



**December 2015**

**Short introduction and motivation**

On the age of 23 I was sent out for the first time to Tunisia. At that time there were 2 known Tunisian Christians in the whole nation.

Already then I was confronted on evangelization visits with persons that would behave as Muslims on the street, but inside their home they would be Jewish.

I left the mission agency, because their ways were very traditional and not in accordance with the Word of God.

I was sent out the second time by an evangelical community, without mission agency in 1982. At that time there was 1 home community in Tunisia and that is where I met my husband Mokhtar. We were married in 1984. We were sent out to Tunisia to form a new home community in the north of Tunisia, but whatever we did it all failed. We realized we were in a spiritual battle that concerned all of Tunisia and we stated a movement of intercession. The result was that we were put out of fellowship by our Tunisian brothers and sisters, we were threatened to lose our lives and we fled the country with a baby and 2 toddlers. We found ourselves in the Netherlands with nothing but our lives, but we knew we had the key for victory: intercession and repentance for the sins the nation was based on.

We started a prayer movement and travelled into Tunisia to repent for the child sacrifices where we still found remains of at excavation sites. Thus we stood at the beginning of a growing chain of home communities in Tunisia. Very soon we realized that all the nations from the Magreb had the same origin and roots and we got involved in all the Magreb. Meanwhile we were used in training leadership in the home fellowships and in France among North African Christians hidden in churches.

We were asked to represent Tunisia and the Netherlands at the first Convocation of All Nations of Tom Hess in Jerusalem in 1994. That is where we met Messianic Jews and heard teaching from Torah. We joined a group of intercessors for Israel in Holland and started to celebrate Pesach and very soon after Shabbat and the other mo'adim. Mokhtar got an active role in the new movement of reconciliation between Jew and Arab.

I repented in public of all the vows I had made in the reformed church and the result was that I received new insight in the Bible and as Mokhtar had already experienced from repenting from Islam, started to understand the teaching about the Kingdom of God. We started to teach Torah in Holland, in Arabic and wherever we came, always in connection with Messianic Jews.

Mokhtar organized trips of intercession with Messianic Jews in Tunisia, where they went to the high places and they were invited in the home of Tunisian Jews on Djerba. Since then he build relationship and trust and the last time they begged Mokhtar to help them to make alijah. Half of their families live on Djerba and half in Paris. They are koheniem.



**Obadiah 20b**  
*"The captives of Jerusalem, that are in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the South".*

**Isaiah 62: 10**  
*"Go out, go out through the gates; prepare a way for the people! Build it up, build up the highway; clear away the stones! Raise a banner for the peoples".*

**Ezekiel 20: 40,41**  
*"For on My holy mountain, Israel's high mountain – the declaration of the Lord God – There the entire house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land. There I will accept them and will require your contributions and choicest gifts, all your holy offerings. When I bring you from the peoples and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered, I will accept you as a pleasing aroma. And I will demonstrate My holiness through you in the sight of the nations".*

**Isaiah 19: 23-25**  
*"...25 The Lord of Hosts will bless them, saying, "Egypt My people, Assyria My handiwork, and Israel My inheritance and blessed"*



While teaching in Tunisia Mokhtar meets young men with an Islamic background, who turn Christian and suddenly get a craving to know Torah and to go to Israel. Mokhtar is the key for Convocation of All Nations to get believers from North Africa to the Convocation in Jerusalem. Some of them turn their name into a Hebrew one and they spontaneously start to study Hebrew to understand scripture. This is not very well regarded by the traditional missionaries. We understand very well they are 'bnei anusim'.

Mokhtar has a fellowship on Shabbat, where also elders from churches come to study Torah. Sifra is, next to a job for family income, teaching Roots of our Faith.

We just concluded 7 years of intercession for the new generation, since everybody interested in churches in Israel is white or grey haired. Since, we organized conferences for young people and both of us are discipling young adults to take on leadership or to teach.

Cornerstone Ministries,

*Sifra Essid*