

P S A L M 24 : 9

"LIFT UP YOUR HEADS,  
O' you gates;  
LIFT THEM UP YOU  
*ancient doors,*  
that the  
**KING OF GLORY**  
may come in!"



## The Birthplace of the Arab Spring

# TUNIS

### POPULATION

city: 1.1 million  
Metro: 2.8 million

### LANGUAGES

Tunisian Arabic,  
French, MSA



## "TUNISIA IS ALWAYS READY TO TURN THE PAGE"

-Habib Bourguiba (Tunisia's first beloved "fatherly" dictator.)

The center of power and influence for the entire country, Tunis is a **place of paradox**. After history marked by waves of invasion from ancient Phoenecia to modern Europe, language-savvy Tunis has made peace with its many influences. The French imprint is notable on the Avenue Habib Bourguiba, a broad, tree-lined street with sidewalk cafés and high-end shops abuzz with gawking tourists and local intellectual elites. **This modern world suddenly vanishes** as one walks through the ancient gate into the cobbled Arab medina. The paradox of Tunisia is most felt by the juxtaposition of two paths: one a dense forest of kitchy shops with persistent vendors hoping to exploit tourists and the other a narrow, winding world of local shops brimming with everything from spices to wedding decor. The two worlds again meet at the Zeitouna mosque/University at the heart of the old city. Tunisia is progressive in education and women's rights, but a stricter Islam has gained ground since **the "Jasmine Revolution."** The future is uncertain.

The 2011 revolution, a **unified human longing for dignity and justice**, was dubbed, "**The Death of Fear.**" While Democracy goals maintain, the hopes of the revolution are threatened by ever-increasing costs of basic goods and a growing unemployment rate. Poverty is at an all-time high. University students are frustrated with the system, and endure intense psychological, financial, physical, and spiritual pressures. Some Tunisians wonder if their new freedoms are a worthwhile exchange for security.

**PRAY FOR:** Fearless hope founded in the knowledge of the presence of God and his goodness, not in political systems or even religion.



The largest body of Christians is in this region, the legacy of a powerful world-wide prayer effort in 1999. While growth slowed, many courageous believers remain as they face social persecution, even within their families. They welcome alongsiders in ministry as many areas of this dense city and region are greatly unengaged by the gospel.

*Pray for UNITY, BOLDNESS, & MOVEMENTS of disciple-making disciples.*

OPPORTUNITIES

Nearby Carthage, a suburban hideaway for the wealthy and powerful, is build atop the ancient center of western Christianity where Saint Augustine set the foundations of how we practice faith today. During Nero's subsequent persecution, martyrs like Perpetua and Felicitus suffered as a spectator sport. The roots of courageous Christian faith are literally just below the surface in a land that is 99.8% Muslim!

Tunisians identify strongly with their regional <walaya> but come to the capital from all over the country for improved education and work. They are open to new ideas and eager for relationships, and vulnerable to destructive forces like drugs and prostitution. The high cost of living, as well as a dire employment situation, is multiplying the need for ministry among the urban poor.

*Pray for Muslims from completely unengaged regions to meet local believers who will love them meaningfully and share the goodness of Christ.*

Resourceful and agreeable, Tunisians enjoy working with westerners. Authentic work with a clear residency role is possible in business, consultancy, language teaching, tourism, import/export, research, and other creative roles that use your own skills. Having a strong business plan to partner in ways that benefit the local businesses and economy is not only good practice but is also required by law.

This gateway city has a well-established GPA language school to help launch teams across the country and region. Existing team options exist in the urban center and in the surrounding suburban area.

French is widely spoken among the educated and elite here, but the heart language is Tunisian Derja, a dialect which includes Arabic, indigenous Tamazight (Berber), French words, and even Italian words.

POSSIBILITIES



LET US HOLD,  
UNSWERVINGLY  
TO THE HOPE  
WE PROFESS, FOR  
HE WHO PROMISED  
IS FAITHFUL.  
AND LET US  
CONSIDER HOW WE  
MAY SPUR ONE  
ANOTHER ON  
TOWARD LOVE  
AND GOOD DEEDS.  
LET US NOT GIVE UP  
MEETING TOGETHER.

HEBREWS 10:23-25