

Marrakech International Protestant Church



Opportunity Profile Pastor

Who We Are

Marrakech International Protestant Church is a fairly new church plant. The congregation is made up of international university students, migrants and some local expat residents of the Marrakech region. It is an English-speaking, non-denominational, Evangelical church, based in Marrakech, Morocco since 2015, it welcomes worshipers from all nations around the world. MIPC is a joyful international church. Additionally, it is Charismatic and full Gospel in doctrine. Having said that, the international portion of church draws from a wide range of denominational backgrounds, creating a richness of diversity in the church. Music at the church is contemporary with a small band and worship team.

MIPC rents the French Protestant Church on Sunday evenings for an English service and on Thursday evenings to allow the worship team to practice.

The church has developed with more of an emphasis on relationship than program and currently has about 50 to 70 attendees each week with international visitors almost every Sunday evening. It provides a unique and rewarding setting for ministry and the opportunity to grow as word about the church spreads in the local community. Our sanctuary allows some room for growth as it would hold up to about 120. The church is majority sub-Saharan African, primarily Ghana, Liberia & Nigeria, (approximately 80%) with the remaining attenders coming from the Philippines, United States, and tourists who drop in nearly every week from mostly from Europe but occasionally other nations as well.

Since the church is a new plant with just a few families, there is a small children's ministry, that has been started by three ladies from our church who also work at the local Montessori school. We currently have three to five children currently attending. There is a growing and thriving music ministry and an associate pastor who is very competent in assisting with all facets of ministry.

Our History

In 2015 our church was started as a church plant out of Casablanca International Protestant Church (CIPC), as Pastor Chris Martin started to commute to Marrakech each week to meet the need for an English-speaking International Church in Marrakech. In 2017, our first full-time pastors, Ed & Anita Nenonen arrived making a two-year commitment to help nurture the small mostly Sub-Saharan African male church.



Our Leadership

MIPC functions under the leadership of our parent church (CIPC) and its leadership team in Casablanca. We meet at least once a year with this leadership team and with the pastoral leadership of the other sibling church (Tangier International Protestant Church), we submit our financial accounting to Pastor Chris and also give him rent for the use of our building on Sundays and Thursday evening worship practice. Additionally, we communicate frequently using WhatsApp and similar social media platforms.



Our Affiliation

Most of the pastors affiliated with CIPC, TIPC, and MIPC hold credentials with the Assemblies of God, and answer to the authority structure of Assemblies of God World Missions. Pastor Ed & Anita Nenonen were supported by their home church in Southern Illinois and by individuals who additionally partnered with them. We recommend coming with a sending affiliation that will work well with our Assemblies of God personnel.

Our Purpose

Marrakech International Protestant Church is a local, evangelical body of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ committed to:

- Providing a place of worship, fellowship and spiritual growth for the English-speaking, international community of Marrakech (Hebrews 10:22–25).
- Providing clear biblical preaching and teaching of the whole Gospel in such a way that believers are disciplined in their walk with Jesus Christ and that unbelievers are confronted with the need for trusting him as Savior (2 Timothy 4:2).
- Providing a visible witness to Jesus Christ in the city of Marrakech and the nation of Morocco through the lives and testimonies of participating members by means of our loving unity and effective outreach ministries (John 17:21 and Philippians 1:27,28).
- Promoting the cause of world outreach through regular intercession and encouraging church attenders to be salt & light in their community. (1 Timothy 2:1,2)



Our Ministries

Worship Service, Sunday Evening 6-7:30pm
Benevolence-To help those in need in our community

Oasis School of The Bible-Online studies program for discipleship

FCI University Ministry- Wednesday Evenings

Women's Ministry- Monthly meetings

Filippino Bible Study- Wednesday Evenings

Prayer meetings- Tuesday Evenings

Pastoral Responsibilities

The lead pastor is responsible for the preaching/teaching ministry on Sundays. Currently there are also prayer meetings in an apartment once a week, women's meetings once a month, and occasional men's meetings. The church currently serves snacks and drinks at the end of each service and purchases some supplementary food, usually rice, for distribution after service about every 2 months. Approximately once a year, it also purchases blankets during the winter months for those in need.

The lead pastor would oversee all current ministries and the development of new or different ministries and team development. The International Church has an ever-changing congregation but still needs the pastoral care of a lead pastor.



Challenges and Opportunities

MIPC is strategically placed to have a great impact on the spiritually dark and needy city of Marrakech. The believers of MIPC have the opportunity to live out God's love and glory before a nation that has been blinded to the true nature of God, and his desire to draw people to himself for the purpose of being reconciled into a relationship with God. Moroccans are always welcome to visit our church, but due to fear of societal pressures or persecution we don't have many attending. Often curiosity of what happens in a church or seeing God's fingerprints in the life of a Christ follower is the means by which a Moroccan is drawn to visit our church and consider the claims of Christ, thus the potential impact of this church for Christ is huge as each believer is encouraged and equipped to see themselves as disciple makers on the mission field.

Most of the expats in the city speak French as a first or second language and some speak English as a first or second language. Among this number are:

- Christ followers who long to fellowship and worship in English.

- Those who, given the challenge of living cross culturally, would welcome the opportunity to be a part of an English-speaking community containing others from their own culture.
- Those for whom cross cultural stress creates openness to spiritual truth.

MIPC has the opportunity to reach out to this community of ex-pats, providing a welcoming community, a home away from home, where God's love and light come to life.

MIPC, using the Oasis School of the Bible as a resource, is preparing the next generation of leaders in the church enabling long-term stability. The potential for this growth and greater stability is great, given the significant number of ex-pats, committed university students, and the relatively few English-speaking evangelical churches in Marrakech. The high-number of tourists, is an added bonus, that could potentially serve to support the church due to its unique placement in this part of the world, though this would require some development.



Qualifications

- Strong sense of God's Calling
- Fluent in English
- Bachelor's degree from a theological institution or equivalent.
- Experience in pastoral ministry.
- Spiritual and pastoral leadership qualities required is that the pastor has a close personal relationship with God and prioritizes guiding the congregation towards the same goal.
- A leader with strength in delivering biblically based sermons & expository preaching.
- Cross-cultural leadership experience preferred.
- Servant leadership – willingness to work alongside church leaders as a team.
- Self-motivated, initiator.
- Willingness to learn/teachable

Practical Details

- It will be necessary for the next pastor to provide his/her own support either through raised support or other means.
- The approximate amounts for budgetary items are listed below in USD.
 - *For a couple with no kids ~\$70,000/year... it could be less but would be hard...*
 - *For kids add ~\$8,000 per kid per year for private schooling... if homeschooling then add homeschooling costs.*
 - *Also if they plan to own a car the up front cash for that ~\$20,000 for a good used car... ~\$25,000 cash for a new car like Nissan Quashi... ~\$33,000 for Honda CRV.*
 - *Lots of good housing available... Nice apartment ~\$800/mo (or more)... Villa ~\$1500/mo*
 - *Healthcare in Morocco is good... close proximity to Spain - if one needed to travel there or to Gibraltar for medical. Medical costs are low. They would need health insurance that covered them in Morocco... and that covered medical emergency travel.*
- While the ministry at MIPC is in English, some knowledge of French & or Arabic will be practically necessary for day to day life in in the community of Marrakech.
- It is highly recommended, but not necessary, for this pastor to come to Morocco as a member of Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM). As a sending and equipping organization, AGWM or its personnel will provide training, accountability, assist in the details of obtaining the required entry documents and processing official residency once on the field, and encourage cultural and language training. Another sending organization would also be acceptable, though they would need to have a willingness to work with AGWM personnel.

If you feel the Lord may be leading you to Marrakech International Protestant Church, or if you would like additional information, please get in touch with us.

Contact Chris Martin: CasaIPC@gmail.com