



# EPIC UPDATE

November  
2009

## EPIC Launches Alliance of Mexican Churches for Jebala

*Roscoe Brewer (right), teaching at conference with Ramiro Martinez translating*

Thirteen churches from Mexico City and surrounding areas met in November to consider adopting the Jebala people. Over 35 people attended a seminar presented by

**Roscoe Brewer** (EPIC's Founder) and **Moises Lopez** of *Adopt a People ministries*. They challenged the churches to become strategic in their obedience to finishing the task of the great commission.

At the close of the conference,

the churches formed an alliance to focus on implementing a comprehensive strategy to birth a church planting movement among the Jebala. Their first

step is 50 days of prayer as each church determines their level of commitment.

A national week of prayer for the Jebala from January 11 to 17 is

their first program for churches. Their goal is have hundreds of people praying regularly and strategically for this unreached people

group of over two million in Morocco. A short term trip for leaders is scheduled for June, 2010.

Ramiro Martinez, EPIC facilitator, for the alliance noted "the blessing of this alliance is that even small churches can participate and combine their resources and people to execute a

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*Jebala Conference in Mexico*

planned strategy. It gives them hope that they, too, are engaged at a meaningful level in the Great Commission." ♦

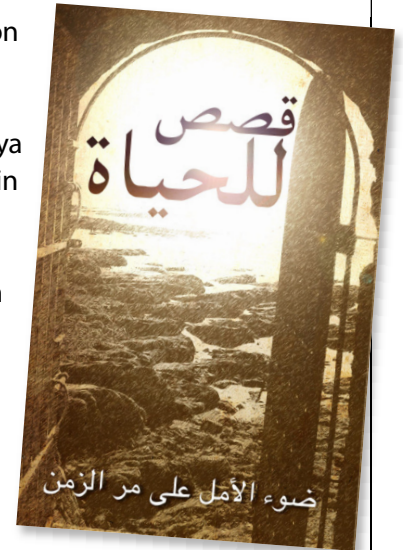


# Bible Stories for Jebala Project

Six years in the making, Bible stories for the Jebala is about to be a reality. Four women missionaries, living among the Jebala, wrote and translated 100 Old and New Testament Bible stories. Most of these women have been restricted by the government of Morocco from returning to do ministry.

The newly formed Jebala Alliance is going to fund this project which will have a

colorful illustration with each story. The language of the Jebala is Deriya and has not had, in the past, any materials published about faith in Jesus Christ. This project will be used to win and disciple the Jebala people. ❖



## The Jebala

The roots of the Jebala Arab go back to the original Arabs from the Arabian Desert. From there, their ancestors migrated into northern Africa. Although there was some mingling with the native Berbers of the area, the Arabs remained a distinct group.

The Jebala are one of the smaller groups of Arabs (2 million) and compose only a tiny

fraction of Morocco's population. Most of them live in the northern and western portions of the country, particularly near the tip that reaches northward toward Spain. Many live in or near the cities of Tangier and Tetouan, stretching south toward Fez.

They are, for the most part, rural peasants who farm for a living. Large amounts of barley and wheat are both produced and consumed. The coastal areas of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea are increas-

ingly becoming urbanized; however, many Jebala still live in small towns and villages.

As a means of preserving their people and as an influence of their Muslim religion, Arabs practice endogamous marriages (*marrying exclusively within a small social circle*). As is typical of Arabs, life for the Jebala is centered around important ceremonies and family. It is estimated that less than 100 Jebala are believers in Jesus Christ. The Jesus Film is available and the New Testament is soon to be completed in Deriya, their heart language. ❖

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