

Comoros Islands



Sept. 28, 2008

PHOTOS OF THE COMOROS

Proclaiming Christ is forbidden in the Comoros

Population: 711,417 (July 2007 est.)
98% Muslim, 0.5% Catholic, 1.5% Other

Many years ago the Comoros Islands were known for their exports of perfume essences, as well as vanilla and cloves. Today, however, the Comoros are largely forgotten. The island chain consists of three main volcanic islands off the coast of Africa, 300 kilometres (200 miles) east of Mozambique. The Comoros Islands have endured 19 attempted coups since gaining independence from France in 1975. A fourth island, Mayotte, is still administered by the French. The islands are poor and underdeveloped with high unemployment. Most people are subsistence farmers.

The Comorans are a friendly, hospitable, and artistic people. Many women engage in needlework and the men in woodworking. Comorans are generally descended from former African slaves, and some have Arabic roots.

Islamic Heritage: The Comorans are proud of their Islamic heritage, dating from the early 1500s, and Islam is the state religion. Approximately 1,400 mosques are scattered throughout the islands. Harassment and social discrimination against the followers of Jesus is widespread

and evangelism is illegal. The government has restricted the use of the three church buildings to non-citizens only. The Bible is available in French and Arabic, and portions of the scriptures in Comoran. However, due to the low literacy rate (near 60%), Gospel recordings are more useful. Some Comorans have recently become believers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *Pray that the Gospel would be made available to all the families of the Comoros Islands (Genesis 12:1-3).*
- ▶ *Pray that Christian music, Bible stories, and other radio broadcasts will gain an audience and touch many lives for Jesus.*
- ▶ *Pray against fear, witchcraft, curses, and interaction with jinn (evil spirits). The Comorans are bound by these practices. Only the stronger power of Jesus Christ can set them free (1 Peter 5:8, Matthew 10:28-30).*

