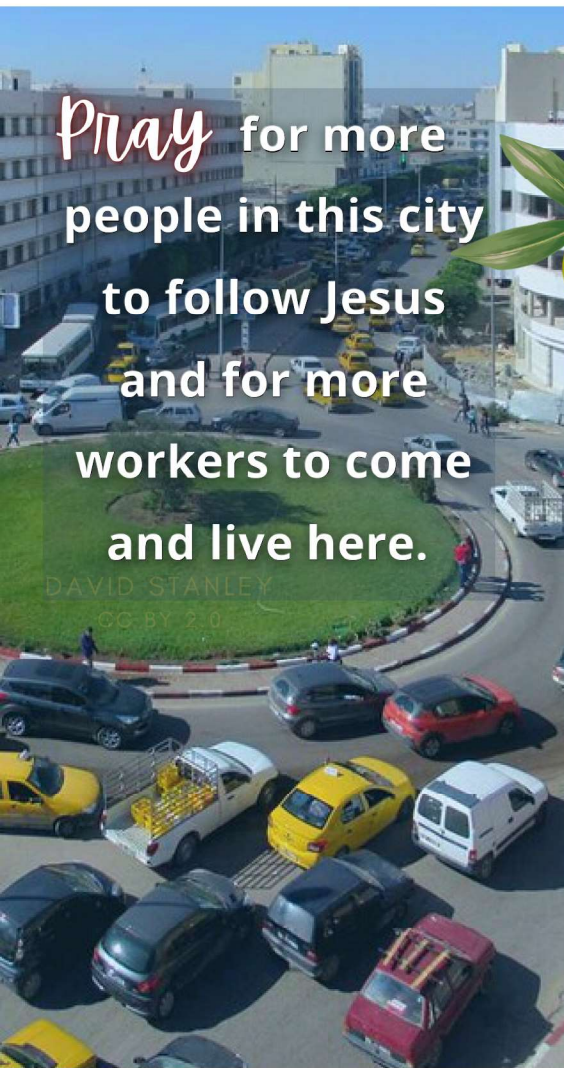
A palatable air of pretension displays their insistence that every-

thing in Sfax is higher quality, from the University to the goods and produce. Many things in the markets are indeed cheaper, somewhat owing to its proximity to the Libyan border, and those who make their living in other cities often return regularly to the markets.

While coastal, this is not another Tunisian beach destination. Instead it has been **an important Mediterranean port city for centuries**, built on Roman ruins, fought over by Barbary pirates, Arab nomads, and European colonizers. This history and a commitment to work make Sfaxians savvy businessmen both domestically and also with foreigners, from the east and west.


Although not as leisurely as other cities, you will find men in cafés and both genders in Salon de Thés abuzz with gossip and mixing business with pleasure. On Sundays, Sfaxians always enjoy a good Sfaxian couscous – with cilantro, of course!





Pray for more
people in this city
to follow Jesus
and for more
workers to come
and live here.

DAVID STANLEY
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"Come, everyone
who thirsts,

Come
to the
waters; &
he who has
no money,
buy and eat!

Come
buy wine
and milk
without money
and without price."

ISAIAH 55: 1 (ESV)
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Dennis Jarvis



HE WHO LOVES MONEY IS NEVER SATISFIED BY MONEY,
AND HE WHO LOVES WEALTH IS NEVER
SATISFIED BY INCOME. THIS TOO IS FUTILE.

ECCLESIASTES 5:10 (BSB)

GATEWAY & POSSIBILITIES

Trains, ferries, and automobiles connect Sfax to more remote places.

Well connected by rail, Sfax easily reaches Tunisia's inland and southern regions. The unique communities of the Kerkenah Islands are accessible by ferry and Libyans also come here for work and medical treatment.

Sfax is a transportation hub and a major market for the phosphates mined in Gafsa. Olive oil, almonds, and esparto grass come from nearby growing regions and are exported widely. Having the largest fishing port in Tunisia, fishermen pull in ample supplies of sea sponges and fresh fish, much of which is packaged in canneries for sale elsewhere in Tunisia or abroad. On the outskirts of Sfax there are oil fields and pipelines.

Industrialized and modern, the expanding population here would welcome foreigners for business, consultancy, and language teaching at the University of Sfax or other private institutions. Experience in factories or trade (import/export) would be useful. Sports is another area of achievement and there may be some opportunities with specialized coaching in court sports, judo, football, rugby, boxing, weightlifting, bowls, or swimming.

ALONGSIDERS & PRAYER

There are opportunities to work alongside a small indigenous church as well as a couple of established expat communities of faith. A community of catholic clergy have lived and prayed in this city for a long time and have gained a favorable reputation as upright and trustworthy people.

Ask the Lord to root out the spirit of criticism and complaining which lingers in believers. Pray against pride and haughtiness which causes competition for leadership positions in the church. Pray instead for a spirit of humility, preferring others, and servanthood. Pray that the power of the living God is unleashed in the faith of those who believe – that their lives would be a stark contrast to the half-hearted allegiance to Islam and the worship of material things.

