

# MOROCCO

## The Rif Berber



### What World Missions is doing...

World Missions has been working with this group for a number of years through a Medical Foundation. The foundation is integrated into the work of the Church of God in Spain. Outreaches into Morocco are through two Spanish cities in North Africa: Ceuta and Melilla.

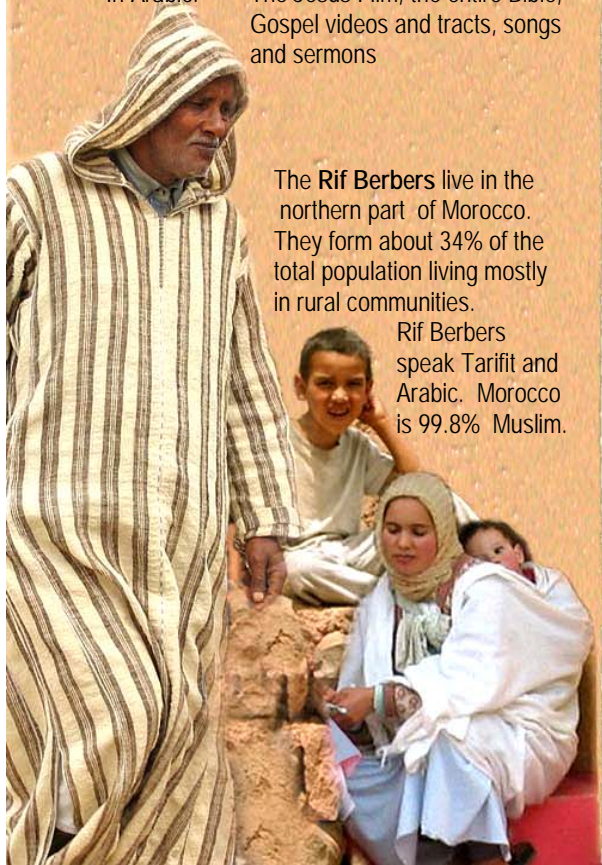
- **In Ceuta** we have a medical clinic, a strong local church, and humanitarian ministry trips to stations in the towns of Northern Morocco. A Latino missionary fully supported by a country in Latin America is also working in this city.
- **In Melilla** we have a Spanish couple sent by the foundation and a missionary family working together. Recently, we have started evangelistic Bible studies, benevolence ministries in Melilla and across the border into Morocco.
- We already have the roots of a Berber-speaking church to be planted in Melilla in the near future.

### Resources Available

In Tarifit: The Jesus Film, Bible Portions  
 In Arabic: The Jesus Film, the entire Bible, Gospel videos and tracts, songs and sermons

The **Rif Berbers** live in the northern part of Morocco. They form about 34% of the total population living mostly in rural communities.

Rif Berbers speak Tarifit and Arabic. Morocco is 99.8% Muslim.



**T**he "Rif Berbers," are numerous tribes of tough and hardened people eking out an existence on the harsh, uninviting slopes of the Rif Mountains, located in the northwestern portion of Africa. Rif houses are usually built of stone and have flat roofs. Some of the poorer people live in wood huts plastered with mud. The women wear long, colorful dresses and head scarves. The men wear the traditional cloak made of wool or cotton with wide sleeves and a hood. They also wear turbans, which are distinctive and unique to each particular tribe. Today, there is a revival of Berber culture and script. The government ban on using the Berber languages has ceased. Literacy in these languages has been very low because of earlier insistence on the sole use of Arabic.

### Their Religion and Beliefs

The Berbers were nominally Christian until Islam was brought to Morocco by invading Arab armies in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. There are some believers in each of the three major Berber peoples. No more than 5% of the population of Morocco have had personal contact with the gospel. A Moroccan Church is emerging — but at great cost. It is estimated that by 2000 there were 500 believers and some seekers in about 20 small groups meeting for fellowship. Many believers are isolated from regular fellowship. There are openings for ministry through humanitarian relief and development.

### How to Pray for the Rif Berber...

- ◆ Pray that this nation may become open for the messengers of the gospel.
- ◆ Pray that God will grant His wisdom and favor to our missionaries that are currently targeting the Rif Berber
- ◆ Ask the Lord to call additional laborers to join those who are already working among the Rif Berber
- ◆ Ask the Lord Jesus to reveal Himself to the Rif Berber through dreams and visions.
- ◆ Pray that signs and wonders will follow the believers as they share Christ with their own people.
- ◆ Take authority over the spiritual principalities and powers that are keeping the Rif Berber bound.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Rif Berber.

### What you can do...

- Adopt the Rif Berber people.
- Make a commitment to learn as much as possible about this group
- Organize strategic prayer
- Support missionaries to this area
- Provide funds for humanitarian relief, medical care and special needs
- Provide financial resources to train local leaders
- Arrange short missions trips

...until there is a strong church established among the Rif Berber people.

Sources: World Missions , Joshua Project Profiles , Operation World

Unreached People's Profiles provided by Church of God World Missions  
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