



## Our ministry

The parable of the sower makes it clear to us that one should sow the best in good ground, for it promises to give the best result.

Before there is sown, the ground must be cultivated. This is usually a tough work and most often it is not visible, as there is no fruit to be shown. Reconciliation between Jew and Arab and the teaching about what the Bible really says is always a process of cultivating the ground: we first remove the old thorns and thistles and we dig out the heavy stones to get them removed, cleansing the ground...and how much ground is today not polluted with oil or heavy metals: then the grounds needs to be dug off.

Our ministry is like this: hard work, sometimes for years and moving on to a next task, while others work on the ground that has been prepared. It was like this in founding the movement of home churches in Tunisia, it was like this in forming the leadership for North-Africa churches in France and it is like this in Reconciliation between Jew and Arab. There are often people who remark that they long back to the conferences we organized back at De Bron. But this time is over and will not come back. Sometimes we see the result of participants of these conferences in the Middle East, for example a Messianic Jew who cooperates with Palestinian believers, or who invite a Syrian believer to enter into a relationship. The work continues, without us.

Yesterday Sifra was invited in a congregation to speak and when she heard prior to the meeting: 'O, there again is a speaker on Israel' she got quite angry. In this congregation there is clearly a battle going on between members who are for Israel and members who are against Israel. The only thing to do is to clear the rubble and to say that Jesus speaks about: the Gospel of the Kingdom and that all the people and nations may have a place in this. And do we, as citizens of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, already fulfil our call and destiny?

Mochtar was invited yesterday by a retired pastor to bring some nuance in his pro-Palestinian congregation. The half hour that was given to him was not enough to make clear that and Palestinian and Jew are having a place in the Kingdom of God and therefore the Syrian refugees that flood your city as well.

The seed needs to root deeply in the good soil and our wish is that we make room so that that the words of Jesus, namely Torah, can root. Only with deep roots a tree remains standing in a devastating storm. And the storm in the world affairs becomes stronger. In our meetings in the land we meet Iraqi believers. Iraqi's with a Islamic background are astonished that they do not have to become Dutch Christians in order to be accepted in the Kingdom of God. Iraqi's with a Christian background usually have not read the Bible themselves and come – just like Jews that we meet – to realize that as we read, unprecedented treasures are to be found in the Word that have a direct working on our worldview. We pray that we might be ready on the right time to show many Syrian people the way in the Bible whether they are from a Islamic or Christian background.



**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"*



As you read this article we are just back from Gibraltar. In Obadiah 20 it says: *'the exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the towns of the Negev.'* We pray this text already for years for the Jewish community in Tunisia and Morocco. Internationally they organize a network conference with the aim of motivating the Sefardic Jews (from the Mediterranean) and to help them to turn back to Israel. Now is the time in the history this needs to happen. Tunisian Jews, who we also help to read the Tenach (they read according to their tradition only the comments of famous rabbi's) also beg us to help them to go back. New land to cultivate! Again a new network!

Cornerstone Ministries,

*Mokhtar en Sifra ESSID*