

the holy city of

KAIROUAN

Tunisia

Pride runs deep in this ancient capital of Ifriqiya, which was built in 670 AD as an Empire to dominate the lands to the west. Prayers fill the air in this ancient heart of Islam, as they have done for nearly 1500 years. Kairouan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a small town with enormous significance. It is a holy city to Muslims across the Maghreb. Local families who can trace their ancestry to the earliest Muslims are officially registered as having elite patrilineage. Fiercely protective of their heritage, Kairouan's Arabs resist the polluting influences of all outsiders: not only western, but also the uneducated poor, who come from the countryside to the city, desperate for work. Modern Tunisian cities see Kairouan as backward, much like the Nazareth of Jesus' time.

Like Nazareth, good can indeed come from Kairouan!

There is nobility in Kairouan's devotion to practices they believe honor God, but the Enemy uses their spiritual pride to blind them to the light of truth, they are trapped in the darkness of this deceiving stronghold.

Who will go to be the vessel of God's light here?

*I am the light
of the world.*

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness
but will have the light of life

JOHN 8:12



The 2011 Revolution brought **an era of unprecedented religious freedom**, previously under tight restriction by a secular dictatorship. The Islamic party gained a majority in parliament and for fear of suppressing religious liberties, erred on the side of lenience toward acts of violence. The tourism-dependent economy suffered greatly.

Despite the dedication to keep traditional life pure, **social media** has shifted how people interact with one another and the outside world. "Religious fatigue" grips the younger generation who indiscriminately reject the longstanding religious values of their ancestors. They are eager for education and learning, to connect with the world.

Corruption abounds. Tunisians say the 2011 revolution got rid of one thief, but now there are 1,000. Bribes must be offered even for things one has earned: a driver's license or passing grades in school. **Trust is elusive.** Often it is within the family line - the father's family line - where the most reliable connections exist. Marriages are still formed within the patriline to protect family land. Trusted relationships are a lifeline, yet even in family trust is easily broken as deceit flourishes.





99.99% Muslim



LOVED



INFLUENTIAL



"Listen to me, you pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD."

Isaiah 51:1

POSSIBILITIES

Breakthrough here could have a significant impact throughout Tunisia, and even across North Africa.

Apart from a handful of scattered believers, this is an unengaged, presently neglected area.

A team here will need a commitment to extraordinary prayer and praise to welcome the light of Christ into dark places. It is a small town, so the ability to live in a "fishbowl" is essential; everything one does here will be observed and scrutinized. Men and women lead more separate lives and everyday life is more religious than the rest of the country. An uncompromising identity in Christ will be vital to remain positive despite inevitable suspicion. The people need to know there is freedom and life in Christ. Flexibility and resilience are a must. Significant past work has been done to prepare the spiritual soil. Reach out to the Pioneering Engagement Catalyst for more insight.

The University of Kairouan hires foreign language professors. Other potential work may include: private teachers/tutors, engineers (all kinds, but potentially agricultural, solar power, recycling and water), research, tech or marketing consultation, sports & fitness, women's health/fitness. Be creative, consider your own skills/experience and what business ideas you have that would bless the Tunisian economy.

*Is God calling you to join
his work in North Africa?*

QUICK FACTS

POPULATION

- city: 190,000
- region: 580,000

LANGUAGES

Tunisian Arabic, French, and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA)

UNENGAGED (no workers)