

2008 Global Prayer for Somalia

producer of child soldiers, endless refugees,
broken lives... and Christian martyrs



Open Doors

Clans

The most important sense of identity for Somali people comes from their inclusion into one of the many clans or sub-clans. This often provides a deeper sense of loyalty than their allegiance to Islam. While all Somalis see themselves as followers of Islam, they have been fighting amongst themselves and even killing each other based on clan and sub-clan loyalties for years.

One of the biggest fears for a Somali person is to become "idla" – without a people or family group. This often becomes a significant barrier for a seeker or believer.

Warlords

When Sayid Barre took power in 1969 he felt threatened by some of the former army officers and consequently had them imprisoned. But during the war with Ethiopia in 1976-77 he needed their support and released them, giving them positions within his army and government. However, he never really trusted them. These leaders and others with influence were ultimately responsible for his defeat.

With the fall of Sayid Barre, they carved up the country but failed to agree on a central government. Attempts to form a government without the warlords have failed because of strong tribal and Islamist influences.

Politics & Govt.

Somalis take pride in acknowledging no master but Allah. For this reason, and the influence of clan structure, it has been virtually impossible to set up a functioning government.

After Somalia gained independence in 1960, hopes were high that their government would unite and lead all Somalis. However when pressure grew the government resorted to manipulating the clan system. Today warlords, clan elders and religious groups try to increase their influence and gain territory by building temporary alliances with other groups or even other countries.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God would provide opportunities for His work within the clans.
- Pray that the unhealthy affects of clan divisions would be broken down and that they would be bridged by the love of Jesus.
- Pray that God will raise godly leaders. "Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we will be restored." (Lamentations 5:21)

- Pray for a transition of power to move away from the warlords and progress towards a democratically elected government.
- Pray for forgiveness and reconciliation among the people of Somali.
- Pray for protection for the most vulnerable, and the hundreds of thousands of refugees, in particular.

- Pray for unity and peace within the government.
- Pray that God will change the hearts of leaders and give them a vision of life yielded to the Prince of Peace.
- Pray for more foreign governments to help assist in establishing a stable and "fair" government.