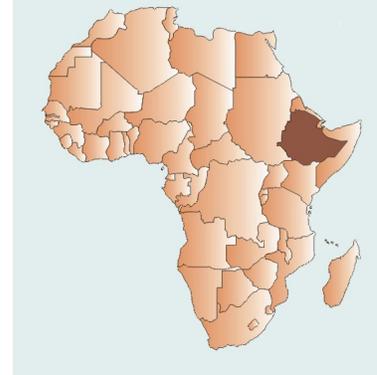


ETHIOPIA

General Information

- Population: 91 million.
- Christian 60.7%, Muslim 34.1%, but classified as “Hostile” towards Christianity by watch groups.
- Deputy Prime Minister [Hailemariam Desalegn](#).
- Referred to in the Bible as “Kush” (see 2 Kings 19:9; Isaiah 37:9).
- [Philip the Evangelist](#) converted an Ethiopian court official.
- According to [church historian Nicephorus](#), the apostle St. Matthew, later preached the Christian Gospel to modern-day [Ethiopia](#).



Challenges

- At least one Christian has been killed in western Ethiopia in widespread violence resulting from a rumor that a Christian tore a page from a Quran. More than 4,000 Christians have also been displaced after Islamic extremists burned 59 churches and 28 homes in Asendabo, Jimma Zone, beginning Wednesday, March 2.
- Evangelical churches are usually targeted because of their work to convert Muslims, thus they seen as more of a threat.
- Recently, Muslims have launched massive campaigns to Islamize Ethiopia by penetrating Christian areas with bribes and mosque-building programs.

Pray For

- Voice of the Martyrs reports that the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is influential in government policies. In times past they have used that power to harass evangelical Christians. However, more recent reports tell us the EOC is now easing its opposition and is now cooperating with evangelicals. Pray that evangelicals will continue to have freedom to evangelize and start churches.
- Sometimes Somali pastors will live in Ethiopia to escape persecution. Mohamed Ali Garas, a prominent Somali church leader and convert from Islam was severely beaten. Pray for his protection and safety.

Verse

- 1 Chronicles 16: 23-26, *“Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his marvelous works among the peoples! For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods. For the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.”*

Reference

- http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=MzQ3
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_ethiopia