

Unlock North Africa – Aussie Prayer Journey to Libya/Malta

Team Libya and Malta

The Unlock North Africa prayer campaign is an initiative of CHI and the APN under the leadership of Benjamin. The Holy Spirit spoke to this leader back in 2005, when visiting Morocco, speaking a clear word to his spirit from the book of Isaiah, chapter 62 verse 10; 'to open the ancient doors (gates) and rebuilding a highway of righteousness from Gibraltar to Jerusalem', through strategic prayer and engagement across North Africa. In 2007 a team of us travelled to Morocco and Gibraltar. Then in 2008 a team went to Egypt, followed in November 2009 by another team to Tunisia. In 2011 a strategic prayer team will be heading on the fifth leg of this Un-Lock North Africa journey, this time to the nation of Algeria. More details on this will be available soon via the APN news bulletins and off the website, but for now let's return to our most recent Prayer Journey – team Libya and Malta 2010.



Highlights of the Un-Lock North Africa Journey – Libya assignments:

On entering Libya, we were aware from our times of intercession over the previous months that the Spirit of God was going to speak prophetically to us during this trip. That unlike other journeys, where we came with specific redemptive design and purpose for cities and places, we were to go and stand in the place of appointment that He had shown us and declare whatever He revealed to us. To be ready to move with a fresh sense of purpose as He revealed to us, things in the natural and the spiritual, things not fashioned by human understanding. That He would give specific words and intercession; that we were to go into this nation as his 'presence carriers', to stand as light unto the darkness.

- After landing and having been joined the previous evening by a prayer leader from Houston Texas, USA (who had been on a previous Prayer Journey to Tunisia in '09), we travelled around Tripoli on our first prayer excursion visiting a number of key spots; enjoyed lunch in an authentic camel traders inn and did a victory shout under the Arch of Aurelius that was one of the many such gateways on the old Roman road - the east/west road between Alexandria and Carthage. The issues prayed into in Tripoli were: that the treasure in this nation is the presence of the Kingdom of God now active in people's hearts, and so in prayer we began to strategically engage with this kingdom reality. As we moved



around the city we began to spiritually breathe on them the breath of life. In this, God showed us that we needed to loose the grave clothes: the deceptive things that were holding them bound. So with mercy and compassion running deep within our hearts, we began to speak out in faith and call them out as healed ones in God. He also reminded us, and this He did on a number of occasions, that we were in Libya under a specific mandate to be 'His presence carriers', a phrase that had guided us in our intercession over the months prior to coming. In the evening we had a time of prayer and worship, where one of our local couples gave us a run down on things in Libya as they understood them. They told us how a particular Gospel website set up specifically for this region had around 900 hits, in the months from June – Sept this year, 800 of them came from inside Libya. As we prayer together it was evident to all, that God had treasure hidden in the heart-soil of the people of this nation that was ready to be release at His appointed time. As we prayed the Lord reminded us that we were prophetic forerunners; that it was our task to unlock what was bound and to declare a new day of opportunity for all in this nation.

- The following morning we visited the National Museum, as this gave us important prayer-fuel in providing us with a comprehensive overview of all the periods in Libyan history. We had a special connection with the young (female) guide at Museum. All the qualities she displayed, passion for her country, determination, enthusiasm, wanting to be heard, not standing for our tardiness by being late for her tour, showed us what the Lord is going to use in the people to bring breakthrough of Kingdom proportions for Libya. We sensed a strong Isaiah 49:8-10 kind of restoration in the making during our time in this place and by the harbour outside afterwards. We were then treated to a rare visit to the superb (old) Tripoli Castle, which is now off limits to visitors, as it houses government instrumentalities. Today we focused on the Nation: we prayed Ps 125:3 and Ps 33:10-11, as this was once the seat of governmental authority, as well as a centre of age-old piracy network. We did strategic intercession on the shores of the harbour adjacent to the castle and fort that began to connect to fresh revelation that was coming forth regarding this nation's inheritance and future. One of the team had the word 'latent' she said it flew through her mind with great force, like a released arrow. From this seat of ancient power (until the 20th century), we prayed into the nations destiny making declarations about God's hope and purpose for its people and their place in the commonwealth of nations.



In the afternoon we visited the ancient city of Sabrata one of the three cities of old Tripolitania. Here we connected not only to history, but started to see a new picture emerge regarding aspect in the nation's spiritual makeup that we needed to pray into. In this we saw God opening up certain people's heart to us, as their 'spirit-man' began revealing deep and once hidden matters, issues we have now come to refer to as, 'Libyan-stones' on the spiritual highway that have to be removed (Isa. 62:10). The first of these, now seven stones, was –'rejection'.

- The following day we headed to the ancient ruins of Leptis Magna, the third of the Tripolitanian cities. This was an impressive and once magnificent Roman city, that still held the visitor in awe as you wandered amongst the Basilica, Theatres, old Byzantine churches, Hadrianic Baths and Forums; walked along the still passable ancient roman road that once carried traffic and goods from Alexandria to Carthage. We were deeply moved in prayer and prophetic intercession as we walked this road declaring the Isaiah 62 passage and others like, Isa. 35:8 – declaring a new highway of holiness across North Africa, one that will carry the good news of the gospel, with healing and restoration for all. Two of the team ventured to a high point on top of the largest remaining ruin – the large Basilica and spoke out across the region God's Word and truth for the nation of Libya and its people.

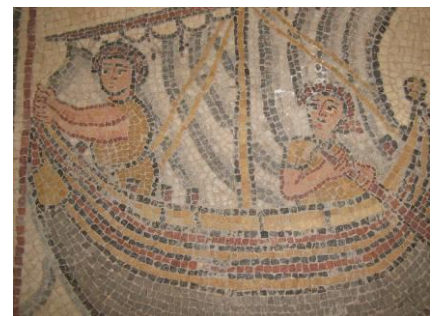


Another of these, Libyan stones, was revealed at this site, as one of our day-guides began to unburden some of his deep hurt to us. I will list the seven Libyan stones at the end of the Libya section of this report for you to engage with and continue to pray into. Here we began to pray into the healing of the wounds of the past and declared in faith for the next generation to take their stand and rightful place in the nation's future and destiny. The Lord spoke to us and said that, "I've permitted myself to be found by those who do not seek me" – that He has need of them – Libya. It was becoming increasingly evident that God wanted us to separate the people of Libya from the governmental structure of the nation. He we began to reveal His deep compassion and mercy for them to us, while at the same time declare His judgement against age old political and religious structures that held the people of the nation captive.

Later in the day we flew (1 ¼ hour) to the city of Benghazi in the East; this region is known as Cyrenaica and Benghazi is the main city for this Eastern province.

- Early the next morning we headed out of Benghazi to the Greco-Roman city of Ptolemais (Tolmeita) that has one of the largest underground cisterns in North Africa, built originally by the Greeks in the second century BC and added to by the Romans in the third cent AD. Following this we stopped at Qasr Libya and the gateway city of Al-Bayda before arriving at Susa our home for the next three nights. As we prayer walked around the ancient city of Tolmeita, the Lord had some of us draw aside from our guided tour and do an impromptu healing of the land act, this was a site where churches once stood – the dome roof of one partly excavated was clearly visible amongst the ruins. There was a very distinct mark in the construction of the cisterns, where the additional capacity added to by the Romans was clearly visible, this spoke to us in a symbolic way of the increased capacity in the nation of Libya that was being divinely put in place for the 'Living Water of God' to go forth– the living water bursting the walls of old cisterns and structures allowing a fresh resource of God's nature, grace and power to flow across the nation. One of our team was given a prophetic song at this place: **There's Coming A Submission To The King: *There is coming a submission to The King! The world will witness something it has never seen! A people long forsaken, shouting 'I have been redeemed' Our Lord and Saviour, they will hold in highest esteem.***

- After Lunch we headed to Qasr Libya, not only because it has some of the most outstanding mosaics in North Africa, but to see the ancient church of Simon of Cyrene (now a museum) and one other Christian place of worship in this hilltop village. This village was first mentioned in 411AD, in letter by the Coptic Bishop of the province, Bishop Isynesius, and was one of 5 such centres in the area. We were able to worship the Lord in song with a rousing rendition of, 'Then Sings My Soul' in the ruins of the old East church. Finding a quite corner on the rooftop of the church, we were able to engage in prayer and prophetic declaration over this area out of sight of our regular minders that accompanied us ever minute we were in Libya. Most of the old village that once sat abreast of this hill is still hidden in the earth; only the two church structures and a hall have been excavated and refurbished as a tourist attraction.



- On leaving this old village we pushed on to the gateway city of Al Bayda for a quick stop at site not often visited. The ruins of the ancient Greek temple of Aesculapius – once a centre dedicated to the god of healing, was situated on the highest point on the ridge overlooking the city. As the guide and minder were occupied, some of us were able to speak prophetically and bring a certain amount of closure to this counterfeit movement of healing that had once sprung up out of this place. In a prophetic act, God had one of our team bring a silver key on a chain with them to Libya, that He wanted treasures of healing unlocked in the nation, and that He would let them know the right time and place for this to happen. Early that morning in quite prayer, He told this team member that today was the day and to be ready to act quickly. This they did and we prophetically took the key they had brought onto this ancient site and began to unlock a new wave of God's power – to release God's healing treasures for the people and nation of

Libya – speaking an end to counterfeit worship and healing. Sometime later on it was discovered that Al Bayda is the location of a now-extinct, indigenous plant (silium), known for its medicinal/healing properties – hence the reason for this place being dedicated to the Greek god of healing. In another twist fate, God set up an evening meeting between 2 of the team and a Dr and his family, who came from the city of Al Bayda. As this was an eastern gateway city, we declared out a loud Isa. 62:10 across the site towards the city and along the highway back towards the East – Jerusalem.

- An early start saw us underway to the most Eastern city of this province, Tobruk. There was much excitement in the team due to our Australian and New Zealand connections to this area through our troops fighting here during the Second World War. So this was not the first time Aussies (and some Kiwis on our team) had been called to serve in this land. Our young fighting men were called upon to hold this ground against one of the most feared armies of the time, Erwin Rommel’s Afrika Korps. During this prolonged onslaught, our troops were given a derogatory name by the Nazis’, the ‘Rats of Tobruk’, they intended the ‘Rat’s’ title to be a slur; not knowing the Aussie temperament, the Aussies soon turned it into a name of endearment which they wore as a badge of pride and today this title holds pride of place in our nation’s war history. The troops that survived this onslaught at Tobruk lived to fight another day at El Alamein in Egypt. These same troops, that had survived the battle at Tobruk, took centre stage in the Battle of El



Alamein, the first Allied victory in WWII. The British commanders chose to form the allied defensive lines at El Alamein because here the unpassable Quattara Depression to the south was closest to the Mediterranean Sea. This was the last point of defence for the Allies in North Africa. All the commentators of the day expected the Nazis to break through, leaving the way open for their troops to take Palestine. It is generally accepted that Hitler wanted to pursue his ‘Final Solution’ and annihilate the Jews. The battle-seasoned troops of Tobruk were the same ones who stood their ground in El Alamein.

A number of this team had been with when in 2008, during Un-Lock North Africa – Egypt Prayer Journey, we visited El Alamein. As we drove along the old and new sections of the highway towards Tobruk, our spirits stirred within us. We recalled how in El Alamein the one thing that stood out to us was that the land for the Commonwealth War Cemetery had been given to the Commonwealth in perpetuity - so we expected this to be similar here in Tobruk – we were right, it was! Therefore just as in El Alamein, in Tobruk we were legally standing on a piece of home soil, somewhere where the spirits of Islam had no right to be. In prayer, we established a position of influence, dedicating the land back to God and thanking Him for His faithfulness in defending the people of this nation and region. This enabled us to really engage in powerful intercession, worship and praise. So in prayer, we established a ‘heavenly embassy’ dedicating the land to God and thanking Him for His faithfulness in defending His people. We recognised that the open heaven here, as in El Alamein, was won only after simply courage and great sacrifice, and we honoured our forefathers’ service. The photo opposite clearly depicts ever so aptly this open heaven reality, as we stood on the sacrifices of the many, to once again do battle, but this time in the spirit realm for the people and nation of Libya. Our tour guide for this section of the tour had gone out of his way to bring along a wreath, his gesture of goodwill – he told us that it was his duty to do this for us, seeing that we had come all this way just to visit this place, to pay our respect for our fallen troops who had fought to bring freedom and liberty to his nation. Two of the team, who had fathers who had served at Tobruk, laid the wreath and in the company of our Muslim guide and minder, led us in prayer



- Aspects of our Tobruk assignment:

- we first visited the only battleground cemetery, Knightsbridge where a number of different nationalities, like Polish, Indian, South African, Jewish and British who serve alongside the Aussies and Kiwis were buried. Here we engaged with specific prayer regarding the birthing of a new generation of leaders who would seek to transform the nation into a righteous nation; we also prayed into the whole area of women in Islam.

At this cemetery the caretaker took one of the team who has Indian heritage to the Indian section. Quite unexpectedly she wept as she stood before the graves of 3 unknown Indian soldiers. She said that she was deeply moved in her spirit to think that these men from a non-Christian country had come and given their lives for freedom from oppression and tyranny. Whether they knew Jesus as their Saviour or not did not diminish the redemptive act of giving their lives and spilling their blood on foreign soil. Sons lost in war in a far off land; their actions not lost in the sight of God. Freedom and release from oppression was once again descending upon this nation, but this time through strategic prayer and in the shape of the Gospel of Jesus.

A specific declaration I was given to this intercessor to speak out from the top of the Australian memorial under the shadow of a large cross. *“Father, I stand here as a representative of men who fought in this country remembering the men from my country, India and those from other nations, whose blood is in the soil of this land. Today I declare and proclaim that this land and its people will be redeemed and healed by the Blood of Jesus shed on the Cross. Thank you Jesus for your complete work of salvation, redemption and healing. Thank you for your heart of love and compassion for the people of Libya. Thank you that you see them as a pearl and a treasure of great price – the price of your life. We join our voices with the voices of all of Heaven and say, ‘Let your Kingdom come, and let your will be done, here in this nation of Libya.’*

- we then visited the large Commonwealth cemetery where most of the Australian servicemen were buried. Here we engaged in specific prayer back towards Australia, for the nation and the church in our nation, its calling and apostolic destiny in the nations – for the same character in spirit like that which was represented here in the natural by the ‘Rats’, to come forth in this hour.

- in this place of an open heaven, we brought forward specify prayer in relation to the city and region called Ghadames: a special place in the Southwest of the nation that a number on the team believed had a unique position that would have impact in the coming years regarding a fresh movement of God. This time of spirited and prophetic intercession focused around the concepts of fire, destiny and a new move of the Spirit.

- in this place where a giant cross sat high on the skyline, (see above photo) we declared the power of the blood of Christ and that the shadow of cross – the character of God’s love, would fall across Libya.



- we then drove to a ridge that had a lonely tree on it. This was the place of the renowned ‘Fig Tree Hospital’ set up by the Australians to treat there wounded. We were all in for a surprise as we approached this place. At the base of this lonely tree, was the opening of a rock cave that once sheltered the wounded. This held special place for the 3 nurses on the team, who wanted to have their photo taken in the ‘Figtree Hospital’ – down in the opening of the cave. One of them, who’s Dad had fought at Tobruk, told us how, when she was young, her Dad used to resite Isa. 32:2 to her: being under this rocky ledge one could get the feeling of what he

was referring to, ...that the Lord (like this rock cave) was, ‘...as a shadow of a giant rock in a weary land.’ Standing under this rocky ledge, in such a windswept, dry, weary and desolate land, gave new meaning to this verse in Isaiah. I had a deeply moving experience, sitting there on the lower limb of this big old fig tree. It’s a place that reaches out, grabs your heart and quietens your soul.

I felt like I was safe – as under the shadow of His giant wing. As I sat there and watched the others move off to some old war trenches about 250 meters away, I sensed God wanted me to linger a while. I just sat there not wanting to move; this was a place of healing, a place of real presence that caused deep feelings of love, compassion and kindness, that rose without warning within me, like bubbles in a spring. The Lord then said, “Son, that’s how I’m going to respond to this land and the people of this nation”. As I prayed, a sharp breeze blew up around us and then quickly left – a sure sign to me of His coming Spirit wind.

- Following our time at the war sites around Tobruk, we headed off to the city of Tobruk for lunch. Our lunch was taken in a hotel rooftop restaurant overlooking the harbour city: after lunch we were able to head to the viewing deck, and individually prayed for and proclaimed God’s release over the city and region. We asked for a continuation of His power and light to break forth along the border with Egypt, which God had promised us when we were on the other side of the border praying 2 years ago. (Tobruk is around 150kms from the border). We had come to realise that this region around Tobruk had seen a number of Egyptians come to work in the area, many bringing with them the Gospel. There are approximately 60,000 Coptic Christians now living in Libya. After meeting some of the Egyptian workers in the restaurant, it was plain to see just how fluid this Eastern boarder really is – something we had also declared and prayed for back in 2008. From Isaiah 62:10, we prayed our Un-Lock North Africa scripture, *“Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.”* As we headed home along the Mediterranean highway to Susa for the night, we were greatly encouraged and knew that we had done all that the Holy Spirit had given us to do in Tobruk.



- Today was our sixth day in the nation of Libya. After a time of concentrated prayer and a word of encouragement regarding this region’s place in New Testament history, we headed off on our first assignment to the place known as, ‘the City of Churches’. The city of Apollonia was the port city for the provincial capital Cyrene, situated high above the coastal plain. This city was transformed during the Christian era with all the temples that had once been dedicated to Greek gods being replaced by several church buildings – a complete transformation reflected in its change of name to Soussa derived from the Greek ‘Saviour’, rededicated from its founding god of Apollo; this was unlike any other places we had visited on this journey. We saw strong evidence of this rich Christian heritage within the ruins, that indicated to the observant, just how importance this city’s influence must have been, both in Cyrenaica and across North Africa.



As the team walked through this 7km square site, we were particularly aware of the masses of blocks of stone lying everywhere all over the site, ruins that reflected the might of a bygone era. Our prayers and prophetic declarations that we made as we traversed the ‘city of churches’, was to once again declare the apostolic destiny of the city and region as it was in the New Testament era; to see a new generation of people in Cyrenaica and from across Libya become ‘living stones’ – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors teachers in the marketplace, apostolic men and women empowered in the Holy Spirit to bring forth fresh fruit with signs and wonders following. From our time in prayer in the

morning, we asked God to loosen the people into their true identity as sons and daughters of the living God; to follow in the footsteps of their Christian forefathers, taking the Gospel to Libya and the nations.

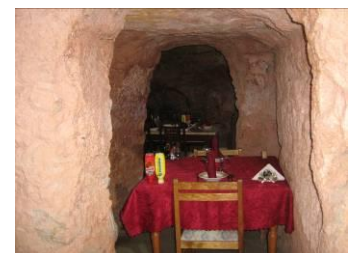
As we journey around the site each of us had a bottle full of water and as it was appropriate, out of the gaze of our security detail and the local guide, each of us in a prophetic act, poured their water onto the ground as a sign of unstopping the wells of righteousness and evangelisation that once characterised this region and its people. In the floor of one of the four old church buildings, we discovered a fairly intact baptistery; a number of the team walked through it while others above them, symbolically poured water over their heads; we did this as a sign to the heavenlies, that Christian baptisms would once again be the order of the day in Libya. We also ask the Lord to send forth the physical divine light of His presence into the town of Susa (this kind of manifestation had been witnessed by many in some parts of Cairo early this decade), to reveal His presence to them and show them the true way to heaven through the person of Jesus Christ. As we exited the site, we noticed a huge mural of a lighthouse on the sidewall of an adjacent hotel – we declared that this region would once again have a strong gospel light influence on the powers of darkness.



- Our next stop today was the ancient site of the city of Cyrene; this was once the capital of Cyrenaica with its extensive and remarkable Greek buildings and architecture. The Apostle Luke in Acts 11 verse 20, refers to men from this city who became part of one of the greatest church planting movements in the New Testament. Together with others from Cyprus they birthed what became the church of Antioch, the church that eventually sent our Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journeys in Acts chapter 13. As one walked around this ancient site, you were left feeling somewhat overwhelmed by the how much idolatrous worship must have been going on in such a relatively confined space; then you soon realize just how amazing it was that anything good, let alone apostles and evangelists, could come from such an idolatrous city. What a marvellous heritage this city and region has! Because the Gospel had once penetrated this hardened city and people, to bear such evangelistic fruit, not only for Libya but in mission to other nations, was something we wanted to reconnect with in the Spirit. So we declared to the principalities powers and authorities the rich Gospel heritage and destiny God still has for Libya. We called down the Father's promise of Matt 5:9, "*blessed are the peace makers for they will be called sons of God.*" In doing so we prophetically connected this nation and people to their true spiritual identity.



From high above the central site we spoke out such things as declaring this region and its peoples true spiritual authority, declaring aloud in the Spirit a birthing of a new apostolic mandate to go forth with the good news of Christ in power and love - with miracles, signs and wonders following. As we moved through this site, we discovered a free flowing freshwater spring that has been flowing continually since the 6th century BC. Later on, out of sight of our minders, some of us took the opportunity to do a cleansing of the water service; we salted the waters and poured anointing oil into this spring, symbolically declaring a healing and refreshment for all and prayed that God would cleanse the spiritual roots of the nation. Scriptures like Isa. 45:8 and Isa. 61:1-4 were spoken from this hilltop city. We declared, "Lord, once again send out your world changers from this region." Following these two assignments, we were hosted for a very nice lunch in the strangest of locations – an ancient Greek necropolis. There were literally hundreds of them (small and large) build into the sides of this rocky mountain top terrain. As you can see by this photo, the one where we stopped for lunch had been reconfigured into a pleasant restaurant for visitors like us to enjoy.



- As we travelled back on the bus to Benghazi for the night, we had plenty of time to reflect upon our whirlwind few days in this region and on all that God had accomplished through us; not forgetting our team meeting the previous evening, where the Lord spoke to us through a strong prophetic word given by one of our senior leaders. This was then followed by some intense prophetic intercession, praise and worship.

- Here is the prophetic word:

The winds of His Spirit is come:

“We have been sent here to see and to sense what God has done, what He is doing and what He will do, and His purposes for doing it. You have seen the first winds of the desert and the impact they have on everything land, history and culture. These winds blow hither and thither, East, West, North and South. As they blow they shift the sand from one place to another. What is seen soon disappears under the sands of time and what is hidden is exposed by the same wind.

Man looks and all that he sees across Libya is a barren land, a land with no life in the sands. That is what man sees at first glance, but with the wind of the Spirit, the sand is blown back. This was once said to be the poorest nation, but what has been covered by sand and has looked barren, when the second wind blew, it blew back the sand, the earth was revealed to be rich with oil. It has now become one of the richest nations on the earth. God knew of its richness all the time, but it is rich not only in oil. Sands of time have covered much but man has dug these sands and exposed history. You have seen this history as you have travelled this nation.

This people have been covered by the winds of the ages. The winds of history have hidden this land and the people of this land. These people have been esteemed as nothing. I have hidden them for 30 to 40 or 50 years; no one thinks anything good comes out of Libya but I have hidden these people for a purpose.

In their hiddenness I have done my preparations in their hearts. Man did not see the oil that was hidden beneath the sands; so man does not now understand nor will understand, what I have done until the wind of my Spirit blows away the suffering, the annihilation and extermination. They have known much pain and hardship with many winds against them. However out of the ashes I am forming something precious, but the time has not yet come. It is near. It will breathe life into this nation. In their hiddenness I have kept them pure. In Ghaddafi I have given them a leader who has protected them. He has been my man allowing them to blossom, to live well, to grow and to work. I have always planned that way so that I could do something in their hearts that is precious in my sight.

However, there's a third wind coming to renew and expose what I am doing. When this wind of time blows, a new life will come forth, a new life that will have a purity about it, just like pure virgin oil: it will be the oil of healing for restoration not only for the people but for many nations. I will breath on these people and it will emerge from within a new form of Christianity away from the excesses of Western Christianity, a fresh new experience of the Kingdom of God from within. Not something imported from without. I'm doing the work myself as with the Berber peoples. This fresh new wind will push back the darkness.

Join Him in calling it forth! The wind of the ages will bring forth this new expression of Christianity, not just for Libya but beyond to the nations. In the hidden places under the sand - under the hand of my Spirit I've brought a poor nation to be a rich nation. As in the natural so it will be in the spiritual. These people, who in the eyes of man have been untouched by the Spirit, will know their God like no others know him. The world will witness something that it has never seen from such a nation, and be amazed that it has come to pass.”

• Benghazi region: God had shown us that deep within the spiritual terrain of the nation there were age-old cracks – fissures of unresolved and deeply hidden issues of the past that had not been healed: these are places where demonic activity still had power and dominion to affect the course of history for this region, peoples and nation. Benghazi was almost considered like a poor cousin to Tripoli - not the favoured one in national terms. We prayed into this and asked God to commence the healing and restoration of their true identity. A crisis in this area could impact and alter the course of the destiny of Libya for good or for ill. We stood on the scripture in Jas. 5:17-18 that Elijah was a man just like us and that his faith-prayer affected the course of a nation. A prayer offered in faith like this could alter times and seasons bringing lasting change to an entire nation.

One of our senior leaders reminded us again that it was important to separate the people from the system. That God's heart of mercy was towards the people, but His judgement was against the system.

As we flew out of Benghazi back to Tripoli for our flight to Malta that evening, God spoke to several of the team, as follows.

- from the air we could see the fertile fields; the Spirit said that this area would one day become fertile ground for the Gospel and rich fruitfulness would spring from it, bearing fruit that would last.
- another began humming an old song about, His Kingdom rule and His Kingdom reign would come
- to look and be amazed in what the Lord would do in the days and years to come
- the Lord would rise with healing in His wings, but to look for Him in the diversity of His manifest presence in the ones who He will show Himself to.

After lunch we said goodbye to our Libyan tour operator and the official minder who had been with us all the time we were in Libya. We were then on our own for the first time, but stuck in the middle of the main thoroughfare of Tripoli International Airport. We knew that we had some unfinished business in the Spirit to seal off, before heading onto our next national assignment in Malta. The four areas that we needed to cover were:



- Pray to bless what has been cursed. In this our American team member on behalf of her nation and I on behalf of the other Western nations needed to repent and ask God to forgive us for our attitude against this race of people and nation;
- Pray into and remove the stones that God had been revealing to us along the way;
- Pray for the leadership of the nation both civic and spiritual;
- Pray for the living stones of God's house already forming under His watchful eye.

At breakfast earlier in the morning, one of the team came to me with a dream they had had during the night but did not know what to make of it. During the night God had shown me some things that we needed to do regarding the 'highway stones' that had been revealed to us, and that we must deal with them on Libyan soil. In the dream the team member saw, *'an open grave. It was not a newly dug grave. The ornamental gravestones were in place so it was an old grave, which had been reopened for some reason. The team were standing around the grave with me at the head obviously in charge of proceedings. In the dream they saw the team throwing things into the grave.'* Upon hearing the dream I knew precisely what we had to do now with the seven stones that God had revealed to us regarding Libya.

It was clear to me that God wanted us to symbolically throw these stones of rejection, hurt, injustice, etc. into the grave and close it over in prayer before we flew out. Isaiah 62:10 speaks about removing stones along this spiritual highway. So we needed to ask God to remove these Libyan stones now and to continue doing His work of healing and restoration in the nation long after we had departed.

The 7 Libyan stones on this spiritual highway are: -

- 1 – Rejection: came when we visited the old costal city of Sabrata
- 2 – Hurt: this was revealed to us when we were in the ancient city of Leptis Magna
- 3 – Isolation: came the first night in Benghazi when signing into our hotel
- 4 – Injustice: came in old Cyrenaica city of Ptolemais as we returned for an assignment
- 5 – Forgotten (overlooked by others): came on the road as we headed towards Tobruk
- 6 – Fatherlessness: this came to us during our last days in Libya, and
- 7 – Inferiority: came, as we were about to leave Libya.

Therefore waiting at Tripoli airport for our flight to Malta we gathered around and held our final team strategic prayer time for Libya in the main passenger assembly area, in the sight of people coming and going about their normal business. We enacted this dream, where some of the team members, who had being given a piece of paper upon which they wrote the names of the above seven ‘highway stones’, threw them into the centre of out circle – symbolizing stones being thrown into an open grave, just as the dream portrayed.

Indeed Libya is fertile ground and that the wheat is ripe unto the harvest. God had shown us that we had been part of His forerunner anointing - an army of Grace; that our prayers, declarations, proclamations, prophetic words, intercession and our very feet placed on the land, had revealed His presence and had setback the efforts of the principalities and powers of darkness over this land. Also, that we had opened the gates, built up the highway, removed some stones in preparation for this new highway of righteousness to be revealed and raised a new banner over this nation.

As one of the team relayed to me upon returning from Libya, *“I have to say it was not what I expected. I had expected to find a hard-hearted and very religious people; instead I found a caring, kind and hospitable people. I have been changed for life as a result of this experience. While in Libya, God gave me a glimpse of His huge love for the Libyan people; they have been downtrodden and conquered many times through the millennia, however God has a special love and a place in His heart for these people. His heart is full of love for them and a little of that love has flowed directly into my heart. I am now able to pray for them more compassionately and with greater conviction. His plan is to send the Gospel throughout North Africa and He is already getting their hearts ready to receive it. It was such an amazing experience to stand on the road much travelled...the old Roman Road, and to then to stand on the road about to be travelled upon - the new Highway. There was great excitement in my spirit for this nation and for the whole of North Africa.”*

Malta – ‘stepping stone from Africa to Europe’

As we said goodbye to Libya and flew towards Malta, we were reminded to keep in focus the separation between people, that God loves and the systems of man that govern their lives and religious affiliations. That the same Babylonian system that we had encountered during our time in Libya, were active in places like Malta; to understand God’s heart of mercy and compassion towards the people of Malta, yet recognize His Judgement upon the systems that had entwined itself around their culture.



Why Malta?

We came to this nation through a number of divinely orchestrated events that started occurring around 2½ years ago. I won't go into them here, but each of them is a story in themselves. It therefore became increasingly evident to our Strategic Research Unit (SRU), that God had placed Malta in the same way that

He had placed Gibraltar on our radar – both were like pearls in His plan for the region. Therefore we needed to include this nation as part of our Un-lock North Africa strategic prayer initiative.

Malta is a group of around seven islands in the Mediterranean Sea, about 97km south of the southeast tip of Sicily. Only the three largest islands - Malta, Gozo and Comino - are inhabited. Malta, in the heart of the Mediterranean, is a melting pot of civilisations with a rich history stretching back thousands of years. Malta has a long Christian history and legacy, and according to the Acts of the Apostle, Paul the Apostle introduced the faith into the islands when was shipwrecked on his way to Rome.

Malta's position in the Mediterranean, midway between Europe and Africa, has made it a strategic prize. Here, in the 16th century, the Knights of St. John repelled around 30,000 soldiers of Süleyman the Magnificent's Ottoman Empire. It withstood the Axis Alliance bombardment during the second-world war, and in 1964, after almost 150 years as a British colony, the Maltese islands were given its independence.

On Assignment in Malta

As we landed in Malta and found opened and the island had the island in 70 years. As the storm window, I began thinking of fierce storm had caused a boat had ended up on these shores.



our way to our hotel, the heavens worst storm that had hit the raged outside my hotel balcony another time when a sudden and to be wrecked and the Apostle Paul

The Storm and the resultant damage was newspaper a day later. One of the team, who had that day, believed the storm to be a clear prophetic sign that something was about to take place in the coming season for the church and the people of this nation.

front-page news in the local Maltese ancestry, and joined us later

At our post breakfast briefing on the arrival of Christianity to Malta, we considered how the Apostle Paul first arrived in the midst of a storm; wet they lit a fire (Acts 27; 28). There was a prophetic sense coming through that after a flood of some kind (we were not sure what kind of flood), there would come the fire of God's Spirit into the nation. We had come with a clear understanding of Malta's redemptive purpose (or design); however as we studied these passages in Acts together here in Malta, all of us caught afresh God's incredible love for this little nation and its people. The redemptive purpose or design of Malta is: hospitality – unusual kindness (28:2), prayer with healing (28:8), and honouring that brings about resourcefulness – supplies (28:10).

After our briefing the rest of the morning was personal free time for the team. Two of the guys and myself decided to head out and take a look around St Paul's Bay. As we walked and did our reconnoitring of the area we stumbled across one of the many old fortress style watchtowers that dot the island's coastline.



Theses watchtowers were once the nation's strategic early warning system and were manned 24/7. During the day they used semaphore and smoke, and at night fire to warn of an impending attack from a hostile force. The signal was carried from tower to tower until it reached the command centre at the capital calling the nations troops to a war footing. This was a fascinating discovery, that during our time in Malta, the Spirit of God highlighted regarding the nation's redemptive influence in the region.

This natural network of watchtowers, dotted as they were around the island, was a great illustration to us of how such a spiritual network of watchmen can operate in the spirit, watching against the principalities and powers that seek to gain authority over a nation and more importantly watching the Lord's movements. It reminded us that Malta due to its strategic placement in the centre of the Mediterranean

was a watchman – a listening post ready to beat out a call to action in the fight for the King and His Kingdom.

After lunch we set out to visit the National Museum in the nation's capital Valletta, in order to gain a better perspective and impression on the islands' history. We watched a film presentation on Malta's history, civilisation and culture – a must for anyone visiting Malta. This amazing presentation has the ability of placing the viewer right there, in the midst of the unfolding drama, as the film transported you throughout the nation's fascinating, colourful and often painful past. This visit revealed several key aspects that we prayed into as we moved around the nation over the next 4 days.

Our first stop after this was the ancient temple of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra high on the wind swept cliffs of south coast of the island. These fascinating structures were built 1,000 years before the Giza Pyramids of Egypt and are the oldest manmade structures in the world. God had shown us some foundational issues that needed to be prayed into at this site. As we rededicated the foundations of the nation, we asked the Spirit of God to go deep into any age old fissures that may still exist in the substructures of this nation's national identity: to bring a cleansing and healing to the foundations and prepare the way for a fresh spiritual transformation. We also had the sense that the enemy had created some kind of 'creeping sleepiness', in order to keep the Kingdom message silent in the mouths of His followers on the island: that His people needed to guard against being lulled into indifference. Words like oppression and apathy came through as we interceded.



Next we travelled to the seaside town of Marsasclara to meet up with some friends, leaders of an Ecumenical ministry, who had just arrived from Australia to join this part of the assignment. The couple had Maltese ancestry, as the husband was an Australian born Maltese; and the team were excited to have them with us for the next few days.

In Marsasclara we began declaring aloud the specific words that He'd been revealing to each of us since landing in Malta. Words like: resilience, faithfulness, steadfastness, conviction, longsuffering, sacrifice and so on. As we sat there by the bay, each team member took hold of their particular word and began interceding into it. One of the team had a sense that we needed to declare out a number of 'R' words both here and in other places across the island, words like: restore, revive, renew, rejuvenate, remember, re-align, reconcile, re-affirm, recoup, re-emerge, recapture, resurrect, re-form, re-birth, recompense, re-awaken, requicken, refresh, rekindle, repair, reveal and relight. This we did!

Our first full day of ministry on Malta was celebrated by a wonderful night of fellowship over dinner, as many on the team got to meet, for the first time our 3 friends from Australia.

The next morning we headed off to the old capital city, Mdina and Ribat to visit to St Paul's Cathedral, reputedly build upon the Roman governor Publius' palace, where Paul had healed the governor's father and all of the sick on island. The team was given time out to hear what the Spirit was saying and for a period of quiet reflection and prayer – asking God to show them specific aspects from their surroundings for them to pray into. Mine was the 'love of God and personal prayer'. This spoke to me as I considered one person's life, reflected in a memorial in the Cathedral: a life that demonstrated sacrifice, that had birthed a movement of prayer and service to the poor and needy. In this place the historical, cultural and



religious layers run deep, from the Phoenicians and before, through the Romans and Christianity, to the Islamic period and their conquerors the Normans. We continued to declare a cleansing and healing from the previous day into these foundations, for a fresh awakening and transformation to take place in this nation - one of the 'Jewels of God' in the Mediterranean basin. One of the team had a picture of the Lord when they were praying in St Paul's Cathedral. He was walking throughout the streets of Malta, meeting one person and then another, gently lifting their heads, healing them and saying "Come with me now, we have work to do". There was a sense that God was preparing a people in this place for a fresh new move of His grace.

We assembled on the ramparts outside the Mdina and prayed afresh into the nation's redemptive purpose, its design in God: namely hospitality, healing and resourcefulness. That morning we received word from our home base prayer team leader in Australia that one of the team had a specific word, which they felt, was for today and for Malta as a whole. *"That Malta was a strategic place to be a watchtower over the five nations of North Africa and for the Un-lock North Africa campaign, not only for the team currently ministering there, but for Jesus coming to M's in those nations. It is to proclaim a spiritual covering, through prayer, until the highway of Is. 19:23 is established. To protect workers living and ministering along the highway from the enemy's attacks, declaring that, "The Lord He is God, and that they will serve no other gods but Him, breaking the power of the past alliances to historic and false gods and religions."*

This word, coming hard on the heels of yesterday's watchtower experience, was then backed up by another, through one of the new members who recently joined us from Sydney. She informed us that today's scripture reading in the historic church Bible reading calendar was Psalm 127. The first verse in this Psalm speaks about, 'watches and watchmen' standing guard over a city. We now had three specific revelatory words spoken to us about this nation's identity and spiritual destiny. From this ancient capital's walls we entered into a time of focused prayer, song and the reading of scripture – picking up on these revelations and the specific words that had come to us during our quiet time of reflection in the Cathedral; speaking out our Un-lock North Africa scriptures of Isa. 62:10 and Isa. 19:23 and Isa. 35:8. We sensed a real Apostolic – GO FORTH, as we concluded this section of our assignment.



As we concluded our time of prayer and walked to our bus, we detoured up a small street to visit what is called, St Paul's Grotto. This is a small cave adjacent to the old Mdina that once served as the prison to house, according to tradition, the Apostle Paul while he was in Malta. It was one of those experiences that affected individuals in various ways. For some it was just another 'holy place'. For one of the team, it was unique, as He had had a similar experience on only just a few occasions in his entire Christian life: the presence of the fear of the Lord! Another team member, who has been on every Un-lock North Africa Prayer Journey so far, experienced a special touch of the anointing of the Holy Spirit whilst in the grotto. She said, *"that Paul prayed for a handkerchief and sent the small cloth on its way to bring healing. And it did. So I am convinced, she said, that my life has been changed as a result of being in that place. The anointing I received is Eternal."* God was still touching people here, as He did in the days of Paul.

We headed off back to the coastal region to the pretty little fishing village of Marsaxlokk. Over lunch we got an overview of the region's history, the Turkish invasion fleet of 1565, Napoleon's invasion fleet of 1798, and the end of the Cold War in 1989, that was signed by the Presidents of the USA and the USSR, on-board a cruiser anchored not far from where we were. God confirmed to us here in Marsaxlokk, that Malta has a strong ambassadorial anointing – one that could speak to both the East and the West – one that holds a spirit of reconciliation.





After lunch we headed into the Three Cities area (Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua). As we prepared ourselves for this part of today's assignment, we considered the history of the Battle for the Mediterranean and the arrival of the Knights of St John. We prayer walked through the city of Senglea, past the old church of the Redeemer, where some stayed and prayed into the local area, while the main party went onto the point overlooking the Grand Harbour for a time of prophetic intercession.



As we gathered in the cliff face garden, at the end of Senglea peninsula, we heard once again about the Great Siege of 1565 that turned the Islamic tide of conquest. During World War II, for a second time in her history, Malta stood isolated in the face of overwhelming opposition from the forces of darkness. In so doing she ensured the defeat of the Axis powers in North Africa and ultimately because of it, the survival of the Jews in Palestine. We began to grasp just how much this nation was a fortress in itself, but God had had us declaring afresh that He is Malta's fortress, a sure rock on which they can stand; that He wanted to blow a fresh new wind of His Spirit upon the embers of the coals of His church in this nation. We proclaimed aloud that once again this nation could be that lighthouse, that bastion of the Gospel of Jesus in the Mediterranean basin.

As this was a place of victory over the forces of Islam, a place of spiritual influence and territorial authority, we stood and prayed against the bellicose nature and dominating spirit that inhabits this religion. This sharpened our focus, as we stood our ground in prayer against the spirit behind Islam. We asked for a new release of Christian courage – for champions of faith and resolve to come forth in this day. We also prayed into the power centres of this religion's philosophy and governance in the five nations across North Africa.



At the very tip of the cliff-top, overlooking the harbour, the team crammed into the *Little Vedette* – a watchtower that has an eye and ear sculptured around it – heralding that it was a listening post ready for action. As we concluded our prayer time regarding the challenge of Islam for this region and the Western World as a whole, we asked God to raise up a younger generation to stand with the older generations of 'watchmen' (male/female) for the nations until that great and glorious day of the Lord's return. After a long walk back to meet up with those who had stayed and prayed into the local area, we engaged the locals in a discussion about being here in Malta before heading back to St Paul's Bay for the night. A number of the team expressed the one standout characteristic of this tiny island nation was – faith!

Assembling after dinner for our team gathering, we prayed and reflected upon the day and its various characteristics. Some had conflicting emotions running through their spirit as they battled with the traditions of man and the calling of God for this nation. This sameness of tradition and routine of Church was comforting to some on the team. We resolved that we needed much wisdom from the Lord as we laid these internal conflicts that people were carrying at His feet, asking Him to bring us to a place of peace, unity and resolve as a team. All understood that any change would be a huge challenge to those well established in their traditions and would come slowly within the traditional Church – both Catholic and Protestant. As pockets of people will accept change and move with the fresh wind of the Spirit, they will be like the spot fires that will ignite the move of the Holy Spirit in Malta and beyond. One of the team reminded me of that amazing verse of godly wisdom in Matthew 13:52; that wise teachers in the affairs of the kingdom brings out of his storehouse, new treasures as well as old. May it be this way for Malta!

The team was told that tomorrow we would visit the Malta House of Prayer in the city of Valletta. We were hanging out for this visit, as we wanted to spend a prolonged time in prayer and worship in this a place dedicated to prayer.

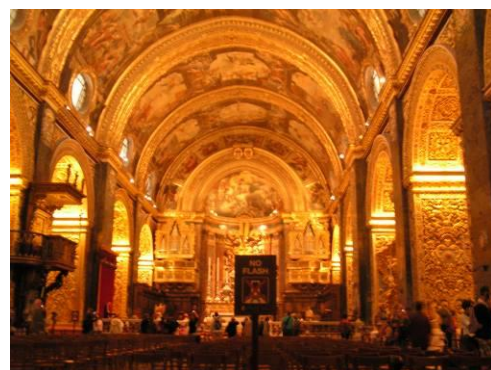
Our second last day in Malta was filled with much excitement as we headed into the city to visit the prayer centre. Upon greeting the couple that lead this work, we were deeply touched by their simple faith and radical obedience to Jesus. How refreshing it was to be there, to listen to their story and the mission and vision for 24/7 Prayer for Malta and the nations of North Africa. The morning spent at the centre was a highlight for many of their time in Malta. The coming together of two different faith expressions of the church who have a calling to Malta. The young Evangelical couple heading up the work and our Spirit-filled Catholic team members (who are well connected to the established church in Malta), who had joined us from Sydney a few days earlier. This turned out to be an outstanding time of prayer, praise, prophecy, worship and fellowship that sent the prince and the powers of the air over Malta into a real tizz. Humility and grace was evident in both couples as they permitted us to lay hands on them and anoint them with oil. A powerful sense of God's presence pervaded the room as we heard the Lord speak to us through a strong prophetic word, given to us by one of our APN leaders.

Our time there really encouraged the young couple, who head up the work of the centre as, in the days before our arrival, they had been asking God about specific aspects relating to them and the work there. Then unexpected, as we had not known each other until that morning, we turned up and God used us to be His word and blessing, both spiritually and practically. How good is God! Our visit provided the opportunity for the 2 couples (Evangelical & Catholic) to connect together; both had been asking God for some kind of inter-church community association. They have subsequently met since our return home.

The prophetic word was in part to do with new alliances. A more detailed version of this word may be available later as it is transcribed from a digital recorder. As I write this report this has not happened. Here is a brief recollection of the word: *"They in Malta had 2 years – a window of grace before certain things began to change. There were new alliances that would happen between Malta and other nations and governments within the next 2 years that would impact and have significant influence upon this nation for the next 200 years. Similarly in the church there were also new alliances to be formed during this same period that would take place that would have significant influence upon the church over the next 20 years. You only have 2 years on this one! That much prayer was to be marshalled towards this from this place and across the church. That those who gather in the house of prayer maybe small in number, but God has chosen it to be here at this time for such a time as this. You may say how can we influence such things; but I say to you that as you gathered here and speak out in prayer the things I give you I will accomplish all that I ask you to declare. Your words in this place will shape history."* As I say, there is more to this word, but that will have to wait. All who heard the word were deeply moved by God; the two couples working in Malta both received it favourably.

As we said our goodbyes to this young couple, some of us knew we would return at another time in God's story for Malta. But for now, this was as far as we were to go, so off we went to have lunch and onto our next assignment.

We headed off to St John's Co-Cathedral because we wanted to spend time praying here into the 'forming of Europe' (in the 16th Century the seeds of what we now know as the European Union was arguably first conceived in Malta). We set each person a task to ask God which nation to pick and pray into as they surveyed the interior of the Cathedral which housed artefacts and memorials to the different nations represented in the formation of this place of worship. In amidst the history and tradition we struggled in order to find that place of peace in our hearts where we could hear what the Spirit was saying. Not an easy task when your eyes are feasting on



architecture and artwork overlayed with gold and encrusted with other refinements, which on one hand is captivating and beautiful, yet in another way can seem out of place in a place dedicated to prayer and worship. As the Cathedral was brimming with tourists, we could only spend limited time here; in prayer we asked God to bring a fresh Gospel reformation to all of Europe, especially those nations represented.

We had planned to visit 2 other key sites in Valletta – the Sacra Infermeria (Hospitallers exhibition - to reflect upon the redemptive gift of healing that Malta has), and Grand Master's Palace (the medieval and modern seat of government). However, we chose not to due to what had happened in the morning at the House of Prayer – we had done all God wanted today. As the team had been on the road for 2 weeks we took the rest of the afternoon off to wander and shop around the city centre. Some of us walked to the Upper Barrakka Gardens with its commanding view across the Grand Harbour, and discussed what had taken place at the House of Prayer earlier on in the day. This is a great spot from which to pray over Malta's capital – Valletta.

On the final morning, before the team flew out, we had one last assignment in the Three Cities area. We assembled near the *Freedom Monument*, erected to commemorate the departure of the British in 1979. We prayed for continuing freedom from spirits of empire that have sought to control this nation and also for wisdom in the forming of new alliances. The team declared new alliances for marriages, families, the church and government and freedom from the spirit of religion. One British member of the team was greatly encouraged to see a traditional Phoenician boat with a 'Britannia' emblem painted on it sail off from the harbour-side where we were praying.



In conclusion:

On leaving Malta and drawing this section of our Un-Lock North Africa prayer initiative to a close, I was again reminded of what many of us in the prayer movement have come to realize, that history belongs to those who are willing to pray and intercede; their obedience cleanses and heals the foundations and prepares the way for transformation.

How about you?

If the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you as you have read this report about being part of something like this, then you can. Why not consider joining us on our next adventure into God's strategic purposes in the nations, as we go 'on site to pray with insight' and bring encouragement to our brothers and sisters – the living stones in God's household across North Africa and the region.