

## The Andalous of Zaghouan, Tunisia

The mountain town of Zaghouan is situated 45 miles south of Tunis, the capital of Tunisia. The majority of the 40,000 people settled in this area trace their ancestry to the Muslims of Andalusia who were forced to flee by the Spanish during the expulsion of Muslims during the 17th century: It surprises some to know that Islam was widespread in Spain for nine centuries.

Taxi drivers, shopkeepers and mothers with their children are quick to tell you about their proud history. They tell of their escape to

Zaghouan, with their most precious treasures hidden in small, round, white sweets, so as not to be robbed on their arduous journey. Zaghouan is now famous for its small, round pastries called *kaak warka*, made of dough and almonds mixed with rose water.

Zaghouan is a popular sightseeing spot for Tunisians. Visitors can stumble over the most magnificent Roman ruins. The mountain is wooded and beautiful, and often snow-capped in winter. Foreigners also used to visit this area but since the terrorist attacks in 2015, tourism in Tunisia has suffered badly, with many hotels closing. Locals are worried about tourists not returning. Since the revolution of 2011 many Tunisians are unsure what to make of their new place in the world, and distrustful of their new government.

During the reign of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, an 82-mile aqueduct was built to supply water from Zaghouan to the city of Carthage. The Water Temple still stands majestically on

the hillside where the spring, now mostly dry, once emerged—a reminder of the spiritual significance water was given in this dry land. Recently, a prayer team visited this area and prayed that once again life would spring from Zaghouan, and that this dry and barren land would find its hope in the “source of everlasting life”.

### HOW CAN WE PRAY?

- Pray that those who have lost livelihoods as a result of the downturn in tourism will find other ways to support their families.
- Pray for stability and peace in Tunisia and for wise leadership.
- Pray for streams of living water to flow to and from Zaghouan, as Jesus described in John 4.



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