



**Senior Pastor
Opportunity Profile**

About The Sousse Church

The Sousse Church is comprised of sub-Saharan African students, a few expats, a few Tunisians and the occasional tourist. The congregation of 20-30 is unable to support a full-time pastor, so the applicant will need to have his own support base. Few expats live in Sousse; this is a primarily missional position.

The Sousse Church meets in the local Catholic church's annex, in a renovated room that is perfect for the congregation. COVID-19 has temporarily halted in-person services, but they are scheduled to resume in early 2021. The church meets in a member's home for now. There are regular Bible studies and prayer meetings, and several home groups in French and Arabic for curious Tunisians. The Sousse Church is the only recognized Protestant church in the city, and the pastor will be granted a resident visa and respected as a church leader.



About Sousse, Tunisia

Sousse is a tourist city on the Mediterranean coast. There are many secular people in the city, as well as many conservative families. Tunisia is a true mix of both and is the only lasting democracy to come out of the Arab Spring in 2011.

The Sousse area has a population of 250,000, with a mild Mediterranean climate. It is two hours south of the capital city of Tunis by car.

Women in the city dress in a wide variety of ways, and females drive vehicles regularly in the city. There is almost no violent crime; petty theft is fairly common. A heavy police presence discourages serious crime, and Tunisian police take special precautions to keep Westerners safe.

Sousse is also a university town, with several large universities, hospitals and private healthcare clinics. The English- and French-speaking private schools charge a reasonable tuition. The cost of living overall is extremely low in Tunisia, with furnished homes available for \$500/month.



Opportunity

This is a rare chance to serve as a pastor in the 10/40 Window, with the opportunity to directly impact people in a closed country. This is a respected position in the city of Sousse, Tunisia. The Sousse Church is a small, multi-ethnic congregation comprised of sub-Saharan African university students, a few Tunisian believers, several expats, and occasional Western tourists.

Time Needed

As soon as possible. The pastor should be fully funded and ready to move to Tunisia in early 2021. He and his family will be given a thorough orientation by Pastor Ralph over a one- to two-month period. The new pastor will immediately begin the process of obtaining a residency visa, a must in pandemic-era Tunisia. This timetable is open to change, given COVID-19 complications.

If the pastor comes later in 2021, he will have to find his own apartment and car. Orientation will be provided by Pastor Ralph for a brief period of time.

Support Needed

\$2000-\$4000/month. The cost of living in Tunisia is very low. Even furnished housing can be found for about \$400/month, or the pastor could take over Pastor Ralph's apartment (\$250-\$300/month) and buy the furnishings at a reduced rate. Groceries are inexpensive. Major costs could include vacations, health insurance and school fees, if the pastor's children attend a private school. Automobiles can also be somewhat pricey, depending on size and age. Pastor Ralph is quite willing to sell his Kia Picanto for a bargain price.

The position is ideal for a married couple. You will have the option of living in a furnished three-bedroom apartment at your disposal in a secure location. There is a grocery store at the base of the apartment building, making shopping quite convenient. The apartment is in downtown Sousse, a short walk from the church.

The pastor (and wife, if applicable) can, of course, search for other housing in Sousse.

Skills Required

- Proficiency in sermon construction and public speaking
- Experience in worship service development is preferred
- Ability to share the Gospel clearly, in response to inquiries from Tunisians and people of other nationalities. Also, a desire and some experience in sharing the Gospel with people of different cultural backgrounds, preparing you to disciple them towards maturity so that they can also share the Gospel and disciple others.
- Experience in multi-cultural settings and some proficiency in the French language is preferred

Relational and Cultural Essentials

- The candidate should have an interest and calling to living in an Arab context, knowing that it will have particular challenges (as does living in any different culture).
- The candidate should enjoy seeking out, engaging and learning from people different than him.
- Clearly recognize that Jesus and the Gospel is the best news in the universe for all people
- Confidence in relating to city and civic leaders, as well as employees in the U.S. Embassy.

Job Description

- The pastor will prepare a message and plan each Sunday's worship service, in conjunction with the worship team. Services average 60-75 minutes in length, per police preferences.
- The pastor will plan regular prayer meetings.
- The pastor will perform baptisms when requested, after careful evaluation of each candidate's spiritual condition.
- The pastor should be prompt in responding to inquiries via text and phone call. Tunisian seekers will message the pastor directly after viewing the church's website and Facebook page.
- The pastor should be available for numerous discipleship appointments, including follow-up of new Christians or weekly appointments with key church attendees.
- The pastor will be available to perform funerals for expats, as needed.
- If language skills permit, the pastor can participate in home groups comprised of Tunisian believers who speak French and/or Arabic.
- The pastor will provide short-term counseling, as needed, to church attendees in crisis situations.
- The position requires great flexibility. The pastor should plan on working several evenings per week, as well as on weekends. He is encouraged to take one or two days off each week.

Contact Information

If interested in this position, please contact either Pastor Ralph Stice or Pastor Mark Whited. Interested candidates will be interviewed promptly.

Pastor Ralph Stice

ralphwstice@yahoo.com

Pastor Mark Whited

Crossroads Christian Church (Evansville, IN)

mwhited@cccgo.com.