

Heroes of Faith and Courage

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In October 1907, a group of men and women from France had this tremendous idea to build a place where strangers and pilgrims could worship and nourish their Christian faith in a Muslim country. They planted the Reformed Church of France in Morocco, which, in 1948, became the Evangelical Church of Morocco (EEaM). They were driven by a noble vision that would benefit future generations. During the past century the Protestant Church, commonly called “*the crossroads church*,” has welcomed and provided a place for thousands of Christian foreigners.

Morocco is geographically well-positioned to be the entry gate of North Africa and the Middle East, and also the “last stand” for the migrants who are heading to Europe. On the shore of the city of Tangier, you can see the land of Spain. This is a strategic route for those who are trying to cross over to the “promised land” of Europe.

Every day, hundreds of men, women, and children cross the borders of Morocco. They come from different countries and tribes. They speak different languages and have different cultures. They come in a variety of shapes and colors. They are all fleeing something and are all searching for something better. Some are fleeing wars, some extreme poverty, and others persecution from family, tribes, or governments. They are all searching for a place where they are welcomed - a place of peace and comfort, a place they have not seen yet, but hope for. Some of them have spent months walking in the ruthless jungles, crossing troubled rivers, and suffering the hot sand of the Sahara Desert. Some of them have been beaten, harassed, raped. Yet, they keep the faith that something better is ahead. They are our “*heroes of faith and courage*.”

The church is strategically positioned to make a difference in their lives. We meet them in the middle of their transition – the space in between their homeland and their imagined promised land, at the crossroads of what they are fleeing from and what they are hoping for. We provide food, clothes, and shelter to them. We sit, talk, and eat with them. We play, laugh, and cry with them. We sing, dance, and pray with them. We listen to their stories and give them a word of encouragement. We *abide* with them.

The planters of The Protestant Church had in mind to build a place where strangers would be welcomed. Their idea has impacted the lives of people they never had the chance to meet. Today the EEaM continues this ethic. We are called to welcome the stranger, to provide a glass of water to the thirsty, and to give food to the hungry. Today, travelers, foreign students, migrants, tourists, and diplomats share the bread at the table in a community of faith, love, and hope.

What you choose to do today could have a major impact on the lives of hundreds of people. Never neglect to act upon an idea that could touch the lives of others and make them better. Remember that we are all connected. What you do matters.

Your gifts to the Easter offering support Global Ministries and make their ministry possible.