



PRAY FOR ETHIOPIA

Persecution in Ethiopia is complex and multifaceted, shaped by a blend of historical legacies, religious dominance, regional dynamics, and ongoing political instability. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC), with deep historical ties to the state, has long influenced national identity. Its ultra-conservative factions often portray Protestant and evangelical Christians as foreign and unpatriotic, leading to widespread stigmatization and pressure, especially against converts from Orthodoxy. Converts from Islam, particularly in eastern and southeastern Ethiopia, face severe hostility, ranging from family rejection to physical violence. In Muslim-majority regions such as the Somali state and parts of Oromia, Christian converts suffer mob attacks, church burnings, and systemic discrimination. Ethiopia's ethnic strife and Islamic extremism endanger believers. Political conflicts and ongoing tensions amplify these threats, displacing communities and stifling freedom. Yet, the Church stands unshaken: Ethiopia's 60% Christian population grows.

1. Thank God for Ethiopia's **rich cultural heritage** and its nearly 140 000 people. Pray for unity and restoration to heal the nation's ethnic and political divisions.
2. Give thanks for Ethiopia's Christians, who make up about 60% of the population and **remain steadfast** despite challenges. Ask for endurance to live out their faith boldly.
3. Praise God for the Church's courage in sharing the Gospel in hostile regions. **Pray for opportunities** and strength to continue spreading hope through their witness.
4. With Ethiopia ranking 36th on the 2026 World Watch List, persecution stems from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) and Islamic extremism. Pray for **clarity and resilience** for Christians facing these pressures.
5. **Lift up pastors** who face arrests and harassment for challenging policies or speak up against marginalisation of protestants/evangelicals. Ask for their protection, wisdom, and strength to guide their communities through adversity.
6. **Pray for Christian women** particularly in the Somali and Oromia regions, where they risk forced marriage, violence, and ostracism. Seek their safety and emotional healing from trauma.
7. Support Christian men, particularly **leaders and converts**, targeted with imprisonment, physical attacks, or death. Pray for their safety and provision for families facing economic hardship.
8. The conflicts in Tigray, Amhara, and Oromia have displaced countless Christians. Pray for **comfort, resources, and places of safety** for those forced from their homes and for those offering shelter.
8. Ask for **guidance for youth** struggling with limited access to education and jobs due to ongoing violence. Pray the Church equips them with hope and purpose to resist extremist influences.
9. Pray for churches in Oromia and Somali regions, that have suffered vandalism by mobs, to be rebuilt. Ask for **secure spaces** where believers can worship and gather freely.
10. **Uphold converts** from Islam and EOC backgrounds who face rejection, threats, and violence from families and communities. Pray for their safety and support to practice their faith, even in hiding.
11. Pray for Ethiopia's government, led by PM Abiy Ahmed, to address instability and censorship where it still exists. Ask for transparent leadership that upholds **religious freedom for all citizens**.
12. Seek an end to the impunity of Islamic and tribal groups targeting Christians. Pray that their actions are disrupted and that many encounter the **transformative power of the Gospel**.
13. Pray for **renewed harmony** between Christians and Muslims, especially in Afar, Somali, and Oromia, where tensions are high. Ask for believers to build bridges of peace while sharing their faith.
14. Lift up Christian communities denied access to resources like healthcare and jobs in Muslim majority or tribal areas. Pray for **inclusion and fairness** in community life.



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