

**WATCH AND PRAY**  
**Report from Nairobi 11-30-11**

They come to Nairobi and they keep coming. Believers from Ethiopia, whose churches have burned, who can not talk to others about their reason for hope, they come. They come from Somalia: widows and children running from the Muslim fanatics who slaughtered their husbands, brothers, and sons for singing a hymn. They come from Eritrea: imprisoned within a container in the desert for months at a time for holding a bible or for gathering at a house meeting; their houses burned; their possessions taken or destroyed for knowing Jesus is Lord. They come from Djibouti: chained for telling their neighbor that Jesus is alive and loves them. These Christians come to find refuge in Kenya. First in the refugee camps in the north – you have heard of the DaDaab camp on the nightly news. But the unofficial leadership in the camps is Muslim gangs, so Christians in the camps do not survive for long. You have never heard more vibrant praise, more fervent prayer, more powerful teaching of the word, than that in the Nairobi churches of these refugees who have nothing but their religious freedom. Indigenous pastors from these East African countries move to and from Nairobi for training, for resupply of materials, for connection with refugee believers with the support of Watch and Pray.

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> was celebrated in East Africa as the National Day of Prayer coordinated by Pastor Getaneh and Watch and Pray Ministries. Refugees, evangelists and pastors representing these countries as well as The Sudan and portions of Kenya, where Christians are not able to freely worship, gathered at the Assemblies of God (AG) church in Nairobi for a day of worship, teaching, prayer, and fellowship. Moving banners calling out to “share their tears” covered the walls. Choirs sang, poets expressed and enacted the burden of persecution, children marched with country flags. The day was capped by corporate prayer and commissioning of the pastors for their influence in their native lands, for their safety and favor as they train evangelists to preach, and for the freedom of those pastors now incarcerated and suffering.

Following the Saturday meeting, cells of extended prayer and teaching in many languages took place through Tuesday. Despite the language barrier, the Holy Spirit's presence allowed even this mono-English speaker the grace to understand the essence of the spoken word.

The Somali meeting was particularly moving. Packed into a small and almost airless room were 50 believers and children. The women and young girls wore traditional dress, covering their hair and often their faces. Each had a story, strong and compelling. Most could not have their faces photographed for fear of reprisal when they travel back to Somalia or for their families left behind. Yet their songs of praise were joyful, they attended to every word of Abdul – the W&P country leader of Djibouti with a ministry for the Somali believers.

The Watch and Pray country leadership team are an impressive group. These are men whose entire lives are dedicated to developing believers, particularly those who are Muslim. They each have developed vision and are taking effective action. Hundreds of families are turning their lives over to Jesus. They are training indigenous evangelists to further carry the Word.

L was born into a Muslim family in Mogadishu. She accepted Jesus as her savior at age 17. Her mother and father reported this to the governing community Muslims who threatened her and then poured boiling oil over her left arm, chest and shoulder resulting in third degree burns down to bone. She was hospitalized for over a year of surgeries and skin grafts. Today her arm is barely usable and she bears disfiguring scars. She says she feels as a ghost. But her faith remains as strong as when she was a teen.

*Jeanne Mahoney for Pastor Getaneh Getaneh*