

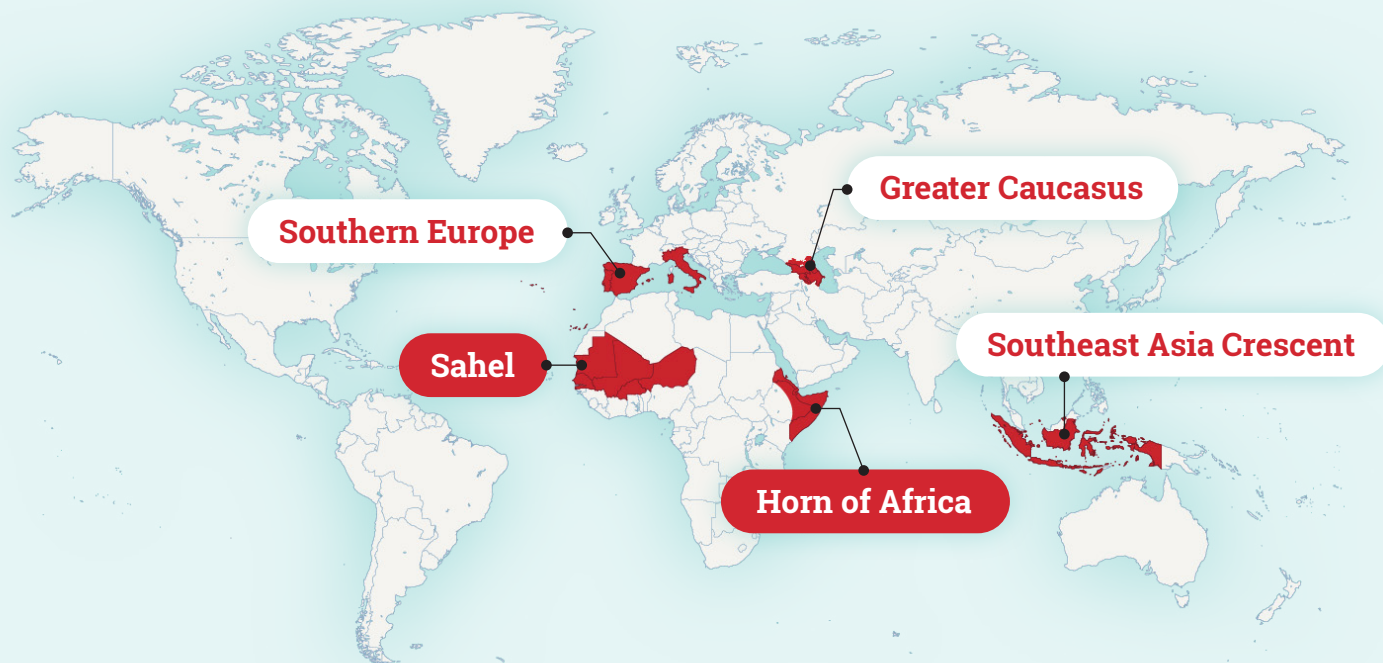
Horn of Africa

&

Sahel

PRAY *for the*
NATIONS

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OM's Spotlight Regions



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20 – 26 July 2025

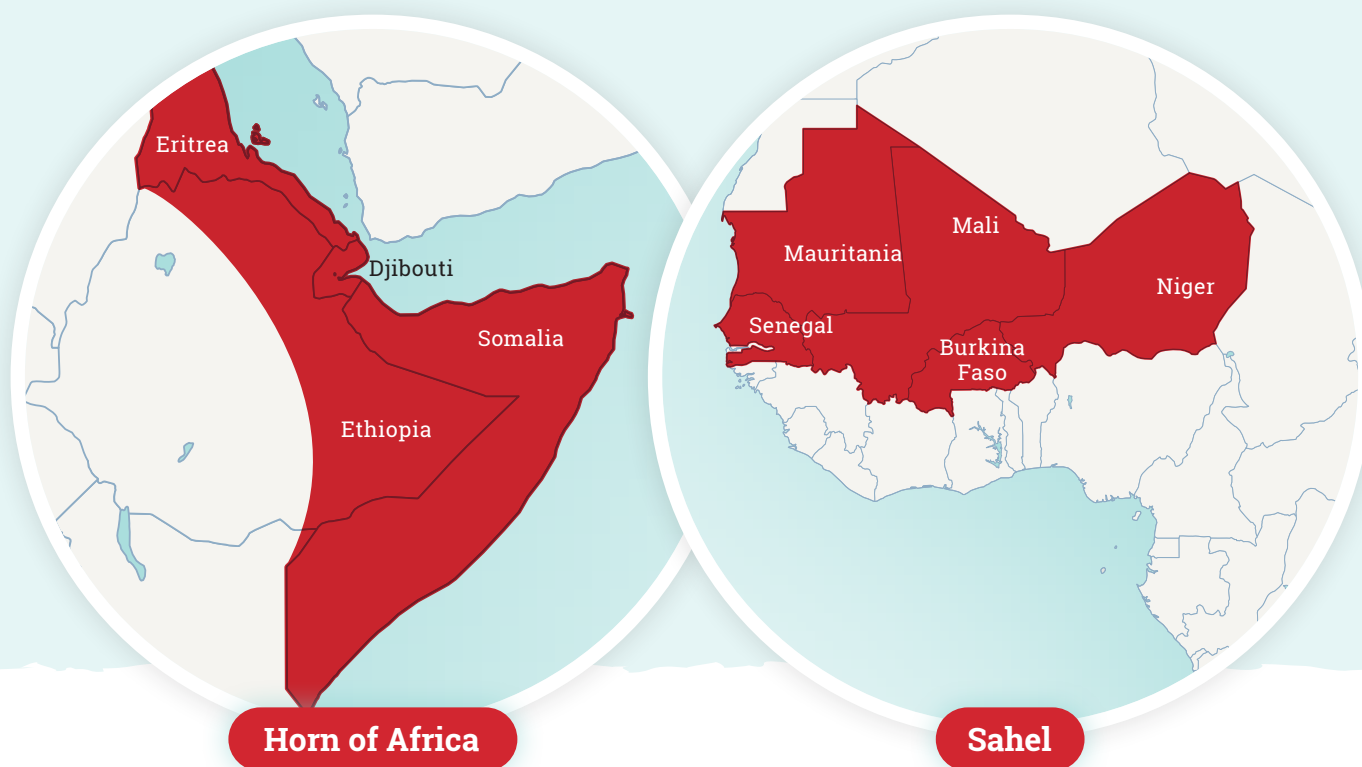
This July OM teams around the world will unite in focused prayers for the peoples of the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. We invite you to join them and take part in whichever way you can.

In this PDF you will find information and daily prayer requests from OM teams in the region.

The prayer points are also available on **OM's free Prayer Reach app**.



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Pray for the least reached in the **Horn of Africa** and **Sahel**

Over two billion people in the world today have not heard the good news of Jesus presented in a way they could understand. OM teams are actively working around the world to establish vibrant communities of Jesus followers among these least-reached communities.

OM's five Spotlight Regions were selected as places around the world with a high percentage of least-reached people and where, thanks to your support, OM teams are uniquely placed to make a difference. Over the next few days, we want to focus on two of these regions: Horn of Africa and Sahel.

Join us for a specific time of prayer for the least reached in these two regions!

Ps.

Could you host or lead a creative prayer gathering in your home, with your church community, or with your ministry team? Please get in touch with the OM office in your area (find contact details at om.org) or send us an email at communications.int@om.org



Praying for

Horn of Africa

DAY

01

In the north-eastern corner of Africa lies the Horn of Africa, a region comprising of Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Of the estimated combined population of 140.7 million people, around 60 per cent are under the age of 25, making the Horn of Africa one of the youngest populations globally.

This region is characterised by a rich cultural heritage, diverse ethnic groups and a complex religious landscape. However, it also faces significant challenges, including poverty, conflict and environmental issues such as drought. The United Nations reports that across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, 22 million people currently face a severe hunger crisis after four consecutive failed rainy seasons.

Currently, in the Horn of Africa, OM is working with local partners to train groups of young believers, meeting with potential new partners to build relationships, and establishing OM's first workers from both similar and different cultural backgrounds in the region.

- **Pray for** wisdom for country leaders. Pray that they will seek peace and restoration.
- **Pray for** an end to the drought and for rain to fall so crops can grow.
- **Pray for** the young people of this region. Pray that they will grow into strong leaders and bring change to their communities and countries.
- **Pray that** God will give OM wisdom as they partner with local ministries in the region. For discernment in knowing where to invest time, ministry and resources.

DAY
02

Sparks of hope in Djibouti

The Horn of Africa is considered one of the least-reached areas in the world, with Islam being the primary religion in most countries.

Djibouti is a small but strategically significant nation. The country's population is ethnically diverse, comprising primarily Somali and Afar communities, and the official languages are French and Arabic.

Christianity represents a tiny minority – less than five per cent – and includes expatriates and a small number of local believers. The Djiboutian constitution provides for freedom of religion, but social and cultural pressures often discourage conversion from Islam. For Christians, sharing their faith can be challenging, as those who become Jesus followers often face ostracism, harassment or even persecution.

Despite these challenges, God is moving in Djibouti, and prayer is a vital way to support the spread of the gospel in this Muslim-majority nation.

Recently, there was an opportunity for visiting Jesus followers to work alongside students at an electrical training centre which offers basic courses in solar panel installation. During the course, participants experienced mutual respect and unity with the believers.

- **Praise God** for the opportunity for believers to work alongside students.
- **Pray that** the students will remember the positive experience and keep an open mind when they meet Jesus followers in the future.
- **Pray for** local believers to remain strong in their faith in the face of the challenges and trials that come with being a Jesus follower in this region.

Horn of Africa



DAY

03

Reaching the Somali diaspora

While there are numerous people groups in the Horn of Africa, Somalis, one of the least-reached groups in the region, live in all four countries in the Horn.

OM's hope is for more same-, near- and far-culture mission workers with a heart for Somalis to move to the area. Currently, a small team exists. New to the area, they have a lot to learn — including the Somali language and culture — and team members are asking God to continue opening doors and making connections that can lead to deep relationships. Their prayer is that God will bring much fruit from His ministry in this area!

Recently, the team connected with a Somali believer who will serve with OM to start a discipleship training school where groups of local believers can be developed and equipped. The first training will take place this summer.

- **Pray for** an encouraging start for mission workers who are learning Somali and adjusting to life and ministry in the Horn of Africa.
- **Please pray** for this fledgling work and for good collaboration in sharing the gospel.
- **Pray for** finances to train more local believers in leadership and discipleship.



Praying for

Sahel

DAY
04

The Sahel stretches approximately 5,400 km through more than 10 countries in northern Africa from the Atlantic coast of Senegal to Sudan at the Red Sea. A geographical transition zone between the Sahara in the north and the savannah in the south, the region is mainly hot and dry.

In recent years, the area has experienced political and economic challenges as well as been impacted by natural disasters such as droughts and floods. There has been a surge in extremist violence, leading to widespread instability.

OM's focus in the Sahel is on the countries of Niger, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, which are home to approximately 100 million people. Over 95 per cent of that number follow Islam, and Sunni Islam predominates. Churches may be found in larger cities, but in most places — especially rural areas — there are no known Jesus followers and most people have never heard the gospel.

- **Pray for** country leaders in the Sahel, that they will lead with wisdom.
- **Pray for** those in the Sahel who do not know God. Pray that their hearts may be opened and that they will seek Him.
- **Pray for** believers willing to go to rural areas to share the love of Christ; that they will be equipped and strengthened.



Hope behind bars

In Mali, where just three per cent of the population follow Christ, OM is bringing hope and practical support to those in prison. What started as providing food for people in prison led to bringing medical aid and, once relationships were built, the team started running Discovery Bible Study (DBS) groups.

An OM team member in Mali shared that Adama* came to Christ through the Bible study. He said, “They were studying the forgiveness of Jesus, how Jesus forgives us and how He expect us to forgive others. The guy started struggling. He was crying and eventually gave his life to Christ. But that was not the end.

“[Adama] had decided to revenge himself against one of his relatives. He wanted to kill them the day he would be out of the prison. But the Lord was working his life, and one night, [Adama] spent the whole night battling with the Holy Spirit and eventually surrendered.

“The following day, [Adama] asked the prison officer to allow him to call his relatives. When he called them, he said: ‘I forgive you because Christ has forgiven me.’”

- **Thank God** for lives saved through the prison ministry!
- **Pray for** safety for strength and perseverance for those involved in the work.
- **Pray for** the staff in the prisons, that they too will hear God’s Word and want to know more.

**name changed*



Seeking truth

In Mauritania, Jesus followers make up less than one per cent of the population. As more than half of the country is desert, food insecurity is widespread, and farming is difficult.

Ely* is a missions worker in Mauritania. One of the ways he described the local culture was as “broken,” saying divorce is normal — and sometimes encouraged — and racism, poverty and a love for money are widespread.

It is common for foreigners living in Mauritania to employ a language helper. Ely explained that it is difficult to find a good language helper and that when a good language helper is found, they usually work for multiple foreigners as the job is in such high demand.





» Rose* is a language helper who works with four mission workers, helping them learn the language through lessons on relevant topics and providing translation as needed. Spending time with the workers, Rose was exposed to a variety of thoughts, ideas and topics. Each of the workers asked her at different times if she had ever read the Bible but each time, she said she was not interested. She read the Qur'an and said that was all she needed.

Recently, Rose surprised everyone by asking one of the female workers if she knew where to get a copy of the Bible. In the Qur'an, Rose had read that she should read the Bible too. The worker lent her a Bible in two languages which Rose was delighted to receive and started reading the Gospels. Rose has many questions about the identity of Jesus; she is drawn to His character and the way He talked about peace. "She has a long journey ahead of her, but we believe that God will continue to draw her to see truth," shared Ely.

- **Pray for** seekers like Rose who are open to the good news of Christ. Pray for them to encounter Jesus followers who will share the love of Christ with them and for God to continue working in their hearts.
- **Pray for** perseverance and encouragement for believers like Ely and those he works with. Rose's story is the first fruit they have seen in a long time.
- **Pray for** the translation of the Bible into local languages to move forward.

**name changed*



Thank you

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
– Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

Thank you for praying for the least reached in the Horn of Africa and Sahel! For more stories to inspire your prayers, visit www.om.org/int/inspiration

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