

ERITREA



In 1886, the Italians colonized Eritrea and used the country as a springboard to conquer Ethiopia. When Italy surrendered to the Allies after World War II, Eritrea was placed under British military administration and then combined with Ethiopia. Eritrea was promised a degree of independence and democratic rights from Ethiopia. In 1962, the Emperor of Ethiopia dissolved the Eritrean parliament and annexed the country. This led to a thirty-year civil war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Finally in 1993, Eritrea was declared an independent state. Between 1965 and 1991, an estimated 750,000 people fled the country due to war, famine, political unrest, and persecution.

Orthodox Christians who live in the highlands make up 50% of the population of Eritrea. Muslims, who are 48% of the population, live in the lowlands.

By the year 2000, approximately 30,000 Eritreans lived in the United States. Some found work in Chicago as taxi drivers and parking attendants; others have opened their own businesses, including restaurants, garages, and auto repair shops.

Most Eritreans came as refugees and many struggle relationally with Ethiopians whom they have largely been identified with. Tensions between Eritreans and Ethiopians in Chicago have been volatile. **Pray for healing through Jesus of the wounds experienced through war and ethnic oppression, as well as reconciliation with Ethiopians.** Soccer teams, who play in an annual Eritrean Tournament in the United States, have brought the two ethnic groups in the city together. **Pray for divine appointments to now occur with Christians willing to build relationships and share their personal relationship with Jesus.**

FAQS

SIZE

State of Pennsylvania

POPULATION

4,906,585

CAPITAL

Asmara

LANGUAGE

No official language

RELIGION

Islam, Coptic

UPG'S

12

POP. IN CHICAGO

800

LOCATION

Edgewater, Evanston,
Rogers Park, Skokie,
Uptown

VISIT

Asmara Cafe
6511 N Clark
Chicago, IL
773-338-9650

PSALM 67:3

"Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You."

