

# Somali Christian Forum Conference Report

February 23rd-27th, 2024

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



## Report Summary

The conference theme was "Divine Wisdom" (Colossians 2:2-3), and it brought together Somali Christian leaders from various East African countries, Europe and North America. **The report highlights the conference's objectives, discussions, and outcomes, including:**

1. Unity and fellowship among Somali Christians.
2. Reflection on the theme of Divine Wisdom.
3. Discussion of challenges and opportunities in Somali missions and outreach.
4. Commitment to working for transformation, justice, and peace.
5. Recognition of the importance of education and media for the purpose of effective evangelism and character transformation.

**The report also includes a call to action for Somali Christians to deepen their witness, foster relationships, and commit to God's mission.** The Somali Christian Forum's vision is to see every Somali Christian and church unified to bring unity, peace, and transformation to the Somali people and the world. Their mission is to empower Somali believers to serve and reach their Muslim families, friends, and neighbors with the message of Jesus Christ.

The report concludes with contact information for the SCF and a closing prayer from Ephesians 3:20-21.

# Full Report

**Theme:** "Divine Wisdom" (Col.2:2-3)

*... "that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"*

Greetings to all who call on the name of Jesus Christ as Lord!

In February 2024, the SCF forum had another amazing year. Somali Christian leaders from various East African countries, Europe and North America including Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Norway and USA gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **The meeting atmosphere was characterized by mutual partnership, trust, consensus and relationship building.** All the delegates praised and felt a deep sense of fellowship.

The main theme of this year's conference was Colossians 2:2-3, which the participants reflected on this teaching.

**The goal of the conference was to consider the current and future state of the Somali Church. It is incredible to see the growth of the underground Somali church in Africa, North America, and Europe.**

For many years, the Somali church has faced persecution, and the regional and global churches have had little awareness of the existence of Christians among the Somali people in the East Africa region. Therefore, the leaders in this forum came together to represent the thousands of Somali Christians who have been voiceless and to address their common challenges.

During the conference, the participants enjoyed being together and knowing each other as well as praying, having fellowship and studying the Bible together. They also discussed the challenges and opportunities in the Somali missions and outreach, focusing on sharing the Gospel and pursuing justice, mercy, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

**Many leaders shared their experiences of what God is doing in their work and how they are participating in God's mission in the world by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through both in their words and actions.**

The participants agreed to demonstrate their love for God by loving their neighbours as themselves (Matthew 22:37-39). They also showed their commitment to working for the transformation of their communities, following the example of Jesus and the Scripture. They are ready to join with all people of goodwill in the pursuit of justice, peace, and the stewardship of God's creation.

**We thank God for the unique breadth of this gathering and for the opportunity He gave us to meet in an atmosphere of trust and openness. During this gathering, we were able to acknowledge and repent of our past failings to bear with one another in love.**

We acknowledge that we have often allowed prejudices to shape our understanding of different Christian traditions. As God's adopted children, we welcome the opportunity to meet and encourage one another and explore together the forgiveness and redemption found in Christ (cf. Eph 1:5).

As Christians within our Muslim background believers, we affirm the importance of being together to reflect upon the prayer of our Lord that those who believe in Him may all be one, so that the world may believe that God sent Him (cf. John 17:21). Recognizing this unity is the first and the foremost God's gift through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our commitment is to press on in promoting ever greater understanding and cooperation among Christians, while respecting the diversity of our identities, traditions, and individual gifts (1 Cor 12). In doing so, we build on the basis of many ecumenical historic initiatives to overcome divisions among Somali Christians.

The process of the Somali Christian Forum, affirmed during these days in Addis Ababa, must now continue. We will pray for one another and work to convene local and regional events, as well as other global conference to deepen this journey toward the goal of reconciliation, peace-building, servant leadership, Biblical shepherding for Somali Church leaders and justice and advocating for the rights of persecuted Christians at the local and regional level. The participants have also recognized the power of education for persecuted believers as a tool for evangelism and character change. Furthermore, they have discovered that media and literature developments are changing the mentality of millions of Somali people, particularly the youth who need to hear a positive, loving, and forgiving religion rather than a violent and hateful one.

**Therefore, we call on all those who confess God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to join us in raising their hearts in the hope that all of humanity may come to know the fullness of life in Christ** (Math. 28:19-20, Col 2:10). We invite all brothers and sisters in the Lord to engage within their own settings the rich resources of the Somali Christian Forum, which are designed to equip and empower Somali Christian leaders.

Actions agreed upon by the leaders who participated in the forum:

- 1. Deepening our witness - All the leaders who participated in the conference agreed to witness the unengaged Somali community and areas (villages, districts, and regions).**
- 2. To foster relationships that may lead to common witness (John 17:21).**
- 3. To deepen our commitment to God's mission towards the Somali people and others in the world**

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."* (Eph 3:20-21, NIV).

Please get in touch with us at [info@somalichristianforum.com](mailto:info@somalichristianforum.com), if you have any questions

Yours in Christ,

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*Secretary-General*

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Streeting Committees  
Addis Ababa, February 2024

