



BENGHAZI

artistic, freedom-minded, and rebuilding.

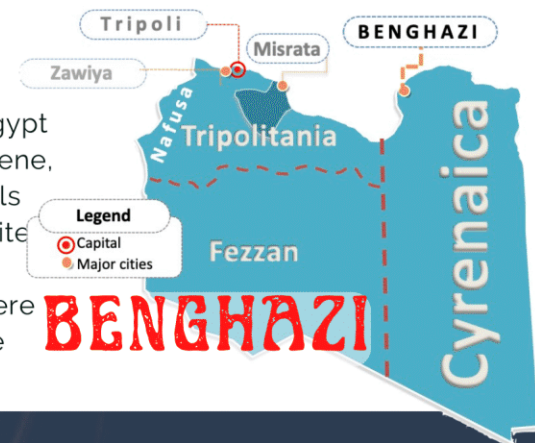
*They will rebuild
the ancient ruins and
restore the places long
devastated; they will
renew the ruined cities
that have been
devastated for generations.*

ISAIAH 61:4



RUBBLE EVERYWHERE

Buried inside the rubble are Benghazi's artistic heart and due pride in their historical prominence. Ancient Cyrenaica contributed Pharaohs to ancient Egypt (Shoshenq II) and decidedly defeated the Mongol armies! This is Biblical Cyrene, the home of Simon (who carried Christ's cross) and Jews at Pentecost – locals say the Gospel of Mark was penned in a cave nearby. King Idris ruled the United Kingdom of Libya in the 20th century and partnered with the allies in WWII. Residents fondly remember the days when Muslims, Christians, and Jews were neighbors and shared hot drinks and meals together. Cyrenaica has a unique culture and history from the rest of the Maghreb (Western North Africa).



WILL MUSIC BE ABLE TO ERASE THE PAIN?



"A music teacher's lessons are interrupted to deactivate a landmine discovered by some children; he is part of a volunteer task force to securing these relics left by ISIS. He laments, "kids are more used to Kalashnikovs than the music of L'Eid" and wonders if music will be able to erase the pain. War-weary Libyans look now with measured hope to the "permanent" ceasefire agreement. Men gather with the elders in the town square, determined to look to the future, not the past.

Benghazi always had a creative and independent spirit. "Freedom Tea" ceremonies once looked forward to a post Gaddafi era. After 42 oppressive years, the tribes united in 2011 to depose themselves of his regime, but at a high price. Unity eroded into chaos as regional factions turned against each other, vying for power. A decade of violent chaos has flattened the economy with its infrastructure. Ordinary people suffer from extreme inflation and cash flow problems. Daily food insecurity, power cuts, and intermittent violence make life intolerable. Everyone must do what they can to manage.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls. Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. Is 58:12

Strategic

Benghazi is strategic to the entire region of Cyrenaica, including the large cities of Al-Bayda, Tobruk and Derna. A short window of openness for workers in 2011 has closed. Cyrenaica's government has opposed foreigners in recent years and there are no known western workers there. As politics change, things could open again. **Ibero-Americans** may have some unique opportunities to connect.

Possibilities

A secured position is a must.

- Specialized English: (business, sciences, engineering, etc);
- University teaching; exports;
- Nursing and healthcare; fitness;
- Engineering of all kinds;
- Water and desalination;
- Consulting: business, & marketing, technology, medical, leadership;
- As the arts reemerge, pray for possibility for musicians and visual artists as well.

Resilience

Anyone moving here must have a proper respect for its current state of instability. Even after law and order return, the deep lying loyalties and disputes of tribes will remain a significant force. Endurance that is secured on the rock of Christ is a must. Tolerance of ambiguity, patience with beurocratic red tape, and an interest in investing heavily into relationships are key.

Lord, we ask for a lasting end to civil war, for honest leaders to act with integrity during the comprehensive national reconciliation effort, and ultimately that people will know the reconciliation of God and peace of Christ, which surpass what the world can offer.



Sovereign God, prepare hearts through dreams, books, social media, and in prayer so that in hearing the Word of God, there will be a recognition that: *'this is what my heart always knew God must be like!'*

Urgently, Libya's new Unity Government must restore the production and export of oil, and evict foreign forces. The UN hosted 75 regional and tribal leaders in early 2021 to select the interim Prime Minister and three-member Presidential council. They represent the three main regions of Libya and must resolve questions of how to deal with corruption, allocate economic resources, disarm militias, and prepare the country for successful and safe elections in the future ... **Pray for peace with or without elections.**

PRAY FOR BELIEVERS

"God raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."



...so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus"

EPHESIANS 2:6



Lift up your heads,
you gates;
lift them up,
you **ancient** doors,
that the
King of glory
may come in.

PSALM 24:9

