

Cornerstone - Global Ministries

One Nation at a Time – ETHIOPIA


The Country

Unique among African countries, the ancient Ethiopian monarchy maintained its freedom from colonial rule with the exception of a short-lived Italian occupation from 1936-41. In 1974, a military junta, the Derg, deposed Emperor Haile SELASSIE (who had ruled since 1930) and established a socialist state. Torn by bloody coups, uprisings, wide-scale drought, and massive refugee problems, the regime was finally toppled in 1991 by a coalition of rebel forces, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). A constitution was adopted in 1994, and Ethiopia's first multiparty elections were held in 1995. A border war with Eritrea late in the 1990s ended with a peace treaty in December 2000. The Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission in November 2007 remotely demarcated the border by geographical coordinates, but final demarcation of the boundary on the ground is currently on hold because of Ethiopian objections to an international commission's finding requiring it to surrender territory considered sensitive to Ethiopia.*

Facts and Figures

Capital City: Addis Ababa

Population: 85,237,338

Religion: Christian 60.8% (Orthodox 50.6%, Protestant 10.2%), Muslim 32.8%, traditional 4.6%, other 1.8% (1994 census)

Language: Amargigna 32.7%, Oromigna 31.6%, Tigrigna 6.1%, Somaligna 6%, Guaragigna 3.5%, Sidamigna 3.5%, Hadiyigna 1.7%, other 14.8%, English (major foreign language taught in schools) (1994 census)


The Church

Praise God for the thrilling growth of the Protestant churches since 1936. Two great waves of violent persecution under the Italians in 1936-41 and the Communists in 1974-1990 refined and purified the church, but there were many martyrs. Vision, sacrificial evangelism and courageous witness have characterized Evangelicals of all denominations. There have been great seasons of harvest with millions coming to Christ, the greatest being since the failure and collapse of Communism.*

Our Prayer

- Pray for continued revival and growth not to be quenched by carnality, division and power-seeking in leadership. A characteristic of the recent move of the Spirit has been widespread mobilization of ordinary believers and multiplication of cell churches.
- Please pray for the less evangelized. Of the 90 peoples listed for Ethiopia, 60 were found to still be under-evangelized. Ethiopian Christians entered 20 of them in 1995 planting 61 churches, in 1996 a further 20 were reached with 6000 coming to Christ. The remaining 20 were entered by 2000 and breakthroughs are still needed.
- Pray that the missionary force may be wisely and sensitively deployed to best serve the maturing church. The major ministry needs are in leadership training, working together with Ethiopian missionaries in pioneer outreach to unevangelized peoples, Bible translation and technical and aid ministries.

Our Partnerships

- Please pray for **Zewdie and Ameneshe Zeleke**, a native missionary family in Ethiopia. Pray for God's wisdom and strength in their walk with God and also for message preparation to different audiences (Zewdie will be training church leaders from Evangelical churches, preaching for thousands of young people from 33 local churches, leading a bible study for Mossy Foot staff and also through health agents to patients).
- Pray for the **Mossy Foot** project which provides clinics, supplies, special shoes and foot treatment is the only one of its kind in Ethiopia. They currently have fifteen clinics in southern Ethiopia where they treat the people who have podoconiosis. It provides vocational training for these people and is working on prevention through providing shoes for the children of those who have Mossy Foot disease.

Grace and peace to you in our Lord! In order to facilitate a global perspective amongst the staff and communities, we have put together a template to encourage the body to pray for a specific country and partnership each week.

Pray for All People:

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

--1 Timothy.2:1-4

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

--James.5:16b

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at 805.581.9532 or e-mail:

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*Some statistics and information were gathered from the Operation World Prayer Calendar and CIA World Factbook.