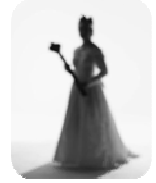


April 2010

# Hadassah Watch

*"And who knows but that you have to a royal position for such a time as this?" Esther 4 vs. 14b*



## WOMEN praying with other WOMEN for WOMEN across the world

We call on all Christian women around the world to take at least 15 minutes every Tuesday morning to pray. We encourage you to mobilize as many women as possible to pray, individually or in groups. Take a few minutes to ponder & pray at each point of the guideline below & be open to intercede as the Holy Spirit leads.

You are welcome to forward this e-mail to as many Christian sisters as possible. Please send us the name of the town and the country in which you reside & let us know what God is doing in your nations! [You are welcome to e-mail us with prayer requests and testimonies.](#) If you did not receive this e-mail directly from us, but would like to, feel free to send your e-mail address to [info@hadassahwatch.org](mailto:info@hadassahwatch.org)

We believe that God has called us as women, to intercede like never before, for His plans and purposes to be accomplished here on earth. Let us not slumber, but pray and call others to pray - for His Kingdom to come...

## NATIONS - MORROCO

*"From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets... the name of the Lord is to be praised!"  
Ps 113 vs 3*

Morocco is known in Arabic as the Maghreb, "the place where the sun sets." It is here that the sun sets on the Muslim world and on the 10/40 Window. Morocco is situated on the north-west tip of Africa - but also lies eight miles from mainland Europe across the straight of Gibraltar. Recently Christians around the world were puzzled by sudden, anti-Christian activities in Morocco. Todd Nettleton with Voice of the Martyrs says two years ago Morocco would have been called a tolerant Muslim country, but not anymore. "So far this week, we've heard of six different foreign Christians who either have been expelled from the country or are in custody awaiting expulsion." Nettleton says, "In one case, we heard about Christians working at an orphanage who were expelled from the country, leaving all of the kids in the orphanage without supervision, simply in the custody of the government of Morocco. "21 other foreigners are awaiting deportation."

*Moroccan Christians request our prayers that: The decision to close the orphanage will be reversed. The second orphanage under scrutiny will be allowed to continue operating normally. Those deported will know the Father's comfort, presence and peace, and quickly discover His plan for their future. There will be no further deportations, or raids on Christian ministries. The national Moroccan Christians will be strengthened, not intimidated, by these events. All officials involved, especially the newly appointed Minister of Justice, will be exposed to the Good News of Jesus, and respond to His offer of love and new life.*

<http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country>, <http://mnonline.org/article/13970>

## PONDER THIS... Vanishing or Victorious?

Often referred to today as "the land of the vanished church", North Africa was home to some of the strongest churches in all Christendom in the first centuries after Christ. Many early North African Christians were martyred for their faith and their testimonies remain with us today. Important Christian leaders, some of whom have impacted the church for all time, arose out of the church in North Africa. These include Tertullian, Cyprian, and Augustine. Historical evidence remains of significant Christian churches in the Roman cities of Tingis (Tangier), Lixus (Larache), and Volubilis all located in the northern region of modern Morocco. Some evidence exists for an early Christian presence as far south as the Souss Valley. The first recorded martyrdoms for the faith in Morocco occurred in the third century. The arrival of Islam in the late seventh century brought a serious challenge to the church. As Islam pressed its legalistic doctrines on the region, North Africans succumbed to the pressures of propaganda, discriminatory taxation and military conquest. Over the centuries the church weakened and eventually disappeared from the historical record throughout the region.

As church historians grappled with understanding how such a vibrant community of faith could vanish so completely, a consensus emerged that the early church failed to establish itself as fully North African in nature. Many of the Roman trappings of church were imported with the Gospel. The Scriptures and other Christian literature were not translated into the languages of North Africans. Evangelism and growth of the church were not a sufficiently high priority. The later historical record of the church in Morocco remains relatively silent until the end of the nineteenth century when the modern era of missions began in the region. During the first half of the twentieth century, fellowships were established in numerous locations. Moroccan independence in 1956 brought restrictions on Christian outreach and activities. In the following decades, police harassment succeeded in reducing the number of fellowships and those attending them. The church has only recently exceeded its former size and strength. Today the Moroccan church is involved in translating Scripture, in producing culturally appropriate worship music and songs, and in reaching out to plant new fellowships of believers. This speaks not of a vanishing church but of a victorious church.

*"There is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail." Job 14 vs 7*

***"O Lord! May they who love You be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Judges 5 vs 31***

*Pray for growth in numbers, maturity and unity for the church in Morocco. Pray for a multiplication of the church and for gifted anointed humble leadership to arise. Pray for protection and for freedom for Christians to gather without fear of persecution.*

## FAMILY

Family is the cornerstone of society in Morocco. It shapes the identity of nearly every person. An individual's honor and dignity depend upon the honor and dignity of his family. Families must protect each member from shame and each must conform to social norms that keep a family from being shamed. Age brings honor in Moroccan families. Younger family members revere and respect grandparents, parents and older aunts and uncles and treat them with great dignity and devotion. It is not uncommon for three or four generations of a family to live under one roof. Loyalty, mutual support, and group decision-making are all essential elements of Moroccan family life. Each member is responsible to contribute as able to the needs of the family. The family often plays an integral part in finding jobs and marriage partners for its members. A Moroccan who becomes a Christian has the potential of bringing shame on the family and the "offending" member may be seen as disloyal. Since family is the primary socio-economic support, great pressure is brought to bear on an apostate family member. A choice to follow Christ often results in ostracism by family and friends. Christian communities must learn to function effectively as culturally appropriate spiritual families in order to see flourishing churches established.

***"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12 vs 5***

***"God sets the lonely in families," Psalm 68 vs 6a***

***"He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family." Acts 16 vs 34b***

*Pray for the establishment of communities of believers that can help replace the support system left behind when a family rejects a Christian. Pray for Christian singles to marry Christian spouses and to establish Christian homes and families that are so critical to the stability and witness of the church. Pray for the conversion of whole families.*

<http://www.ariseshinemorocco.org/ja/content/view/32/279/>

## TESTIMONY -Breakthrough

Around 1994 three new Christians gathered in a foreigner's home. That day their host said, "You are now a church." This was a revolutionary idea! They were not "a meeting" or "a Bible study". They were a church! From the scriptures they learned a lot about "the church." Soon believers in other places who had been meeting regularly began to think of themselves as a church.

In 1998 a new Christian we'll call Sayid was alone in his city. He asked if someone from a city an hour away could come to disciple him. Abid responded and began to visit him once a week to read scripture and pray. Later they started walking the streets of Sayid's city and praying. As they did, Abid sensed that God wanted to raise up a church there.

A few months later someone gave them the addresses of several people in the city who were studying Bible correspondence courses. Sayid and Abid visited them and some received the Savior. Soon a handful more were added as the brothers and sisters of Christians in Abid's city came to trust in Jesus. But where could they meet together? An African Christian offered his home. So the church in Sayid's city was born full of joy and with a confidence that there would soon be another church in their city.

Meanwhile God began to lay another city on Abid's heart. He's been visiting it once a week, walking its streets, and interceding for it. In faith, there will soon be a church there. And Abid already knows where next, and next, and then next he will go to plant churches.

The planting of new churches by local believers is one of the most exciting and important of recent developments within the kingdom of God in Morocco.

***"For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20***

*Pray for the infant churches. Pray for their protection from attack. Pray they will grow deep and strong in the Lord, and multiply. Pray for Abid, and other "Abids" God wants to raise up to help build His church. Pray for holiness, love and unity in the church and for local believers to develop a burning desire to reach their nation.*

**Be blessed as you pray & spread the good tidings of the gospel of Jesus Christ!!!**

Psalm 68 vs. 11 *"The Lord gives the command; the women who proclaim the good tidings are a great host..."*

**Hadassah Watch is endorsed & supported by: PACWA (Pan African Women's Association) Jericho Walls International Prayer Network Transformation Africa / Global Day of Prayer**