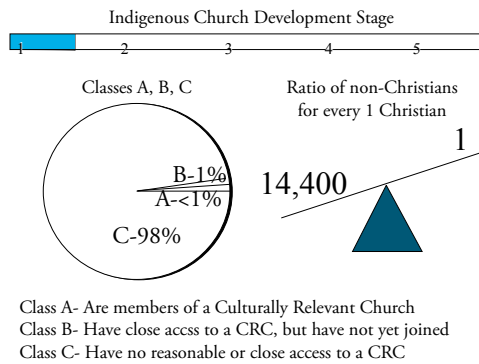


Libyan Arab



Quick Facts

Population: 3,600,000
 Libya: 3,200,000
 Egypt: 350,000
 Ivory Coast: 13,000
 Niger: 6,500
Religion: Sunni Islam
Believers: 0.006%
Scriptures: None
Ministry Tools: JRG
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
MS Subgroups: 5+



Identity: The Libyan Arabs are the descendants of intermarriage between bedouin tribes (Banu Hebib, Awf, Debban, Zegb) and Berbers (Luata, Nefusa, Adassa). They are divided culturally between the eastern Cyrenica settlers, where the Hebib settled, and the western Tripolitania settlers, where the other Arab tribes settled.

Lifestyle: About 70% of Libyan Arabs are urbanized. The economy is held up entirely by oil export revenue, though only about 10% of the population are employed by this industry. In rural areas, the Bedouins (750,000) maintain their traditional way of life as nomadic pastoralists. There are also oasis farming settlements which cultivate fruit orchards (citrus, dates, figs) and grow wheat and sorghum. However, only 1% of the land is cultivated, and 75% of the nation's food must be imported.

Customs: Libyan Arabs serve sweetened green and red tea almost every-

where to their guests and clients in small cups. Mint is usually added to the tea after meals. Turkish coffee may also be offered in small cups, unsweetened and strong. However, coffee shops are beginning to adapt to Western influences and are now serving espressos and capicinos.

Religion: Libyan Arabs follow Sunni Islam. In Cyrenica they have been strongly influenced by the Senussi Movement, whose founder mixed Wahabi Islam with Sufism. The movement had little impact in Troplitalia, which is more cosmopolitan and less keen on stricter applications of Islam. With the rise to power of Colonel Qaddafi, who dissolved a Senussi-led government, conservative Islamic restrictions like the seclusion of women have been opposed. Qaddafi has made it forcefully clear that Islamist ideologies and fundamentalist groups have no place in Libya.

Christian Outreach: All missionary work is forbidden and it is illegal

to make converts. Libya's sophisticated network of secret police and close monitoring of expatriates, has made long-term missionary work incredibly difficult to maintain. Nonetheless, there are now 5 underground fellowships which have been established with around thirty believers.

How to Pray:

☞ All missionaries were expelled in 1960. Praise God for the continued perseverance of several mission agencies which refused to give up on Libya. Pray for their continued success in placing and serving missionary teams in this highly "restricted-access" nation.

☞ There were 20,000 expatriate Christian workers in Libya before the 2011 uprising. Pray that they might return with a vision to reach Libyans with the gospel.

☞ An increased response to Christian satellite and radio programming in Libya is a sign of a ripening harvest. However, no effective follow-up system has been developed. Pray for unity and resolve among agencies to meet this challenge.

☞ Pray for a Libyan Arabic version of the Bible to be completed and published.

**Every year 32,000
 Libyan Arabs die
 without Christ.**