

Somalis in the USA

Dreams of peace

Since 1991, hundreds of thousands of Somalis have died in a brutal civil war. Millions have fled their homes seeking refuge in neighboring countries and around the world. Tens of thousands now live in cities like Rome, Stockholm, London and Seattle, as well as in smaller communities such as a town of 3,000 in rural America with about 300 Somalis. Some live in large public housing complexes while others know life in sprawling suburbs.

Almost all Somalis in America are refugees from their own civil war. All face complex issues regarding their future and their commitment to Islam. They tend to settle in cities where they have been welcomed. Often they live in tight-knit communities that emphasise adherence to Islam and are not generally open to other beliefs. However, they are still known for warm hospitality and deep friendship. Many

first generation immigrant Somalis (age 35 and older) dream of returning to a restored, peaceful Somalia. Second and third generation immigrant Somalis (age 34 and younger) face a tremendous identity struggle.

Minnesota is home to between 30,000 and 70,000 Somalis. The vast majority work hard at learning English and adapting while trying to earn enough money to support themselves, as well as their families back in Somalia. Since December 2007, six Somali young men have been murdered by other Somalis as a result of tensions in the community. This violence expresses the tremendous pain and challenges that come from living in a new culture. Christians in the region are increasingly aware of their need to love and serve their Somali neighbors.

Prayer Requests:

► *Pray that God would give true “shalom” peace to Somalia and its people around the world. Pray that God would open the eyes of Somalis in the States to see the surpassing value of the Kingdom of God (Mt 13:44-46).*



PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLES

Pakistan

The Western Baluch people

The 1.2 million Western Baluch of Pakistan are part of a larger Baluch community of more than 8 million people whose homeland straddles the borders of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

The Baluch have overcome the obstacles of living in an extremely harsh, arid climate. They make their living as farmers (their chief crop is wheat) and as semi-nomadic shepherds (raising sheep, cattle and goats). Basically self sufficient, they rely on their own skills to build homes and develop the tools necessary for daily life.

Prior to the coming of Islam, the Baluch were probably followers of Zoroaster, but today they are Sunni Muslims. Their societies are organized into clans and tribes ruled by male elders and ultimately chiefs.

Pray for the heads of clans and families to come to Jesus.

Ask for teams/workers doing relief and development.

Pray for other Baluch believers to share their faith with these Western Baluch.

Pray for the Scriptures to soon be available in Western Baluchi.

