

AFM Connect!



Anglican Frontier Missions

Connecting You to Unreached Peoples

May 2009

PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS

Quick Facts on the Maay speakers of Somalia



- Identified as the Digil-Rahawiin, also the Juba Somalis
- Marriages generally monogamous, chosen from within the clan. Children are viewed as a great asset. Average life expectancy at birth is 49.63 years (in contrast to 78 years in the United States)
- Muslim by faith and Arabic by culture, the Maay are very resistant to Christian evangelism efforts.

Related Links:

[Joshua Project profile](#),
[Life in Muslim Somalia](#),
[prayforsomalia.org](#)

*Sources: Wikipedia, OMF

Pray for the Maay

Gracious Father, may you give a spirit of wisdom to know your son Jesus Christ to the Maay People of Somalia. We ask that the eyes of their hearts, and ours, will be enlightened, so that we may know the hope to which you have called us. Bring the peace of Christ to Somalia and establish your rule on land and sea, **for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

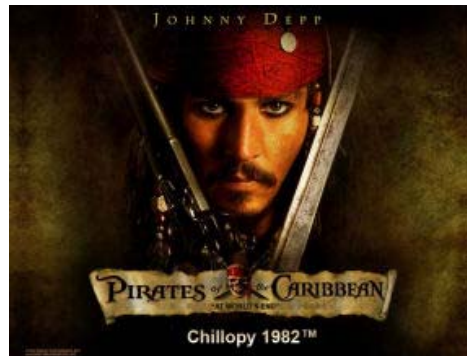
Director's Message



Is there a Christian response to piracy? Does it even matter to people in North America what happens thousands of miles away in Gulf of Aden? Or the Indian Ocean?

President Obama is resolved to "halt the rise of piracy". But, the Economist raises the question: **Will shooting pirates off Somalia solve this growing maritime problem?**

The pirate's score-card is impressive: in 2008, they attacked 111 vessels, capturing 42 including the *Sirius Star* (a Saudi supertanker) and *MVFaina* (a Ukrainian tank-carrier). In 2009, they've attacked 68 times, capturing 18 ships. The *Maersk Alabama's* recent rescue with Capt Richard Phillips grabbed our media's attention, but a basic question remains: How can a viable government get established on land in Somalia that's going to impact piracy at sea? No one appears to know the answer to this question.



[Link to Economist article from April 16, 2009 on piracy in Somalia](#)

Piracy is hardly new. I'm reminded of the story about 70 years before Christ was born when Julius Caesar was kidnapped by pirates in the Aegean Sea, close to modern day Turkey. The pirates demanded 20 talents of silver as ransom (perhaps worth \$1,000,000 today?). Caesar was insulted and said they had no idea who they were dealing with. He refused and insisted they demanded 50 talents (about \$2,500,000 today?). They thought he was joking! However, Caesar's friends rescued him, he raised a fleet, captured the pirates and had them all crucified.

What should we do today? One option is the Julius Caesar route: Crucify them! Another might be NATO-EU-US coalition approach: Police the waters! Maybe we could suggest a third option: Evangelize Somalia! Join AFM this month in praying for Somalia, particularly for the Maay People who are one of the least known about, least reached peoples on earth.

Peace to you this Easter,
Julian Linnell, PhD AFM Executive Director

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Connect with unreached people groups

Crestwood Church in Richmond, VA told us the story recently of how the Lord led them to adopt the Maay People of Somalia. Lindsay Durette, a member of the church mission committee, spoke of how AFM had provided them with a list of the 25 least evangelized peoples in the world. Read about their adoption journey on page 3 of this month's *Connect!*.



Connect with AFM in Action

- **AFM Ambassador Program begins this month:** Volunteers with a passion for peoples uninvited to the Heavenly Banquet are getting involved in promoting AFM in their areas. Contact AFM office for info about an Ambassador in your area!
- **Career Opportunities:** AFM is seeking 5 NEW workers for unreached peoples in 2009. Tired of ordinary suburban Christian life? Try a new venture with unreached Muslims, Hindus or Buddhists! We'd like to talk with you about how to get engaged with those who've never heard of Jesus.
- **Prayer Team:** AFM is seeking 50 NEW prayer supporters for 2009. You can impact the frontiers of world mission from your living room through prayer! Jesus prayed a missionary prayer when he said "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10). Contact paula@afm-us.org if you'd like to join AFM's prayer ministry.

ONLINE SURVEY

[An online survey](#) was recently distributed to you by email to solicit your opinion of AFM Connect!. Thank you to everyone who participated, as this is valuable information for our work. If you have not yet completed this survey, we invite you to share your suggestions so that we may better serve you.

Events Calendar

June 19-27 Valley Forge, PA: Perspectives on World Christian Movement Intensive Course www.perspectives.org

June 22-25 Bedford, TX: Anglican Church in North America Conference <http://www.acn-us.org/archive/2009/04/speakers-announced-acna-assembly.html>

July 8-17 Anaheim, CA: General Convention, The Episcopal Church <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.html>

July (TBD) AFM Office, Richmond, VA: Practical mission training for reaching unreached people groups (2-3 day seminar)

GOLDEN GIFT CERTIFICATES will be mailed to shoppers in early May. Please consider donating your points to AFM before May 31st by mailing your certificate to our office. The more points we accumulate, the greater percentage we receive of the \$200,000 overall donation. [Click here for more details.](#)



Vision: Anglican Frontier Missions' vision is to reach the 25 largest unevangelized ethnic peoples on earth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. AFM is an independent mission agency founded in 1993 as a non-profit 501c3. AFM is supported financially through churches and individuals. To support this effort, please visit our website (<http://www.afm-us.org>) for more information. You may also join our mailing list via our website and receive this monthly newsletter via email with links to people group profiles and other mission resources.

YTD FINANCIAL SUMMARY (April 2009)

	Income	Expense
Budget	\$51,498	\$80,388
Actual	\$67,632	\$79,308
Difference	+\$16,134	-\$1,080

Case Study: Crestwood Church Adopts Maay People of Somalia

Crestwood Church in Richmond, VA began investigating adopting a people in 2007. The church mission committee initially thought they would adopt a group that one member of the congregation had a special interest in. After some inquiries, they discovered this person's special interest group was already "reached" for the Gospel, so they moved on.

The Missions Committee had encouraged church members to take the 15-week missions class entitled "**The Perspectives Course**" offered in Richmond in the Fall of 2007. The chair of the committee asked Lindsay Durette to suggest a group "they could potentially visit", possibly close to some of the missionaries the church was already supporting in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Lindsay spoke to a staff member of **Anglican Frontier Missions** who showed her the list of the **25 largest, least evangelized people groups**. She selected the Maay People of Somalia because of their proximity to Crestwood's missionaries, but also because of their inaccessibility and their *unreachedness*.



In early 2008, Lindsay gave a report to the Mission Committee about the Maay People based on her class project about the Maay. The Senior Pastor invited those who had taken the course to have dinner at his home after the course had ended. He asked them "So, now you've taken this course, what are you going to do about it? What's the next step?" The 8 members of the Mission **Committee decided to set aside 6 months to pray for the Lord to guide them to a people group**. During that period, they heard reports from the Miao People of SE Asia, the Sanaani of Yemen, the Yadava of India and Lindsay gave a report on the Maay people based on her class project.

After 6 months, the **Mission Committee had a blind ballot vote and all had voted for the Maay People** of Somalia. They were delighted that God had called them to such an unreached, inaccessible group.

In late Fall of 2008, the Mission Committee presented to the entire church the needs and opportunities of the Maay People. This followed an early Fall missions conference in which the church had been made aware of missions in general. Once Crestwood had decided on the Maay, they contacted the Joshua Project to register their church as having adopted the Maay. They encouraged the entire church to get engaged with the Maay People in a variety of ways:

- **To celebrate a Maay/Somali “holiday”** (akin to Independence Day in the US) one Sunday in church
- To have the **senior pastor and associate pastor pray publically** and regularly for the Maay People during Sunday services
- To hold a special **prayer meeting once a month** for the Maay People hosted by the Mission Committee but inviting members of the congregation to join in
- **To make A “Daily Prayer Guide”** for the Maay People available for private devotions and made available
- **Somali recipes and traditional foods** were prepared and offered during a Sunday
- News about **Somali pirates** has grabbed peoples’ attention about Somalia

Crestwood’s engagement for the Maay People is through prayer at this point. They have no particular plans to send a team to visit Somalia. There is some interest in finding out if there are Maay refugees in the US (and reports indicate that there are and that some have converted to Christianity) and if the church could invite some to speak at Crestwood. As of Spring 2009, the church needs some fresh ways to inject momentum into their adoption of the Maay. They are encouraged, though, that the Lord is in control and it was He who clearly guided them to the Maay.

Comment:

Crestwood is an excellent example of a prayerful process of selecting a people group. The senior leadership empowered individuals and owned the people group publically from the front of the church regularly on Sundays. The mission committee did research, provided materials, created ways to engage the church. After their initial *honeymoon* period, it would seem that the leadership needs to evaluate how to continue in 2010 and beyond e.g., through video awareness of what’s happening today in Somalia, through visits to Crestwood from Maay People or missionaries close to the action, to attend a consultation meeting for missionaries in that region of Africa, development of children’s Sunday School curriculum, envisaging Youth getting plugged into the Maay (similar to the Invisible Children’s Project several years’ ago from Uganda?) or by sending a church member to take a look at the situation on the ground, etc. My assumption is that there is a line-item in their missions budget for the Maay people.

Is your church interested in adopting a people group or have a adoption story to share about your church? Contact paula@afm-us.org