

# 30-Day Afar Prayer Guide



*\*Names have been changed for security reasons.*



# Day 1

# Who Are the Afar?

South of the Red Sea lies a vast lowland desert where the world's highest temperatures have been recorded.

This land is home to the Afar, nomadic pastoralists who have learned to survive in one of the world's harshest environments. Efficiently moving herds of camels, cattle, goats and sheep in search of scarce grazing, Afar mainly survive on their herds' milk.

Recently the light of the good news has begun to penetrate the darkness of this Muslim people. God's Spirit has now raised up first fruits who begin to gather in small groups and serve as points of light in the darkness.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... on them has light shone. (Isa. 9:2)

## Prayer Points

- Pray Jesus' name would be proclaimed throughout Afar land, that these few points of light would become like cities set on hills. (Mt. 5:14)
- Pray for the first believers, that they would form into bold churches which learn to disciple people according to 2 Tim. 2:2.
- Pray for faith amidst persecution, that Afar may be certain that darkness will not overcome the light (Jn. 1:4)





# Day 2

# Geography



The Afar triangle stretches south along the western Red Sea coast from southern Eritrea to northern Djibouti then west toward central Ethiopia across foothills, mountains, windswept plains and lowland deserts. It boasts numerous volcanoes and a salt lake, the lowest point in Africa. Record temperatures make these the hottest continually inhabited places on earth. In the midst of this oppressive heat, beautiful valleys hide; small oases full of life.

## Prayer Points

- That even in the rising heat and difficulty, believers would rejoice in God, their strength.
- For God to send rain, and for people to see His favor is upon them.
- For God to open Afar hearts to hear and talk about God's work in nature and what it means for them.

*"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines... the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, The Lord, is my Strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes my feed tread on my high places." (Hab 3:17)*



# Day 3

# History

Limited recorded accounts exist for this oral nomadic people. Some accounts trace Afar back to pre-Islamic times. Many claim Yemeni descent. But in their culture, language and outward appearance they are more closely related to Cushitic people in today's Ethiopia. Divided into "red" and "white" sub-groups, Afar have always been mobile, moving throughout the Red Sea, Danakil desert and Ethiopian highland areas. Known for warrior prowess, Afar have fought mostly neighboring Ethiopian Amhara or Somali Issa. These days, many of these traditionally nomadic, warrior people find their way of life threatened as available grazing land decreases. Because of this threat and various outside development efforts, some Afar are beginning to settle down in or around urban areas.

## Prayer Points

- Pray that the Afar will put their trust in the Timeless One who holds their future.
- Ask God to open their eyes to His faithfulness and provision over the years!
- As the children hear the stories of the past, pray they understand that they are not forgotten, that they were always on His mind.





Day 4

# What do the Afar Believe?



## Prayer Points

- Ask Almighty God to break the chains that keep Afar from the true source of salvation.
- Ask God our Savior to draw desperate Afar to find the true hope of Christ.
- Ask the God of Love to cast out all fear and draw the Afar to trust in Him.

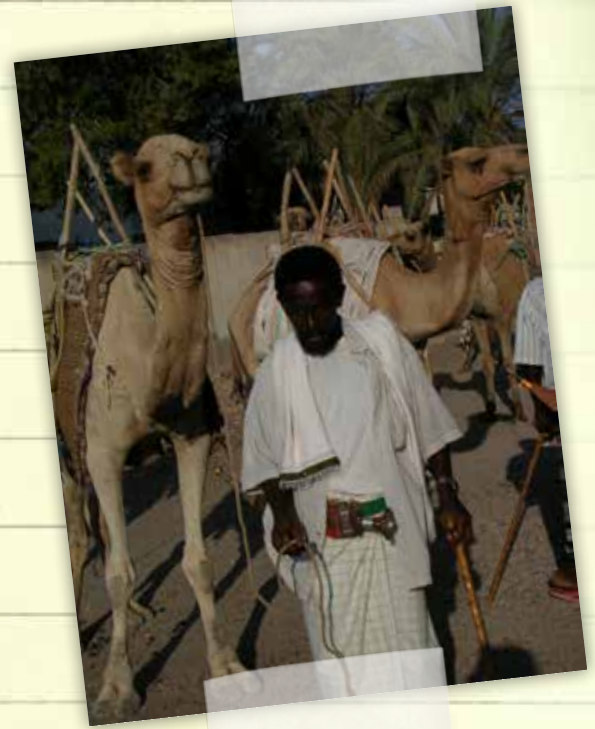
For hundreds of years Afar have followed the culture of Islam. They school their sons in Qur'anic Arabic, veil their daughters, and marry up to four wives. They keep Ramadan and, if possible, venture to Mecca for pilgrimage. Prayer calls beckon Afar to salat (ritual prayer) five times a day from either mosques or makeshift, set-apart spaces when nomads are on the move. However, beneath the strict Muslim exterior, an absolute fear of jinn, or evil spirits, persists. The Afar rely on a host of traditions to expel these jinn from people or spaces. Spiritual and health issues closely intertwine as natural herbalists, healers, and midwives preserve traditional beliefs about healthy living. When sickness or hardship persists, Afar call upon spiritists or sorceresses to chant and dispel the spirits.



Afar life hinges on a strong network of family structures. Afar children grow up learning this interweaving network of father's lineage (*keddo*, or clan) and mother's family (*abiino*) addressing each relative accordingly. These families and clans provide security and guidance for their members and guard their honor by arranging cousin-marriages.

At the highest level of leadership stands the Caliph, appointed by the Muslim community, the *Ummah*. A sultan leads each of the four sultanates of Afar: Aussa and Biru in Ethiopia, and Tadjourah and Rahaito in Djibouti. Sheikhs in turn lead smaller units, and various religious men maintain respect and order according to the ideals of the Qur'an.

# Day 5 Sheiks, Caliphs, and Clans



## Prayer Points

- Pray for Afar leaders to be God-fearing and carry out their responsibilities with His wisdom, justice and mercy.
- Boldly ask God for entire clans to discover the Father's love!
- Ask God to provide family structure for individual Afar believers who now feel the pangs of isolation from clan and family and the pressure to conform once again to the "Afar way."



# Day 6

# Nomadic Pastoralists

## Prayer Points

- Pray that Afar men will lighten the women's heavy work load.
- Pray for peace with neighboring tribes and that the life-changing power of Jesus will enable them to live in harmony.
- Pray for the Afar church to multiply along clan lines throughout the whole people group.

Traditional Afar society is a nomadic pastoralist lifestyle; raising livestock, finding vegetative fodder, and ensuring an adequate water source for their animals. Mobility is the most common strategy for meeting the needs of their livestock. Men must take risks to protect themselves and their animals from predators and raids from neighboring clans and tribes.

Women prepare food, fetch water, build the house and disassemble it prior to the next move. Young boys and girls herd the kids and lambs, while the older boys tend the calves and young camels. Women and older girls are often responsible for herding sheep and goats.





# Day 7

# Fishermen



As the last prayer call rings out over Afar communities along the Red Sea, one group of men aren't thinking of dinner. Their day is just beginning. As the sun sinks down over the horizon, these fishermen glide through the water on boats long abused by the sea. In the quiet night they attach a fluorescent light to a spare car battery, shining it out over the water to attract fish. Others, paddle surf boards out into the water and cast out a hand line with a baited hook and wait. The fish may carry them far out until it tires and the fishermen can take it back to the local market.

## Prayer Points

- Ask God to bring in a mighty catch among local fishermen.
- Ask God to grant to believers avenues into the tight-knit fishing community to share good news.
- Pray that these men would, in turn, become people of the good news and true fishermen for Christ.

*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. (Mt 4:19)*





# Day 8 Salt

In the Afar populated region of Djibouti lies Lac Assal, a salt lake, below sea level. It is an area of rare natural beauty but it also presents an opportunity for employment for the Afar people. Under blazing hot temperatures the Afar men mine the purest salt both in flavour and shape. Perfectly formed orbs are removed from the ground to be sold to stimulate taste palates and grace dinner tables worldwide. In Mt. 5:13, Jesus tells his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."

## Prayer Points

- As the Afar people mine the salt, pray that they have awareness of the greatness of God in creation as they extract perfectly formed and tasting salt which no human can reproduce.
- Ask God to make the Afar thankful for the provision of employment which enables the supply of their everyday needs.
- Pray for those engaged in ministry to reach the Afar that their lives will demonstrate holiness of character, the love of Jesus to others, a purity like salt that draws people to Christ.



# Day 9

# Language

Afar sometimes need to operate in several different languages. In Ethiopia, school and government largely operates in Amharic; in Eritrea, Arabic or Tigrinya; in Djibouti, French. The heart language of Afar people, however, remains Afar. From rich oral and verbal art forms to riddles, songs and flowery word imagery, Afar highly value the beauty of their own language.

They therefore greatly respect those who seek to preserve their culture by facilitating the study of their language.

## Prayer Points

- Thank God for calling gifted people to study Afar and provide tools for others to learn in order to redemptively participate in Afar life.
- Ask God to enable believers to learn the language effectively to deeply share the good news and disciple others.
- Ask God to use this sacrificial work of linguistic study to further efforts to share with the Afar His love.





# Day 10

# An Oral People



Isolated for centuries from modern education, Afar hold tradition and knowledge in a rich oral repository of art forms. Lengthy poems and songs recount battles, migrations, genealogies and conquests, while *missila* (proverbs) transmit key character lessons to the next generation.

Important cultural values and poignant humor hide within *ixigixigga* (riddles) while *saare* sing camels' praise. Play-songs and word games teach children about their world and pass down core elements of Afar identity.

## Prayer Points

- Ask God to bring forth and preserve the richness of Afar oral/verbal art forms for His purpose.
- Pray for more Afar Scripture to be storied, sung, riddled, proverbied, and passed town generationally!
- Ask God to raise up skilled and passionate Afar to communicate Scripture using the richness of these art forms.

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?"(Rom 10:14-15)*



# Day 11

# Education



Afar seem to live in their own world: isolated and untouched by time.

Fierce traditionalists, they keep at bay many attempts at development and modernization. Recently, however, change has begun. Special programs fund incentives for girls to attend school, and development organizations partner with local government to supply teachers and materials.

Migration patterns keep some Ethiopian Afar children away for half the year. In Djibouti, termites eat school books. In all three countries of the Afar, school is mostly taught in the official languages (French, Amharic, Tigrinya, and Arabic), so it may take years for children to understand their teachers. Teachers may take weeks to secure transportation to remote schools, and endure long stints of irregular payment, so motivation is low and turnover is high.

## Prayer Points

- Pray God will assuage families' fear of outside influence in order to strengthen their society.
- Pray God will position believing school teachers in Afar territories and help them persevere in hardship.
- Ask God to miraculously transform education to introduce the Afar to Christ and raise up skilled Afar believers to influence their world.



## Prayer Points

- Pray that Afar would see the love of Jesus in workers' interactions with them and that God would soften their hearts.
- Ask God to soften the hearts of local health professionals working in these remote regions, almost all non-Afar, to deeply desire the welfare and spiritual health of the Afar. May they offer spiritual as well as physical healing, in His name.
- Ask God to continually guide workers to keep their vision wrapped up in His and their eyes on Him in the midst of overwhelming need.

# Day 12 Health

*"Heal the sick who are there, and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near you.'"* (Lk 10:9)

The Afar people live in a remote region with little or no access to health care.

Many still rely on the traditional health practices of their ancestors and witch doctors for healing. Maternal and child deaths are among some of the highest in the world, and infant death has touched the majority of homes. Traditional health practices reinforce Afar identity, yet often keep Afar in the dark about ways to keep their families healthy and thriving.





# Day 13

# A Minority People

Around 2.5 million strong, the Afar are one of the smaller unreached people groups of East Africa. They account for 5% (413,000) of the Eritrean, 1.7% (1.7 million) of the Ethiopian and one third (404,000) of the Djiboutian population. In Ethiopia the Afar Regional State enjoys some autonomy and the Afar language is used in local government. But many Afar feel threatened by an influx of educated highland workers employed in cotton and sugarcane plantations around the Awash River. Afar herdsman fear the loss of land to those plantations. In Djibouti they seem to hide among the majority Somalis who dominate the government and civil service. Work seems easier to find this way. Rural Afar often live in inhospitable areas, isolated from infrastructure, education and health care, thereby becoming even further marginalized.



## Prayer Points

- Pray that these three governments will make good and fair decisions regarding the Afar.
- Pray that Afar concerns will be well represented in their countries.
- Believers in Afar are also in the minority. Ask God to burden more hearts for the work of advancing God's Kingdom among the Afar.



# Day 14

# Desert Life



Raising flocks and herds in a desert requires a system to supply animals with water and grass. The Ethiopian highlands get monsoon rain from July through September, and some of it reaches the lowland deserts. Herders take advantage of this, and whole families move out into the dryer eastern regions as soon as pools of water and grass appear. Each family loads everything it owns, including their portable house, on one camel. This is a time of plenty of milk, the basic food, so the people enjoy singing, dancing, and games. When the pools in the desert dry up, everyone comes back to where rivers from the highlands provide water. During the dry season when it rains in some areas, the male herders take the herds there even if it is distant.

## Prayer Points

- Pray for sufficient rain so the animals will find grass and the people get milk
- Pray for protection from malaria during the rainy season
- Ask God to send his Spirit to guide desert peoples to know Jesus as their Savior.



Mohamed,\* a middle-aged, literate Afar believer, had first read Scripture in Arabic. But when the Afar translation became available, he would pour over these books. One day he was asked, "Where do the Afar come from?" and he quickly answered, "From Kuus" (^Cush') as mentioned in Genesis 10:6. Is this known to all Afar, or did Mohamed discern this from his reading?

Psalm 68:31 says, "Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God."

"The desert tribes will bow before him," says Psalm 72:9a.

And we know they are among those in Revelation 5:9, when "every tribe and language and people and nation" are worshiping the Lamb.

### Prayer Points

- Since the Scriptures have been translated into Afar, pray for more to become literate, able and hungry to read the Good News.
- Ask God to provide ways for non-literate people to engage with Scripture, through media and other oral means.
- Pray that these desert people will soon bow before the Lord, that this Cush-itic tribe will "submit herself to God."



# Day 15 The Afar in Scripture



Day 16

# Dreams and Visions



My name is Moussa.\* One day I had a dream: I was sitting in my courtyard under my favorite acacia tree and saw a barefoot man coming toward me. I wondered how he could walk on that burning midday sand. When he came closer I asked him who he was. He replied, "Jesus."

Later I had another dream. I saw my family sitting around a man. I approached them and identified him as Jesus. He looked at me and said, "Tell them about me!"

My friend Ahmed\* also had a dream about Jesus: He saw many people sitting under a tree, but one man was sitting in the tree above them. He walked up to the tree and climbed it, too, and when he reached the man's level, he saw that it was Jesus.

## Prayer Points

- Pray that Afar people can see Jesus in dreams and realize that He is alive.
- Pray that Jesus will speak to Afar and let them know He wants a relationship with them.
- Pray that Afar begin to accept that Jesus is God and worship Him.



# Day 17

# Harvest Workers

## Prayer Points

Some near-neighbor believers work in rural Afar and daily face harsh conditions with real spiritual opposition and little encouragement or evidence of fruit. God is placing them strategically to shine His light in a dark area.

- Ask God to root harvesters in ever-increasing love and perseverance for the Afar; to unify, purify, and strengthen their integrity to protect so they may shine like stars, holding out the Word of life.
- Ask God to grow their enthusiasm and skill in sharing good news, and to fill their hearts with His Word overflowing into conversations. Pray they would always be ready to account for their hope.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers, partnering fellowships/groups and a multitude of intercessors locally and globally to reach the Afar with His love.



*"When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd...' The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" (Mt 9:16-17)*



Day 18

# Bringing the Good News

## Prayer Points

- Boldly ask the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers to the Afar.
- Pray for God's favor for workers, and that they be bold and creative in their efforts.
- Pray that God would prepare Afar hearts to receive the good news and be transformed for His glory and fame.



For centuries, Afar have followed Islam, and before that, local practices. They simply don't know that because of their human condition, someone died on their behalf: they have lived in darkness.

But for the first time in Afar history, homes are encountering redeemed people. God has led believers to give the Afar the chance to hear of His love for them. So the light is dawning, slowly, in recent generations.

A local leader in the desert said, once he encountered the Old Testament, the stories of Abraham, Joseph and Moses made sense for the first time in his life. A year later he decided to follow Jesus!

Today workers partner with Afar believers in a wide network and pray that many more Afar will find Jesus.



Halima's\* female relatives gather to assemble her wedding hut. Her mother, Hawa, had been kidnapped and taken to her own wedding, but today Halima knowingly agrees. Friends adorn her with family gold and amber beads as she sits regally for days receiving visitors. Young women line up, sway and sing praise for her clan and exquisitely insult the groomsmen. Men, five or six abreast, march the groom slowly through the night toward the wedding, singing and dancing. Halima strains to hear; Will her betrothed will ever come?

Her wedding will be followed, in time, by morotoms ("40th-day" after childbirth), circumcisions, funerals and inaugurations. These rituals and celebrations will mark important times in her life.



### Prayer Points

- Pray for Afar girls as young as 12, many of whom live in fear of being kidnapped into a life they're not ready for. Pray they will know how beautifully and wonderfully He made them, how loved beyond measure.
- Workers strain to hear the coming Bridegroom that seems so far off. Pray the Bride will work patiently, watchful for His coming.
- Pray for the day when Afar celebrate Jesus through their festivals!

# Day 19

# Weddings & Festivals



# Day 20

## Bread

In some of the more remote parts of Afar country, daily meals consist of only handmade bread and fresh goat's or camel's milk. Afar *gaqambo* bread, a flour and water dough pressed out into a thick circle, is prepared in a hot *muufe*, or ground-oven, lined with five large flat stones. More financially stable Afar communities eat gaqambo with afternoon tea or sell it for extra income.

While being tempted in the desert, Jesus quoted the Old Testament saying, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4).



### Prayer Points

- Pray that as Afar eat their bread, they will look to the One who can provide all of their daily needs.
- Ask God to show Afar that they cannot live by bread alone, and draw them to hunger deeply for the Word of God.
- Pray that Afar will come to know Jesus, The Bread of Life.



# Day 21

# A Man's Journey

## Prayer Points

- Ask The Good Shepherd to lead Afar men by still waters-- providing for them, protecting and giving purpose to their lives.
- Ask the Spirit to humble these warrior hearts, then embolden them for His purposes.
- Ask Jesus to appear unmistakably to these desert herdsman in dreams and visions, that they may know the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Young Humed\* often played *koqso* (handball), carefully helped his mother with the goats, and learned each animal by name. Then, around age 12, Humed and his friends were taken outside the camp for a days-long circumcision ritual. When he cried out names from the camel herd, the animals became his. Later, with *gile* (sword), man-skirt and butter-thickened Afro, Humed led his camels on long grazing treks, sustained by their milk. Occasionally he joined a party to avenge a clansman's death. Humed chewed away many long, hot afternoons with khat, rising only for evening prayers. After taking some *gaqambo* (bread), he lay in his hut where "sleep takes him." Morning prayer would sound all too soon.





# Day 22

# The Woman's World



## Prayer Points

- Pray for workers to find women of peace, open to the good news.
- Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of women hardened by hardship and physical pain, that they may know the eternal love of the father.
- Pray for repentance and belief for women who have heard; and perseverance and grace for women who have given their lives to Christ.

Afar girls are raised to obey their fathers, older brothers and husbands. In rural areas, they are still married off to older men. Women faithfully manage their household – balancing the cooking, cleaning and washing. They nurture the children, manage the household money and care for old or sick relatives. If the men have no job, women often add to their other tasks the responsibility of outside work. Afar respect their female elders. A disapproving mother may stop the marriage her husband has arranged for their child. To this day Afar women perpetuate the practice of female circumcision, using razor blades and thorns, to preserve girls for marriage. This causes lifelong problems for women, especially in childbirth.



# Day 23

# Children



An Afar childhood is simple, yet difficult. Children are delivered by traditional midwives, nursed and wrapped in their mothers' old dresses or shawls, and trained as they grow into the Afar way of life. Young kids play near home, cared for by any female relatives that share that same compound. Tires, basic soccer balls, and handmade dolls entertain children. Between the ages of 5 and 10, children, especially girls, begin to take on household responsibilities. Kids care for younger children, carry water, cook meals, sweep the ground, and collect firewood. More children nowadays go to school, especially boys.

Some Afar adults now coming to faith say they first heard about Jesus as children.

As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

## Prayer Points

- Ask God to bring Afar children into contact with Bible stories and introduce them to Jesus at a young age.
- Ask God to protect Afar children from physical, emotional or spiritual burdens they cannot bear.
- Pray that the Afar will have childlike faith to put their trust in Him.





# Day 24 Khat

Afar men experience a constant drain on finances, time and overall well-being. Yet, they eagerly await the next supply of khat, a little green addictive leaf. Every afternoon the men line up to buy their bundles of khat and then separate the leaves from the branch and chew them. The men sit around all afternoon and into the evening chewing this stimulant. Then they wake the next morning longing for more. If you speak with some who see with eyes wide open, they will say "Khat baaxol bayse." Khat destroys the land.

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." (Mt 5:16)*

## Prayer Points

- Pray that the people would lose their hunger for Khat and rather hunger and thirst for the righteousness of God.
- Ask God to release Afar men from the evil addictive power of khat and restore them to wholeness in Jesus' name.
- Pray that more men would be willing and able to see khat's destructive power and look for the only One that can bring restoration to families and the land.



# Day 25

# Translation

Numerous people have worked on the Afar Bible translation since the 1970s. Most of the Afar translators have not been believers. We praise God the whole Afar Bible is now available in 4 volumes – Pentateuch, Prophets & Kings, Poetic Writings and the New Testament. Also, work is in progress to produce a one-volume edition with cross-references. This translation will be easier to read. Oral recordings will also make the Word more accessible to non-literate people.

God says the scriptures "are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus ... profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:15-17)



## Prayer Points

- Pray for wide distributions of both oral and written Scripture to reach and engage many with His Word.
- Pray that the unbelieving translators will remember its message and come to know its author.
- Pray for wisdom for those continuing to work on the written and oral versions and for the necessary finances to print the whole Bible.



# Day 26

# Volcanoes



The Danakil Depression in Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia is caused by the African Plate splitting apart along the East African Rift. The associated volcanic activities have created an apocalyptic landscape of cooled, black, barren lava fields. Remains of volcanic craters, some which erupted as recently as 1978 and 2011, dot the landscape, and the Afar call these lava lakes "The Gateway to Hell." In the middle of this unstable and inhospitable territory, the Afar manage to survive, living in small huts alongside these indomitable powers of nature, raising their goats, sheep and camels on the sparse vegetation.

*"The desert and the parched land will be glad..." (Isa 35:1)*

## Prayer Points

- Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to erupt in the territory of the Afar and shape a new spiritual landscape.
- Pray that Afar may experience God's grace and blessing as He cares for their flocks and their families alike.
- Confronted with images of hell, pray that the Afar will encounter Jesus, the "Gateway to Heaven".



Afar pastoralists are totally dependent on their animals: for food and to earn money to buy other necessities.

Goats form the majority of animals, with fewer numbers of camels, sheep and cattle.

The major problem is lack of food. Much of the Afar Triangle has experienced poor rainfall for the last seven years.

Disease is rife with major endemic diseases and parasitism causing significant losses. Currently the Afar have little or no access to veterinary services, though government efforts are increasing. Every evening, shepherds gather herds to safety in stone-walled pens topped with thorns to protect the animals from jackals and baboons.

Jesus said "I am the gate for the sheep." (Jn 10:7)

### Prayer Points

- Ask God to bless those seeking to establish Afar veterinary services.
- Pray that those seeking to spread the good news amongst the Afar may be able to perceive and engage opportunities.
- Pray the Afar may come to know that their ultimate safety depends on the Good Shepherd Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life.



Day 27

# Animal Husbandry





# Day 28

# Water

An Afar woman thinks about water every day. She checks all the containers and realizes she will have to fetch water tomorrow. Her baby is sick. Who will care for him while she is away? The local well has dried up. She will have to walk 2 miles further to the riverbed and climb down the hand-dug hole to retrieve muddy water.

The Afar people live in a persistently dry region, so water is life. The only water lies deep below the surface and rises only through wells and pumps. Afar spend a lot of their time obtaining water for families and their animals.

## Prayer Points

- Pray for boldness for the first Afar believers, that their testimony will draw others to drink from the Living Water.
- Pray God will prepare the Afar to embrace alternatives, like farming, to their nomadic lifestyle, which is increasingly limited due to water shortages.
- Pray that living water will flow in the desert of the Afar, that the Spirit of God would be poured out upon the people. (Isa.44:3)





# Day 29

# Gateway Cities

Where are the Afar? They most often live in ruggedly rural environments. Not many outsiders have access to these regions. However, the Afar also periodically visit regional centers for supplies. They sometimes move there, for periods of time, in order to take advantage of employment or educational opportunities. Could they encounter believers in these places?

Not many Afar towns exist. But Djibouti's Tadjourah is one of the largest predominantly Afar urban areas. Ethiopian towns like Bati, on the edge of Afar territory, experience an influx of Afar every hot season. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia sometimes serves as a staging area for Eritrean Afar refugees seeking asylum in the West. These refugees go to places like Scandinavia, France, Belgium, North America, and Australia, and blend in among other immigrants.

## Prayer Points

- Pray that God, who knows and sees each Afar, will guide workers to find Afar in these key urban areas.
- As they move to and from urban areas, ask God to draw these mobile Afar to believers.
- Pray that local believers in urban areas may seek out and love their Afar neighbors well.



## Prayer Points

- Thank the Lord that the Great Commission is a mandate for all believers worldwide.
- Pray that the Afar Church will grow strong in the knowledge of God's Word, deeply grounded in all that Jesus has commanded.
- Ask God to raise up an Afar church with a heart for the nations, beginning with their neighboring enemies and extending to other peoples in the region and beyond.



The Afar historically have been adamant adversaries of the Somali, so it was truly a work of the Holy Spirit when, in the midst of a training, an Afar believer said, "Can we be the ones to take this Story to the Somali?"

At the end of Matthew's gospel, just prior to His ascension, Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Day 30  
Advancing  
the Kingdom