

Somali Christian Forum Conference Report

February 17-22, 2024

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Theme: Acts 9:31

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied."

From February 18-22, 2024, thirteen Somali leaders gathered with a small team from North America to facilitate a retreat and training to deal with the effects of trauma. Our goal was to equip faithful leaders in the Horn of Africa to find Joy, Rest, and Healing in Jesus together, and discover God's vision for leadership in God's word.

We focussed our time discussing the relationship between joy & trauma, and how experienced God's joy can give us the fuel & capacity to deal with the pain that comes from many areas of our lives.

We studied scripture and gained practical skills to in the areas of:

- Building joy
- Listening
- Lamenting
- Sharing weaknesses
- Being trustworthy
- Calming ourselves during stressful situations
- Understanding the journey of grief
- Sharing our stories of hardship with one another

During this training, we observed an increased sense of community, love, and connectedness as brothers and sisters leaned on one another for healing from trauma.

Somali leaders shared personal pleas for the church in Somalia to address trauma through discipleship and compassion ministry. We feel stronger than ever that discipleship of Somali Christians must be trauma-informed in order to be effective and Biblical. May God continue to heal and multiply His Somali church!