

Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

Since this is the start of a new year, let us start to pray boldly for the impossible. There are things that only God can do for Somalia this year.

In the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, Israel was faced with a situation similar to that which is facing Somalia today. They had to re-build their nation. Israel was blessed with leaders who were willing to make sure that at all costs, they would re-build with a purpose: to glorify the Lord, who was the cornerstone of their lives. For this reason, our Bible verses will often be from Ezra and Nehemiah this month.

However, there are some key areas where the situation with Somalia is different from what Israel once faced. The Israelis had the Torah and other scriptures to tell them about the King of kings. But the Somalis are hostile towards anyone who tries to tell them about the Lord, and as a result, Somalia is a country where there is a huge amount of persecution. Who will be their Ezra or Nehemiah? That is why we must pray for God's intervention. What is impossible for humans is possible for God! Let's pray for the Lord to raise up leaders for Somalia who will re-build with Christ as the cornerstone!

In Him,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

Keith.carey@frontierventures.org

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Frontier Ventures-GPD, PO Box 91297
Long Beach, CA 90809-1297
1-888-881-5861 or 1-714-226-9782
for Canada and overseas
globalprayerdigest@pfsmag.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey
For comments on content call
626-398-2241 or email
keith.carey@frontierventures.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Patricia Depew
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Benjamin Klett
David Kugel
Christopher Lane
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson
John Ytreus

DAILY BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Keith Carey

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey
Brad Kim

GRAPHICS

Keith Carey
David Gutierrez

PRINTER

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More than half of the globe's
seven billion human beings
now live in cities.

REACHING THE CITY (EMS 20)

Reflections on Urban Mission
for the Twenty-first Century

Gary Fujino, Timothy R. Sisk, Tereso C. Casion, editors

Rapid urbanization and globalization processes worldwide have changed the landscape of our times. In Asia and Africa the number of urban dwellers increases by an average of one million per week, according to the United Nations. More than half of the globe's seven billion human beings now live in cities. These realities have far reaching implications for mission in urban contexts at the start of the third millennium. *Reaching the City: Reflections on Urban Mission for the Twenty-first Century* seeks to address the missiological challenges associated with this new world order.

Each author in this collection respectfully builds upon the significant contributions of seminal writers such as Ray Bakke, Jacques Ellul, Basil of Caesarea and others, while making new and creative proposals for urban mission in our world today. Beginning with the bigger picture of the global challenges of urbanization, and moving through theological, historical, and educational perspectives, this volume concludes with a rich bevy of case studies engaging these new realities of both North American and international cities to encourage a missional thrust to reach these communities.

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Feature of the Month

PRAY FOR

*God's Blessing for Every People, Clan,
and Family in Somalia*



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Online general prayer for UPGs.

http://prayerguard.net/?page_id=209

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with other Christian friends who are involved in this movement.

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray. The small maps will help you locate the day's feature.

Somalia: Land of Piracy, Pollution, and No Principles

iStock/FernandoQuevedo



—Keith Carey,
editor-in-chief,
GPD

“Decades of civil hostilities have virtually destroyed Somalia’s economy and infrastructure. It has split the country into areas under the rule of various entities. When Somalia’s tenuous transitional administration handed power to a new government in 2012, the newly declared Federal Republic of Somalia had only limited control over the country.”—
Encyclopedia Britannica

Today’s (2019) Somalia is divided into at least two different countries (Somaliland and Puntland); but it can really be divided into a series of state-lets, much like Yemen, the country we prayed for last month. This is surprising considering that Somalia is mainly one ethnic group much like Japan or Korea. We will still pray for the smaller ethnic groups in Somalia this month, but we will make sure we remember the Somali people.

Somalia is divided more by clan than by ethnicity. One report by RefWorld describes the clan as the “upper limit of political action,” which involves some territorial properties,



Somalia

but not centralized administration or government. (<http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4b29f5e82.pdf>) In other words, the assumption for a Somali is that their loyalty is to their clan, not to a nation. They will shower benefits on their own clan often to the harm of other people groups and think nothing of it. The article also suggests that revenge killings go on for generations, making peace short-lived. When one clan gets the upper hand, they continue to take what they can at the expense of others until another clan becomes strong enough to take their place. Somali pastoral people steal one another's livestock, which leaves a family or clan without a livelihood. This situation worsens the sad results of uncertain water sources that sustain grasslands and the cattle who depend on it.

Even within the Somali clan, there is much distrust. Trust is essential for rebuilding any nation! How can there be business deals or any economic or social interaction without trust? When the exchange of money and goods comes to a standstill, economies deteriorate. For decades, this has been the situation in Somalia.

The Sad Results: Depleted Fisheries, Severe Water Pollution, and Piracy

Somalia has an enviable 2,000 miles of coastlands, which provides them with opportunities for tourism, a strong fishing industry, and other lucrative possibilities. Without a coast guard to protect their coast, Somalia is left to the mercy of whomever is willing to fish with modern equipment and dump both nuclear and non-nuclear pollutants into their waters. At one time, Somalis, both fishermen and others, took to the sea with small arms and portable rockets. This morphed into a highly-organized and heavily armed piracy industry. They found that they can make huge profits by capturing ship cargoes and their crews for ransom. For example, one brand new Saudi-owned oil tanker was built at a cost of \$150 million and was carrying \$100 million worth of crude oil. In a case like this it would be far cheaper to pay the ransom rather than lose the cargo and the ship (https://www.historyguy.com/somali_pirate_attacks.htm). Since the Somali coast offers a bottleneck for ships, it is relatively easy to capture unprotected merchant vessels. As the loot was brought to Somali towns, the cost of basic needs, which were already hard for poor people to afford, rose far more. Ironically, in 2011, one Somali pirate leader told a reporter for the *Guardian* that he is not a pirate, but a leader of the "coast

continued on next page





Somalia

guard.” (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/may/24/a-pioneer-of-somali-piracy>) That indicates that according to his point of view, the seas are to be protected much like a gang member protects their “turf.” Pirate attacks were at their peak from 2008-2013, but then foreign navies began to protect their merchant ships. Last year there was only one or two successful pirate attacks near the Somali coast.

Human Trafficking and Islamic Militias

If a government cannot or will not protect their citizens, then many are vulnerable to being sold into slavery. Poor women and children are the most vulnerable. A 2017 report by the US Department of State tells us that Somali human traffickers often use deception to get people, even those from their own clans and families, to enter into a life of servitude. When people are desperate, they will accept any offer of a job, especially when the person who tells them makes it sound good. (<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2017/271280.htm>)

Members of the fragile Somali government accept bribes from human trafficking rings. Often these government employees are not paid regularly, which gives even the best of them a willingness to accept bribes at the expense of someone else’s freedom and dignity. Somalia’s government is mainly concerned with protecting the capital city of Mogadishu, and they do not have the resources to protect people in rural parts of the country, especially in the south-central region where there is an abundance of vulnerable poor people who can be sold into prostitution or slavery.

Weak governments allow for Islamic militias to fill the power void. Al-Shabaab, a brutal terrorist group, has control over certain parts of Somalia. They regularly use children as soldiers in their ongoing effort to take over Somalia.

What is the Answer?

The United Nations has said that a strong central government is what Somalia needs. That sounds good, but what if the people in the government are as evil as those involved in human trafficking or piracy? For millennia what is now Somalia has been impossible to rule. Even a socialist dictator in the 1970s named Siad Barre was not able to unify the country for very long, despite his attempts to produce massive infrastructure improvements that would have



Somalia

benefitted all of Somalia. By 1991, the country once again dissolved into clan warfare and chaos. Apparently, nationalism, socialism, and self-interest were not strong enough motivations for Somalis to rise above their lot. What does Somalia really need to get out of their seemingly endless rut?

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Perhaps the books of Ezra and Nehemiah hold the answers. These books tell of two Israeli leaders who understood that their nation needed a purpose to be re-built. They had survived exploitation by foreign powers, and they knew they were under God's judgment. At last, a Persian king named Cyrus, who feared God, gave them the opportunity to return to Israel and re-build their Temple and their nation. Ezra and Nehemiah understood that they needed something far greater than nationalism to make this work. They needed to become a nation dedicated to Almighty God, ruled with justice and mercy. This is what Somalia needs!

This is a humanly impossible goal that only God can fulfil, especially given Somalia's current record of persecuting God's people and clinging to a cruel form of Islam. Yet Christ is the only one who has the answers for the failed state we call Somalia, and we must call out to him.

Let's Pray!

- 1—*Pray for a foundation of faith in the living Christ that can turn Somalia around.*
- 2—*Pray for God to raise up Ezras and Nehemiahs for Somalia.*
- 3—*Pray that Somalis will swallow their pride and work together for the common good.*



BIOGRAPHY OF TAMRAT LAYNE

EZRA 7:25, NLT

And you, Ezra, are to use the wisdom your God has given you to appoint magistrates and judges who know your God's laws to govern all the people in the province west of the Euphrates River. Teach the law to anyone who does not know it.

Pray for the Lord to raise up leaders in Ethiopia and Somalia with the God-given wisdom of Ezra to help them build a new foundation on the rock!



Christians throughout the centuries have been imprisoned and slandered by ruling authorities. God has used these trials to bring his people to the light that shines through the darkness of oppression.

This gospel light was played out greatly in the life of Tamrat Layne. He started out as a 19-year-old communist and atheist, eventually becoming the prime minister of Ethiopia, only to be sentenced to prison for 18 years. His story tells of how the hand of God leads to his own special will and purpose.

Fleeing to the nearby mountains outside Addis Ababa, Tamrat spent the next 15 years amassing an army of 150,000 revolutionaries that would eventually overthrow the Soviet supported regime of Mengistu Haile Mariame. Tamrat's main desire was to help impoverished people.

After five years as prime minister, Tamrat realized that the poor were no better off under communist rule. When he addressed this to his central committee, his fellow revolutionaries promptly had him arrested and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Branded as a corrupt politician, Tamrat fell ill and was moved to a nearby hospital. It was here that he would be introduced to a man named Jesus.

Pray that God will work in the hearts of hardened people throughout the Horn of Africa—Ethiopia, Somalia, and Eritrea. Give thanks to the Father for his abiding Spirit that strengthens and encourages his persecuted people.—JY

TAMRAT LAYNE, CONTINUED

DAY

02

In 2002, while in the hospital, a nurse slipped Tamrat a note telling him about Jesus. Tamrat was then visited by Jesus for the next three nights, inviting him to follow him. Later, the nurse brought him a Bible. Tamrat began a seven-year study of the scriptures while in solitary confinement. After serving 12 years in prison, Tamrat was released.



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NEH 8:8, NLT

They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.

Pray that as this effort to share the words of Jesus spreads, that people will eagerly learn his teachings and apply them to their lives so that Ethiopia and Somalia can be transformed.

At about this time in Newport Beach, CA, a former pastor named Tim Timmons was being set free from “a prison of religiosity”, as he would later recount it. Both had been given a strong desire to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19). They would team up by 2010 to create a “purely Jesus” curriculum called “The Way.” It employs Jesus’ methods of making disciples using only his teachings. This involves small group discipleship which centers on the two invitations by Jesus to his disciples—“Come and see!” and “Come and follow!”

This curriculum is being used by church groups and leaders around the world. Using the words of Jesus exclusively, this curriculum aims at avoiding theological debate and confusion.

Pray that the Lord would use these groups for his glory by making disciples of Jesus all around the world. May this curriculum be shared by sincere believers to train, equip, and bless everyone.—JY

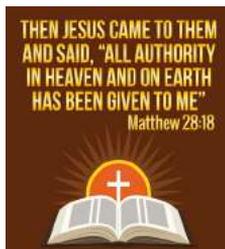
TAMRAT, CONTINUED

NEH 9:3, NLT

They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the Lord their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God.

Pray for the peoples we pray for this month to be so eager for God's word that they will gladly listen to the reading of God's word and respond to it with repentance, faith, and obedience.

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Just before ascending to heaven, Jesus told his disciples, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and the

Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.” Matt 28:18-20, HCSB. It is with these verses in mind that Tamrat Layne and Tim Timmons teamed up to create a simplified group of study materials that exclusively followed Jesus’ methodology of making disciples.

Frustrated with the current crop of Christian books that served only to make “more knowledgeable” church workers, the pair decided to limit their curriculum to Jesus’ own words and nothing else. The simplicity of the materials has inspired churches around the world to form hundreds of thousands of fellowships. Broken down into two volumes containing 12 lessons each, the studies have attracted many college educated graduates and professionals seeking a more personal experience as followers of Jesus.

Give praise to the Father that so many are attracted to sincere Christian fellowship and disciple making. Pray that the fellowships will multiply into an unstoppable disciple-making movement throughout the Horn of Africa, including Somalia.—JY

(From an article by Tim Timmons, Special to ASSIST News Service, www.assistnews.net, August 27, 2016)

YEMENI ARABS IN SOMALIA

DAY

04

Historically, Yemen and the nearby "Horn of Africa" have had close relations, so it is not surprising that Yemeni Arabs should be found in Somalia, both of which are "failed states." Both countries are Muslim. However, we must not ignore denominational divisions in Islam and the cultural divisions in both Somali



and Yemeni societies. Yemeni society consists of four classes of people ranging from elites who claim descent from Mohammed's family to slaves. There are also four denominations and some 1700 subgroups, distinguished by dress! Some herd livestock and others live in villages and farms.

One can expect antagonisms with so many divisions. Civil war has caused collapse of Yemen's infrastructure and economy. That, in turn, has caused many to flee to Somalia, especially if they have kin there, as many do. However, Somalia is as divided and violent as Yemen. By 2015, some 28,000 Yemenis had moved to Somalia and three times that number elsewhere. Yemeni community organizations help assimilate these expatriates and refugees, most of whom do not speak Yemeni Arabic.

Consequently, we should pray for stability in Yemen and Somalia, but also that doors would open to Christian aid workers. Pray that the chaos will cause many Yemeni Arabs to question Islam and begin a spiritual search that will lead them to Christ. Pray for entire Yemeni families to be disciplined in Somalia.—TP

EZRA 3:11, NLT

With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the Lord: "He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!" Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the Lord because the foundation of the Lord's Temple had been laid.

Pray that the Yemeni people in both Yemen and Somalia will find joy and purpose in worshipping the Lord.

DAY

05

YEMENI MAHRA PEOPLE IN SOMALIA

EZRA 7:23, NLT

Be careful to provide whatever the God of heaven demands for his Temple, for why should we risk bringing God's anger against the realm of the king and his sons?

Pray for the Mahra people to have a healthy fear of the wrath of the Lord that will motivate them to obey him.



Notice Socotra Is. on the right

Socotra, a Yemeni island east of Somalia, was once Christian; today it is 100 percent Sunni Muslim. The Mehri-speaking Mahras live there, and in Somalia they

are considered to be expatriates. The Mahras also live in Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. These Mahras are also 100 percent Muslim. The Socotrans speak Arabic. Modern South Arabic has been unintelligible to Arabic people since at least the 9th century A.D. They also speak Somali and their own Soqotri language, which is written in our alphabet and in a modified Arabic alphabet. It is a dying language. Ethnologists says the Mahra number some 115,000 but gives no data on their numbers in Somalia. Few Mahra people can read. Hence, they need literacy and job skills in order to survive in Socotra and Somalia.

Pray that believers will go to this people and teach them how to read and job skills for the glory of God. Pray that faithful linguists will be able to translate the Bible for them, thereby stimulating the revival and survival of this language. Pray for the opening of their hearts to the Bible and Jesus Christ. Pray that the Mahras will come to faith in Jesus, and that there will be a church planting movement that will spread far beyond Socotra Island and Somalia.—TP



OMANI ARABS IN SOMALIA

DAY

06

Like Yemen, Oman's relations with the Horn of Africa go back millennia. And like Yemen, Oman is Muslim. Omani Islam is more literal in its understanding of the Qur'an than the Islam usually found elsewhere. Unlike Yemen, however, Oman is not a failed state. There are some Christ-followers among the Omanis in Somalia—about one in 200.



Omani Arab boy

It is not surprising that some 65,000 Omanis are in Somalia. Their presence in Somalia may date back to the 19th century. These Omanis live in the south and northwest of Somalia. Despite such a history, many still speak Omani as well as Gulf Arabic and maintain a conservative life-style, farming in villages and herding livestock. Nomadic herders carry their own housing with them. Men worship in mosques, women at home.

Pray that Omani Arabs gain spiritual hunger when they hear the name of Jesus, and begin to seek and find the true savior. Pray that Christian witnesses will find men of peace so that the gospel can spread along family lines among Omani Arabs in Somalia. Pray for deliverance from the fear that hinders God's blessing from multiplying through Omani families and communities.—TP

NEH 12:43, NLT

Many sacrifices were offered on that joyous day, for God had given the people cause for great joy. The women and children also participated in the celebration, and the joy of the people of Jerusalem could be heard far away.

Pray for Omani children throughout Somalia to lead this nation into celebrating the Lord through song and dance!



DAY

07

ARABS IN SOMALIA

EZRA 9:6, NLT

O my God, I am utterly ashamed; I blush to lift up my face to you. For our sins are piled higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached to the heavens.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give Arabs in Somalia true repentance that will lead them to the abundant life Christ offers all who call on his name.

Create International



An Egyptian teenaged girl

Arabs are a diverse people who live all over the world, including Somalia. We prayed for Yemeni Arabs in Somalia a couple of days ago, but the Arabs in this country come from elsewhere as well. Many are from Egypt, the largest Arabic speaking country in the world. Historically, there were Arabs who migrated to Somalia centuries ago. Ethnically they were from Kush and Egypt. Some Arabs came to Somalia to spread Islam and married Somalis.

Today there are over 5600 Arabs living in Somalia. Many of them are involved in commerce, and they are noted for being good businessmen. Others are successful professionals or educators. Most are fluent in both Somali and Arabic.

Though there are a small number of traditional Christians among them, most of the inhabitants are faithful Sunni Muslims. They share that faith with the Somali majority. To them, Islam offers the only way to live.

Pray that God will send faithful and anointed believers to reach the Arab Muslims in Somalia. Pray that God will encourage, strengthen, and protect the small number of Arab believers in Somalia. May they become his witnesses to both Arabs and Somalis that do not know him. Pray that this witness will result in many Arab families being blessed by Jesus Christ, May they joyfully follow him, and teach their children to do the same.—PD

NOMADISM IN SOMALIA

DAY

08

(This story illustrates problems faced by the nomads in Somalia.)

“I was once master of myself.” Faarax, a nomad, was telling an aid worker how hard life had become for him and his family in Somalia. “The economy was good, and I had many animals including several camels. But over the years the droughts and war have destroyed almost everything I had. I now only have 12 skinny sheep; at one time I had a 100! My sheep are too weak for me to herd them to a better place to graze. My wife, six children and I have to depend on the rice given to us from the UN. One good thing is my children have been able to go to school. I pray to Allah that their lives will be better than mine.”



A nomad in Somalia

Rise

EZRA 1:3, NLT

Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you!

Pray that as Somalia's nomads go through painful time of change that they will find their purpose: to joyfully worship the Lord and follow him all the days of their lives.

In Somalia less than a tenth of the land is suitable for farming, so the majority of Somalis are predominantly nomads. The camel is especially important as it provides the family with milk and does not require much water. War, political upheaval, and droughts have placed a great burden on these nomads. The older generation now feels that the only hope for the future of their children is to learn new ways of earning a living through education.

Pray that God will send his servants to these nomadic people to help them both economically and spiritually. Pray for veterinarians and educators to go to this mission field.—PD

DAY

09

WATER NEEDS IN SOMALIA

JN 4:15, NLT

"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

Pray that all peoples in Somalia who thirst for physical water will also thirst for the spiritual water that only Jesus can provide.



istock/JohnDWilliams

Water pollution is also a problem.

(This story illustrates problems faced in Somalia.)

“I thank God each day for the wonderful well that the

people from Mercy-USA drilled for us! Our life has changed in so many ways because of it!” Gargarro, a widow with four children was expressing her appreciation to an aid worker visiting her village in rural Somalia. “I had to take my three daughters out of school each day to get water from the river. This caused so many problems; the water had to be boiled for us to drink, there were dangerous snakes that were near the river. I never had enough to water my vegetables, so I could not earn much in the markets and my daughters could not stay in school. Because of the well all of this has changed! I’m able to provide for my family, my daughters are doing well in school, and we are all feeling better!”

The majority of Somalia’s population face poverty, poor nutrition, medical problems, and lack of clean water. Mercy-US has drilled over 560 wells in communities across Somalia.

Thank God for their work! Pray that God will send more skilled believers through the drilling of wells, and may their witness lead these Muslims to know the Lord. Pray for God's blessing, strengthening, and healing of Somali families through disciple-making movements. Pray for deliverance from the fear that hinders people from embracing the true lord, Jesus Christ.—PD

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOMALIA

DAY
10

Shamshi, a frightened nine-year-old girl, was found crying as she hid in a dark alley of one of Addis Ababa's largest slum districts in Ethiopia.



iStock/anankkml

After receiving an anonymous call, Anika, an International Organization For Migration (IOM) worker, quietly approached the girl and assured Shamshi that she was there to help.

After several days, the girl told her that a woman had approached her when she was walking in the street of her home town in Garowe, Somalia. That woman took Shamshi to a house and drugged her, then took the unconscious girl to Ethiopia. When Shamshi woke up she was in a room with other children. Shamshi was forced to go through blood testing, and when they found out she was sick they said she was “useless” and dumped in an alley. She found out they wanted to take her kidney. After recovering Shamshi was reunited with her family.

Somalia has a high rate of human trafficking. The victims are mainly young women and children who are trafficked for domestic work, prostitution, and organ removal. The main destinations for these victims is not Somalia; they are usually transported to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Yemen, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. IOM has done an amazing job in their efforts to care for these people, but the needs are great.

Pray that God's servants will be his hands and feet as they try to comfort these victims.—PD

EPH 4:26-27, NLT

And don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower those victimized by human trafficking in Somalia to not give way to fear or rage, but instead to seek and find their heavenly protector.

DAY

11

BUSINESS AS MISSION

NEH 6:9, NLT

They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.

Ask God for determination to pray fervently for the unreached this year. Pray that spiritual warfare will only make you more determined to pray on!

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Throughout this prayer guide you will notice that Somalia has many economic woes stemming from spiritual

problems. The unemployment rate is so high that a whopping 40 percent of their population is displaced, either in other parts of the country or outside of Somalia. Many others suffer from the grim “employment” we call human trafficking.

What if someone lived in Somalia and was able to teach useful work skills? What if Somalis were taught skills in nursing, IT training, computer repair, and business skills? Could this help some of them live useful, peaceful lives?

One of the main obstacles is a deep-rooted lack of trust for one another. Such a situation kills possible business transactions because everyone must first protect themselves. Anyone who was going to teach the peoples of Somalia how to earn an honest living would need to start with spiritual and character issues.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of the people of Somalia so they will be willing to change and accept God’s blessing of a relationship with Jesus. Pray for 1,000 true believers to go to Somalia and teach skills in midwifery training, nurse training, IT training, and any other practical training that will help re-build that crumbled nation. Pray that the Lord will protect believers who go to Somalia, both spiritually and physically.—KC



CLANNISHNESS IN SOMALIA

DAY

12

An old Somali proverb sums up the cultural attitude that pervades Somalia: “Me and my clan against the world; me and my family against the clan; me and my brother against my family; me against my brother.”



The streets of Somalia

Though there are variations of this proverb in the Arab world, no people group on earth is so clannish as the Somalis. The clan is everything to them, and its influence invades every aspect of life—from personal relationships, to corporate life, to politics. The founders of the largest telecommunication service in Somalia were from the same clan, and because of their kinship ties, they were able to trust each other and establish the company.

In 1991, Somalia’s military dictator was overthrown, and the result has been chaos ever since. No one and no political party has been able to fill the vacuum. Unfortunately, a strong dictatorial leader is what often holds contrasting groups together in a country. Countries like Somalia cannot thrive under democratic ideals that the Western world upholds. Somalia is considered a “collapsed state” due to the inability of clans to work with one another because of distrust. The result has been the collapse of state institutes, civil war, terrorism, and piracy. Clannishness stands in the way of national reconciliation and unity.

Pray that Somalis will meet Jesus, the one whom they can trust implicitly, and once reconciled to him, they can reconcile with one another.—JS

EPH 4:3, NLT

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Pray for Somalis to hear the voice of the Lord, so they can come together for a common purpose. He wants them to experience the abundant life that Jesus offers!

DAY

13

PIRACY IN SOMALIA

LEV 26:6, NLT

I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep with no cause for fear. I will rid the land of wild animals and keep your enemies out of your land.

Pray for the Lord to drive out dangerous forces in Somalia that victimize the innocent. Pray for missionaries to be able to witness to desperate young Somali men in jail.

iStock/DrVerwer



Somalia is world famous or rather infamous for its pirates that have preyed upon merchant vessels traversing the Horn of Africa, holding

hostages and demanding ransoms.

The question is why did this new “industry” suddenly appear in Somalia after 1991? The government collapsed, and along with it, Somalia’s coastguard. Civil war ensued, and there was no one protecting the coastline. This situation was all that was needed for illegal trawlers from countries all over the world to poach Somalia’s fishing banks. Plentiful fish soon disappeared. Along with overfishing, illegal trawlers dumped toxic waste into the waters which soon became so polluted that the remaining fish were killed. Villages that once thrived because of fishing were left starving and destitute. Pirates filled the void left by the government. Some refer to themselves as the “coastguard,” since they controlled part of the coastline for their own use.

More than 1,300 young Somali men have been jailed in prisons abroad for piracy since 2005, most given life sentences. They have no family to visit them, a double tragedy.

Pray for Christian workers to develop alternative trades and work opportunities that can bring hope to these desperate people. Pray that Somalis will learn of and embrace Jesus Christ who provides abundant life.—JS



COASTAL DUMPING GROUND

DAY

14

An old adage says, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure,” but in the case of Somalia, the trash brings with it disease, death, and



istock/Cn0ra

economic dysfunction. One video from 2016 shows the coastline of Mogadishu littered with all kinds of plastic waste. Desperate Somalis are scavenging the garbage looking for anything salvageable, while hosts of little boys are playing in the plastic trashed waters.

IS 1:7, NLT

Foreigners plunder your fields before your eyes and destroy everything they see.

Pray for the people of Somalia to heed God’s warning through the prophet Isaiah and understand that they can improve their lot by listening to him!

With scant government resources, garbage is a mounting problem in Somalia. A tsunami surge in 2004 carried hazardous waste containers to Somalia’s shores. According to the UN, some firms took advantage of Somalia’s lack of a functioning government to dump waste off its coast. Unfortunately, the industrialized countries of the world have used 20 underdeveloped countries in the world as their dumping ground for toxic waste, and Somalia is one of them.

To compound the problem, a Somalia government official agreed to take Lebanon’s industrial waste several years ago. When the agreement was discovered, Somalia backed out, as did Lebanon. However, the mere attempt on the part of Somalia officials indicates the lack of integrity involved in the country’s dysfunctional government.

Pray for international agencies to take positive steps in enforcing illegal as well as legal toxic dumping in Somalia. Pray, too, that Somalis will see the need to take responsibility for cleaning up their own living areas.—JS

DAY

15

SOMALIS IN SOMALIA

EZRA 3:1, NLT

In early autumn when the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled in Jerusalem with a unified purpose.

Pray for the peoples of Somalia to come together with the united purpose of building a nation to glorify the King of kings.



Do you know which country has the largest population of camels? Somalia! There is one camel for every 2.5

humans. The camel is a Somali's "car," his "bank account," and his "food pantry." Camel milk is a major source of nutrition and herdsman may drink up to ten quarts a day. Camel meat is savored at celebrations, and the fatty hump is the most prized portion. Interestingly, the name of the people comes from "so maal," which is an expression of hospitality meaning "Go milk a beast for yourself!"

In Somalia, the largest ethnic group are the Somalis, making up 85 percent of the population. They range from well-to-do, educated urbanites to nomads struggling for basic necessities such as water. The majority of the population are on the lower end of the economic spectrum, and very few children go to school. Since the language did not have a written script until 1972, many adults are illiterate.

Somalis are Muslims who believe that their religious leaders have the power to bless and curse. This power lingers around tombs and helps cure illness upon a visit to the tomb. Under one percent of Somalis follow Christ, and these believers are despised.

May God soften Somali hearts to be receptive to the gospel. May Somalis hear the word, and respond to it by teaching others his ways.—CMW

TUNNI PEOPLE IN SOMALIA

DAY

16

The Tunni people are a sub-group of the Somali. There are only 30,000 of them, and they live in the southern part of the country, between the



iStock/MarcQuebec

Juba and Shebelle Rivers. This area is some of the richest agricultural land in Somalia. The Tunni are primarily farmers, growing bananas, sugarcane, corn, beans, and fruit. The people farm cooperatively; men are recruited into work parties that are supervised by a chief, who is paid in gifts and coffee. The chief may command the men to appear for work at any time. While women are not part of the work teams, they help in the fields and grind grain for flour.

Tunni homes are round huts with mud walls and cone-shaped grass roofs. Inside each hut, rooms are created by curtains. The husband sleeps facing the door, while the wife is protected by being on the more secluded side. Tunni dress resembles a Roman toga, the cloth of which is saturated with butter that protects against damp and cold. Jewelry for the women includes necklaces, bracelets, and anklets made of pearl, leather or silver.

Though 100 percent Muslim, they have but a shallow knowledge of their religion. Few have ever heard the gospel.

As no Christian resources are available to these people, pray for God to send loving believers to share Jesus with them. May he save chiefs who will, in turn, lead their people to Christ.—CMW

IS 1:5-6, NLT

Why do you continue to invite punishment? Must you rebel forever? Your head is injured, and your heart is sick. You are battered from head to foot—covered with bruises, welts, and infected wounds—without any soothing ointments or bandages. Your country lies in ruins, and your towns are burned.

Pray for all Somali peoples to look up and see the Lord. Pray for them to be willing to accept his help through his children.

DAY

17

GARRE PEOPLE IN SOMALIA

IS 41:8-9, NLT

But as for you, Israel my servant, Jacob my chosen one, descended from Abraham my friend, I have called you back from the ends of the earth, saying, "You are my servant." For I have chosen you and will not throw you away.

Pray for the Garre people to find a new purpose: To serve the lord with all their hearts!

iStock-Mr Khan



Garre woman

Like the Tunni in yesterday's reading, the Garre are also a sub-tribe of the larger Somali ethnic group. There are 80,000 of them, and they lack political clout.

The Garre have been targets of exploitation whose farms have been taken by warring factions. They migrate seasonally with their camels, sheep, and goats. Their portable tents are made of bent saplings covered with animal skins or woven mats. In order to maximize shared resources, Garre communities spread out evenly across a swath of land so that individual families will have enough pasture and water for their herds.

The Garre people speak Arabic as a second language and are entirely Muslim. Divorce rates, unfortunately, are high, with the men taking the sons and the women taking the daughters with them after the breakup. Other life challenges facing the Garre are drought and insufficient health care. To gain some relief from the stresses of their lives, the people commonly chew a narcotic named qat.

Please pray for God to send his ambassadors to help the Garre people take care of their physical and spiritual needs. Ask him to raise up African believers with the burden to reach the Garre people no matter what it takes.—CMW

RAHANWEYU PEOPLE

DAY

18

(This story illustrates things that could happen to this frontier people group.)

It had to be done thought Kashin. His wife and children would need meat if they were going to reach the refugee camp. So he swung the ax and killed the family goat.

Kashin was a member of the Rahanweyu people group in Somalia. He and his family would have to travel across hundreds of miles of burning desert to reach the safety of the refugee camp. They would also have to avoid the various armed groups fighting for control of the country.

The Rahanweyu have been decimated by both famine and civil war. Since 1991 500,000 Rahanweyu people have been killed in the fighting that erupted after the collapse of Somalia's government. Almost all Rahanweyu are Muslims. Very few of them have heard that Jesus Christ is the only source of salvation.

Pray for the restoration of peace in Somalia. May there also be an end to the drought in that country. Pray for faithful workers to take the message of salvation to this people group. Ask God to break the hold that Islam has on the Rahanweyu and replace it with a spiritual hunger that will lead to Jesus Christ. Pray for many of their clan and family leaders to be drawn to the Lord.—WK



Goats in Somalia

istock/muendo

MATT 21:42, NLT

Then Jesus asked them, "Didn't you ever read this in the Scriptures? 'The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful to see.'"

Pray that Jesus Christ will become the cornerstone in the lives of the Rahanweyu people when they hear of his blessings and provisions.

DAY

19

JIIDDO PEOPLE

NEH 4:17, NLT

... who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon.

Pray for the tenacity this year to use prayer as a weapon of war against spiritual forces that oppose the will of God.

iStock/ramp1ettSOMALI



(This story illustrates things that could happen to this people group.)

Sultan Aliyow walked into the office in

Minnesota. "May I help you?" asked the secretary. "I hope so. I am Sultan Aliyow, leader of the Jiiddo in Somalia. My people are starving. Can you help them?" "We'll try," said the secretary. "Saving Our Starving Children organization is always ready to provide food to those who need it." He set an appointment to speak with the director of this Christian non-profit.

The Jiiddo people group has been at war with the neighboring Gare people since 1991 when the government of Somalia collapsed. The fighting has made it difficult to grow crops or herd animals. Such conditions caused Sultan Aliyow to flee Somalia and to take refuge in Minnesota. Save Our Starving Children has been supplying food to the Jiiddos in Somalia.

Almost all Jiiddo are Sunni Muslims. It is nearly impossible for them to hear about Jesus Christ inside Somalia. The Bible has yet to be translated into the Jiiddo language.

Pray that the good workers of Saving Our Starving Children will take Christ's name to the unsaved Jiiddo people in the US and in Somalia. Pray that they will become disciples of Christ who will, in turn, make other disciples. Pray that they will have God's word in their own language.—WK

DABARRE CLAN

(This story illustrates things that could happen to this people group.)

The Dabarre chief saw the men standing outside his hut in Somalia. "My bananas need to be harvested. Follow me to the grove." The men followed their chief into the banana grove and began picking the fruit.



A banana tree

iStock/AlexeyPelikh

The Dabarre people grows lots of bananas. In recent years the failure of other crops and the death of cattle herds have made this people group more dependent on bananas than ever before.

Some Somali people groups have more resources than others. The tribes that grow bananas can compensate for the loss of their other crops and herds by exporting this popular fruit and using it as a food source. For such tribes the size of the banana crop may be the difference between survival and starvation.

The Dabarre are almost completely Sunni Muslim. They seek for truth in the teachings of Mohammed, not knowing that Jesus Christ IS the truth.

Pray that the Dabarre will come to see Jesus Christ as their resurrection and life. Therefore, he has victory over death. Pray that somehow believers will be able to go to the Dabarre people as his ambassadors. Pray also that the Bible would be translated into the Dabarre language.—WK

DAY
20

NEH 2:4-5, NLT

The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

Remember to take the opportunity for quick prayers this year, even when time is short.

DAY

21

SOMALI BANTU PEOPLE IN SOMALIA

NEH 5:9, NLT

Then I pressed further, “What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations?”

Pray for a sincere fear of the Lord on the part of those who oppress the weak in Somalia.



iStock/sadikgulec

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are

Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal 3:28-29, NIV

Somali Bantus are descendants of people captured in southeastern Africa and sold into slavery in Somalia. Today they primarily reside in southern Somalia, though some have fled the country. They are ethnically, physically, and culturally distinct from Somalis and have remained marginalized.

Many Somali Bantus have retained their ancestral social structures with their tribe of origin and are mainly subsistence farmers.

Most Somali Bantus have converted to Islam which they first began embracing in order to escape slavery. However, many have retained their ancestral animist traditions, including the practice of spirit possession dances, animism, and the use of magic and curses. It was never Almighty God’s intent that people live this way! He died to set men free from sin and all oppression. Although there are Christian written, visual, and audio resources in their Maay language, only a small number follow Jesus Christ and these are persecuted.

Pray that this persecution will lead to spiritual growth and the spreading of the gospel. Ask God to raise up prayer teams to break up the soil through worship and intercession. Ask the Lord to raise up a strong church planting movement among the Somali Bantu people.—KH



MIDGAN PEOPLE IN SOMALIA

DAY

22

How would you like a job where you would have to endure the stench of decaying carcasses and chemicals to tan



iStock/MWCPhoto

Drying cow hides

cow hides into leather? Somalia's Midgan people have to do this to earn a living. The more fortunate Midgans are barbers or blacksmiths.

Midgans must live in separate communities because other peoples in Somalia consider them dirty or polluted. Other Somali clans and ethnic groups will not intermarry with them. Traditionally, they have been forbidden to own land and livestock, and even today, they cannot participate in local business or politics. Rape by other clans is a common occurrence, and it usually goes unpunished. Midgan children do not go to school because they cannot afford fees and are at risk of mistreatment by other children.

Midgan people believe the world is filled with various spirits that must be appeased or placated. They are not Sunni Muslims like the majority Somali population. They speak Somali, a language that has many Christian resources, but they remain unreached.

Pray that the oppressed Midgan people will look to the lord for the dignity that he gave them. Pray for the lord to bless the Midgan people with abundant spiritual and physical wealth. Pray that they will soon become a people turned around by the Lord in such a way that others will take notice of what God can do for a community.—KH

NEH 5:5, NLT

We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others."

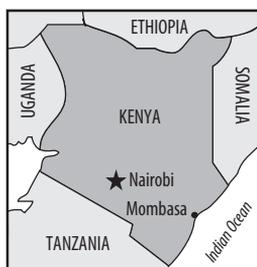
Pray for justice and mercy to reign in Somalia!

AWEER PEOPLE

NEH 9:20, NLT

You sent your good Spirit to instruct them, and you did not stop giving them manna from heaven or water for their thirst.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide everyone in Somalia who is willing to listen and learn from the true God of heaven.



Imagine what it would be like to be one of only 200 of your people left, and you spoke a language also threatened with extinction. Imagine living in fear, bound by Islamic and animistic traditions. Imagine having no Bible.

Aweer people are an ethnic group inhabiting the Coastal Province in southeastern Kenya and southern Somalia. Aweer are historically known as Boni or Sanye, derogatory terms for low-caste groups.

Some men have more than one wife; each wife has her own house in which she lives with her children. The husband does not have his own home but lives with each wife periodically.

Aweer in Kenya are indigenous foragers, traditionally subsisting on hunting, gathering, and collecting honey. They also continue to engage in many of their traditional hunter-gatherer practices, utilizing the nearby forests for the collection of wild honey, plants for traditional medicine and building materials. They sometimes have bush meat to supplement their diet.

Pray for Aweer people to see the difference in their gods and our Almighty God, who loves them and paid the penalty for their sins. Pray for opportunity for Aweer people to be blessed by the savior who accepts all people equally. Pray for believers in Africa to go the Aweer people and teach them to obey his commands. Pray for a disciple-making movement to emerge among Aweer people in Somalia.—KH



MUSHUNGULI PEOPLE

DAY

24

To say that the Mushungulis of Somalia have a difficult life would be an understatement. In recent years their homeland has been ruled by the terrorist organization al-Shabaab. While some Mushunguli support al-Shabaab, many men have been forced against their will to work or fight for them, and many women are forced to “marry” terrorist fighters. Others attempt to grow crops so they can survive. They are often treated like slaves by other Somalis.



iStock/jannive

JN 11:35, ESV

Jesus wept.

As Jesus wept over the death of Lazarus, so he is weeping over the hardships and deaths of the Mushunguli people in Somalia. Pray for peace in Somalia so that international and Christian aid may reach the Mushungulis.

Millions of dollars of food and other essential supplies have been donated to Somalia by the United Nations and Christian agencies. But, unfortunately, much of it ends up in the hands of terrorists or clan militias. Conditions have been so bad for the Mushungulis that many have fled to refugee camps in Kenya. Several thousand Mushunguli refugees have made it to American cities.

Over 99 percent of the Mushungulis are Muslims. But there are some believers and in Somalia, these believers face terrible persecution from al-Shabaab. Even as refugees they are still cast out from their communities.

Pray that the few believers would grow in their faith and become the leaders of Mushunguli churches in Kenya and Somalia. Pray that the Mushungulis living in refugee camps in Kenya will be given an opportunity to rebuild their lives, and a chance to hear the gospel.—DK



DAY

25

SOUTHERN OROMOS (AKA, ARUSI)

1 JN 3:8, EXB

The Son of God came for this purpose: to destroy the devil's work.

Pray that the Southern Oromo people turn to Jesus so the devil's work among them is destroyed and they become God's people.

iStock/rweisswald



An Aromo village

Though originating from the Oromo tribal clusters of Ethiopia, today the 64,000 Southern Oromo people reside only in neighboring

Somalia. They exhibit group-oriented culture with authoritarian fathers and a male warrior tradition. Also known as the Arusi people, they emphasize male bravery and war from an early age, including spear throwing and fighting. Male readiness to marry traditionally involved presenting their brides with part of a man they had killed. Today, wild animals are used.

The Southern Oromos reside in rural areas, making a living primarily from raising animals and farming. Male status is now determined by the number of farm animals he owns. Some move to towns.

The majority of Southern Oromo people follow Islam. However, over 10 percent still practice their traditional ethnic religion. They worship a sky god called Waqa through various feasts and animal sacrifices. Many of these people believe that trees, rocks, and springs have spirits. Two percent of the Southern Oromo are Christian, but only 0.3 percent are evangelical. The entire Bible, various audio recordings, and the JESUS Film are available in their language.

Pray that these materials will soon become widely available in their communities. Pray that God will send anointed witnesses to soften Arusi hearts. Pray for disciple-making movements.—CR

BAJUNI SWAHILI PEOPLE

DAY

26

In the Somali civil war the only available protection comes from your clan. But the Bajuni are not ethnic Somalis and do not belong to a Somali clan.



The view from the Somali coast

iStock/ZambeziShark

As a result, they are vulnerable to violence and exploitation by clan militias and criminal gangs. Many Bajuni fled their coastal villages to seek refuge on small islands or among the neighboring Bajuni of Kenya. Some have since found asylum in Tanzania or the UK.

The culture and language of the Bajuni people is very similar to the Swahili of Kenya. In fact, their language, ki-Bajuni, is considered a dialect of Swahili. But while most Swahili live in the old coastal cities of East Africa, the Bajuni are poor farmers in remote villages along the coast of southern Somalia and northern Kenya.

Most Bajunis understand standard Swahili, but many Swahili speakers would have trouble following Bajunis speaking their own language. It is important for people from each group to hear the gospel message in their own language. Global Recordings Network (GRN) has made audio Bible teaching recordings in the Bajuni dialect.

They were introduced to Islam centuries ago by Arab traders, and the Muslim faith now dominates their lives. Their social and religious lives revolve around the mosque.

Pray that the Bajuni would find opportunities to meet believers and respond to the gospel. Pray that the Bajuni would be given representation and protection in the new government.—AHS/guest writer

IS 42:10, NLT

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing his praises from the ends of the earth! Sing, all you who sail the seas, all you who live in distant coastlands.

Pray that the Bajuni people will make it their purpose to praise the Lord and obey his commands.

BANADIRI PEOPLE

2 CHR 20:20, NLT

Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, "Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in his prophets, and you will succeed."

Pray for the Banadiri people to put all their faith in the God who created them, and enjoy his blessings forever.



The Banadir is a coastal stretch in southern Somalia that includes three ancient trade cities. For almost 1000 years, the inhabitants of these cities have traveled in wooden dhows trading with Swahili, Arab, Persian, and Indian communities. Out of these contacts emerged the Banadiri people, a cosmopolitan community of traders and artisans speaking a distinct dialect of Somali.

Islam came to the Banadir coast more than a millennium ago, and the Banadiri people have played an important role in spreading the religion in the region. Although Islam is a core part of their identity, many Banadiri also believe in spirits of the ocean and perform rituals to protect their boats and their cities from these spirits.

Within Somalia, the Banadiri are a minority group that is economically powerful, but politically weak. This made them an easy target during the early years of the Somali civil war as clan militias looted their homes. Many fled to Kenya to rebuild their businesses in exile. Most Banadiri can easily understand the Bible and radio broadcasts in standard Somali, and some are able to understand resources in Arabic or Swahili.

Pray that the Bandari will be exposed to the gospel through radio, TV, and the internet. Pray that many will experience Jesus as their peace and protection.—Guest writer

SOMALIS IN KENYA

DAY
28

Most Somalis who fled to Kenya were poor before they left, and even poorer when they arrived in Kenyan refugee camps like Dadaab. They lived in tents and depended on outside help. The more fortunate

of them eventually moved to suburbs of Nairobi like Eastleigh where some are now prospering in businesses. Somalis often encounter hostility from the police and the general public in Kenya.

These Somalis are moving from one of Africa's least Christianized countries to one of the most Christianized parts of the continent. Kenya has a strong church; *Operation World* tells us that 82 percent of Kenya's population identifies as being Christian. There is a good chance that believers can reach the Muslim Somalis in Kenya, though it is humanly impossible in Somalia at this time. Somalis can also take advantage of the Christian-run Kijabe Hospital for their medical needs.

Pray that believers in Kenya will reach out to the Somalis and share the blessings of the Lord with them. Pray that Somalis who go to the Kijabe Hospital for medical needs will experience the hand of God directing them to the risen Christ who has power over sin and death. Pray that Kenya will become the place where the Lord raises up strong disciple-making movements among Somalis that will extend to Somalia.—KC



IS 42:7, NLT

You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.

Make this your prayer for the Somalis in Kenya.

DAY

29

SOMALIS IN NORTH AMERICA

JER 29:13, NLT

If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Pray for the Somali peoples in North America to become spiritually dissatisfied so that they question the religion of Islam and seek God with all their hearts.

iStock/LewisTsePuilung



What do these North American cities have in common? Toronto, Edmonton, Minneapolis,

San Diego, Seattle, Phoenix, and Columbus? The answer is that all of these include unreached Muslim people from Somalia.

Minneapolis-St. Paul is noted for having a large population of Somalis. According to Global Gates, an agency that focuses on the unreached in North America, the biggest need is for workers in Toronto. However, someone can build an excellent case for reaching out to the Somali Bantu (a different ethnic group) in Columbus or Seattle. The Somali Bantu were also allowed into the United States starting in 2004, and they speak a different language than the people of Somalia. The two groups are unlikely to mix, especially since the Somalis have persecuted the Bantu Somalis (see day 21.)

Pray for the Lord to thrust out many workers who will focus on the Somali peoples in North America. Pray for Somalis to have the kind of spiritual openness that will allow them to seek and find answers in Jesus Christ. Pray for a Christ-ward movement. Pray for the Bible to be translated and made available into the Somali Bantu language in oral form. Ask God to lead the workers to find the people of peace who can open the door to the gospel.—KC

BALOCH PEOPLE IN SOMALIA

DAY
30

There has been a small population of Southern Baloch people in Somalia since the 1960s. When the civil war erupted in the early 1990s, many of them fled Somalia and returned to Pakistan, but approximately 6,800 remain.



Baloch girls at a cultural event

iStock/PPH-Images

LUKE 17:4, NLT

Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.

Pray for the Baloch people in Somalia and Pakistan to be given power by the Holy Spirit to forgive others who have violated them as a people.

Reaching the Southern Baloch in Pakistan is difficult because of the Islamic environment and the very real threat of persecution. However, reaching them in Somalia is not much easier. In fact, traveling to this war-torn country continues to be quite dangerous. Islamic terrorists such as Al-Shabaab are active in Somalia.

Parts of the Bible have been translated into Southern Balochi, the language of this people group. The New Testament is available online which could be a more practical format for the Baloch to access than print editions. The challenge is getting them to read and accept the Bible.

Pray for the Baloch to hunger for a relationship with the one true and living God that will give them the willingness to read the Bible. Pray for the full Bible to be completed in their language. Ask God to use the online format of his word, along with the JESUS Film to reach the Baloch with the gospel.—CL

ACTS 13:38, NLT

Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins.

Pray that both Muslim and Hindu South Asian communities in Somalia will internalize this verse, and submit to his reign as King of kings.



Most of the South Asians who migrate to the Middle East are Muslim, but in Somalia, about

half are Muslim and the other half are Hindu, mostly from Gujarat. Some of these Hindus have converted to Islam.

Conversely, the customs of South Asians are increasingly being appropriated by Somalis. For instance, Somali woman can sometimes be seen wearing colorful dirac wraps and henna tattoos, both of which came from other cultures. Language, cuisine, and hair styles are being adopted from the South Asian communities in Somalia.

What does this mean for missions? We can hope and pray that this means that Somalis are becoming open to adapting aspects of other cultures. This ongoing merger of cultures—which is taking place not just in Somalia but all over the world—can potentially be used powerfully by God to break down obstacles to the gospel by making it “safe” to adopt something that previously seemed “foreign.”

Pray for South Asians and Somalis to embrace Jesus as their own, and not see him as “foreign.” Pray for South Asians in Somalia to accept the blessings of the savior and share him with others. Pray that there will soon come a day when South Asians in Somalia will form discipleship groups.—CL