

AMP 9-6-15 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Today's Service

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service, and into his kingdom.
- That Pastor Jon would preach in God's power as he is preaching a new series, Community & Diversity at Christ's Church in Queens, on how we function as a church.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the goodness, power, and love of God.

RPC Outreach

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.
- That the congregational meeting on September 13th will be well attended. We will be voting to ordain Tom Harmon as an elder, voting to install a pastor, and voting to petition Presbytery to become a particular church of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Pray also for the Session meeting on September 10th and the Presbytery meeting on the 19th.
- BBQ&A will be held at Cunningham Park on September 13 & 20. Pray that it would be well attended and that it would be a time of good fellowship, service, and edification for all involved. Pray for Pastor Jon's preparations for the message he gives and for his answers to the questions he receives.

Regional Church

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

Morocco | Basic Country Facts:

Operation World Denomination Statistics



| Christians | Deno ms | Pop % | Affiliates | Ann Gr |
|--------------------|---------|-------|------------|--------|
| Protestant | 14 | 0.01 | 4,000 | 4.7% |
| Independent | 3 | 0.01 | 2,000 | 3.3% |
| Anglican | 1 | <0.01 | <200 | -4.4% |
| Catholic | 1 | 0.07 | 23,000 | 0.0% |
| Orthodox | 4 | <0.01 | 1,000 | -1.2% |
| Marginal | 1 | <0.01 | <200 | 1.5% |

Ethnic Breakdown: Arab-Berber 99%, other 1%

Major Languages: Arabic (official), Berber languages (Tamazight (official), Tachelhit, Tarifit), French (often the language of business, government, and diplomacy)

Religion: Muslim 99% (official; virtually all Sunni, <0.1% Shia), other 1% (includes Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i), Jewish about 6,000 (2010 est.)

Population: 33,322,699 (July 2015 est.)

Life Expectancy: male: 73.64 years female: 79.94 years (2015 est.)

Government: constitutional monarchy

Economic Conditions: Morocco has capitalized on its proximity to Europe and relatively low labor costs to build a diverse, open, market-oriented economy. In the 1980s Morocco was a heavily indebted country before pursuing austerity measures and pro-market reforms, overseen by the IMF. Since taking the throne in 1999, King MOHAMMED VI has presided over a stable economy marked by steady growth, low inflation, and gradually falling unemployment, although poor harvests and economic difficulties in Europe contributed to an economic slowdown. Industrial development strategies and infrastructure improvements - most visibly illustrated by a new port and free trade zone near Tangier - are improving Morocco's competitiveness. Despite Morocco's economic progress, the country suffers from high unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy, particularly in rural areas. Key economic challenges for Morocco include reforming the education system and the judiciary, while increasing the competitiveness of the private sector.

GDP Per Capita: \$7,600 (2014 est.)

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GDP - composition, by sector of origin: agriculture: 14% industry: 24.9% services: 61.1% (2014 est.)

Education: Education in Morocco is free and compulsory through primary school. The estimated literacy rate for the country in 2012 was 72%. (wiki)

State of the Church: In 2010, the religious affiliation in the country was estimated by the Pew Forum as 99.9% Muslim, with all remaining groups accounting for just 0.1% of the population. The most recent estimates put the size of the Casablanca Jewish community at about 2,500, and the Rabat and Marrakesh Jewish communities at about 100 members each. The remainder of the Jewish population is dispersed throughout the country. This population is mostly elderly, with a decreasing number of young persons. Sunnis form the majority at 67% with non-denominational Muslims being the second largest group of Muslims at 30%.

The predominantly Roman Catholic and Protestant foreign-resident Christian community consists of approximately 5,000 practicing members, although some Protestant and Catholic clergy estimate the number to be as high as 25,000. Most foreign resident Christians reside in the Casablanca, Tangier, and Rabat urban areas. Various local Christian leaders estimate that between 2005 and 2010 there are 4,000 citizen converted Christians (mostly ethnically Berber) who regularly attend "house" churches and live predominantly in the south. Some local Christian leaders estimate that there may be as many as 8,000 Christian citizens throughout the country, but many reportedly do not meet regularly due to fear of government surveillance and social persecution. The CIA World Factbook estimates that Christians are currently 1% (~380,000) of the Moroccan population. (wiki)

Prayer Points:

- Islam was introduced by invading Arab armies in the 7th Century. The once strong North African, and largely Berber, Church was erased. Pride in Morocco's glorious past as a centre of Islamic civilization and learning, and deeply rooted prejudice against Christianity, remain barriers to the acceptance of the gospel. Only a small percentage of the population has been clearly presented with the gospel. Pray that this nation may become open for the good news. (OW 1)
- Stability and relative openness make Morocco one of the West's most favoured Arab nations. Yet a troubled past and uncertain future make for challenges. Economic growth is essential to care for and give hope to the burgeoning young population, and the deeply sensitive and controversial issue of Western Sahara continues to stand between Morocco and better foreign relations. Pray for wisdom for the government, that policies and planning might establish justice, fairness and openness. (OW 2)
- Moroccan Islam faces serious division as the country increasingly polarizes between Islamists and moderates. The suppression of Christian activity is meant to forestall sectarian conflict desired by extremists in other African Muslim countries. The intensifying difficulties reflect the deepening fault line; most citizens are troubled by the implications and do not wish for religious violence. Islamism finds a fertile recruiting ground especially but not exclusively among the poor and frustrated young population. Pray for peace throughout the nation, and pray that those seeking to commit violence be stymied. Pray for the country's leaders; may they navigate these troubled waters with wisdom and good decision-making. (OW 3)
- Missionary work, as such, is not openly permitted, but Christian workers are able to take up various types of employment, share their faith and encourage believers. Many live in the country in order to share and live out the love of Jesus. Pray especially for the following issues:
 - a) A recent crackdown on expatriate Christian workers has seen over 100 expelled on very short notice, and their ministries all but disintegrated. In some cases, these ministries were clearly meeting social needs. The crackdown appears to be orchestrated at a very high national level and seriously endangers the continuation of foreign Christian work. Pray that the door would remain open for as long as God desires and for as long as the national Church needs in order to be raised up to finish the task in Morocco.
 - b) Relationships with nationals. The government is attempting to drive a wedge between expatriate and indigenous believers. Expatriate Christians can endanger nationals as much as serve them if wisdom is not exercised. Pray for a good balance in how and how much foreign believers interact with indigenous Christians.
 - c) Serving the needy. There remain some holistic ministries open to foreign Christian involvement - working with the stigmatized and disabled, assisting the destitute, building the economy through business and development links. Much discretion and patience is required until a greater freedom for the gospel is achieved.
 - d) Sub-Saharan Africans and Asians by the thousands seek entry to Europe. They are often subject to exploitation by traffickers and harsh treatment by the Moroccan government. Some reside there as students. Many are already Christian and have formed vibrant fellowships; many others are coming to faith through the ministry of other Christians in Morocco. Pray for their positive witness to Muslims. (OW 6)