

# Djibouti in East Africa

## Djibouti Statistics

- 94% Muslim
- 60% Ethnic Somali; 35% Afar; 5% French, Arab & other
- Population 486,000 (July 2006)

**T**he Republic of Djibouti, located between Ethiopia and Somalia, is the second-smallest country in Africa. This dry, desert enclave is plagued by drought, few natural resources and limited industry. The country suffers from at least 50% unemployment.

Djibouti is ethnically diverse due to its strategic location at the crossroads of trade and commerce. The Somali and Afar tribes in this region were among the first in the Africa to adopt Islam through their trading links with the Arabian Peninsula. Despite this heritage, Djibouti is much more open and tolerant to Christianity than its neighbors. Foreigners

can live and work in Djibouti with relative ease. There is a free press and open access to the internet.

The Afars are Cushitic, related to Somalis but culturally and linguistically distinct. There are 1-2 million Afars scattered between Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, but only a handful are believers. In the capital, a small fellowship of believers lives in a poor, overcrowded area with minimal services and difficult living conditions. A group of Afar ladies there are discovering the Bible in their own language.

Among the Somalis (mostly Issas), there are a few small groups of Christians who meet together. They tell of wonderful dreams about the Messiah handing them His Word while giving them water to drink and fruit to eat, and telling them that He will care for them. Dreams are very important to Somali believers because often they cannot read.

### Also pray for ...

- ▶ According to Patrick Johnstone "The Darfur (Sudan) is one of the least evangelized areas on planet earth today." Out of over 6 million people in 35 people groups there are less than 500 Christians. Pray for revelations of Jesus to come in dreams, visions and by proclamation of the word of God.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ In the past, tribalism, factions and leadership struggles have split the different ethnic groups. A civil war (1991-1994) officially ended in 2001. Pray for mutual respect and vision for the future.
- ▶ Pray that the city of Djibouti will become a haven of true peace and a lighthouse shining into Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Middle-East.
- ▶ Several Christians have been able to give practical help through education, literacy, agricultural and translation programs. Pray that these efforts will bear much fruit.