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METF News

September 2026



Middle East Reformed Fellowship—"Declaring the Whole Counsel of God"

"Faithful, Fruitful and Cost-Effective Indigenous Missions!"

Somali Ministry



Street scene in Jijiga, Ogaden, Ethiopia (photo by Charles Fred)



region of Ethiopia as well as Djibouti, Somalia and northeastern Kenya. Also, since the 1990's wars and instability have spread communities of Somali-speakers around the globe.

provide milk, transport, important social prestige and wealth. Somali society is a clan system of extensive kinship under the leadership of elders. This enables mutual aid and collective responsibility in a harsh environment. The rich oral tradition of poetry and storytelling provides opportunities to share the largely unknown message of the gospel. So does the culture of warm hospitality, sharing spiced tea or camel milk.

For around two decades, twice a week, MERF's Somali language radio programmes have aired Christ's good news far

and wide in the midst of an overwhelmingly harsh Islamic environment. By God's grace, many respond to the gospel. Inquirers are carefully followed up. MERF puts Somali Bibles in the hands of hungry souls, and translates, prints and distributes basic Christian literature to build young believers solidly in the faith. Printed Bibles and Christian literature are very much in demand. The team recently reprinted these translations: *Living the Christian Life* by Albert Martin, *Healthy Christian Growth* by Sinclair Ferguson and *Coming to Faith in Christ* by John Benton.

The Somali language is spoken by about 23 million people. The vast majority are Muslim and live on the Horn of Africa — a semi-arid land mass jutting out into the Indian Ocean just across from the Arabian Peninsula. This includes the Ogaden

Although many Somali-speakers now live in urban areas, traditional Somali culture is built around nomadic herding of camels, goats and sheep in the arid and semiarid pasture lands following seasonal rains. Livestock are the centre of rural life. Camels



From left to right: **Living the Christian Life** by Albert Martin, **Coming to Faith in Christ** by John Benton, and **Healthy Christian Growth** by Sinclair Ferguson

In the last few years, MERF's Somali gospel team provides globally 24/7 online links to hear the radio programmes and to read the Somali Bible and free, downloadable Christian literature at: somalforchrist.com

Praise God that now, in places with good internet service, logistic security and high cost are no longer barriers for Bible and literature distribution.

Social media is also proving to be very useful for following up inquirers and ministering to new believers, who are often located far away. This online ministry has effectively speeded up and multiplied the reach of the gospel among Somali-speakers. Gradually, small Somali-speaking fellowships form here and there and are growing in number and in God's Word and His ways.

MERF's Somali team reg-

ularly (but discretely) travels long distances to different Somali communities on the Horn of Africa. They follow-up radio and online contacts and encourage the small Somali Christian churches and fellowship groups by providing Somali language Bibles, Christian

literature and biblical training seminars and conferences. It is uplifting to see steady spiritual growth despite the many challenges. There is, however, a great need for more Somali-speaking spiritual leaders who are solidly grounded in God's Word and equipped to steer young Christians away from false teaching, such as the prosperity gospel.

The Somali team asks prayer –

First, for the Lord to raise up Somali-speaking ministers who are well-versed in the Scriptures and committed to sharing the gospel of Christ with their neighbours;

Second, for the Lord to strengthen the faith of Somali-speaking Christians to persevere through the trials and suffering that are not uncommon.

Thank you for your faithful prayer partnership!



Street scene in Jijiga, Ogaden, Ethiopia (photo by Charles Fred)

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Sundays 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – John Calvin Centre
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