



## PRAYING THROUGH THE WINDOW 7

### *Political & Spiritual Leaders*

#### DJIBOUTI

#### **Leader: President Ismael Omar Gelleh**

After gaining independence from France in 1977, Djibouti enjoyed a balance between its two main ethnic groups: the Issa of Somali origin and the Afar of Ethiopian origin. Unfortunately, in time, the nature of man's jealous heart took hold in these two ethnic groups and plunged this small country into a civil war. When a power-sharing deal ended the internal strife, Djibouti, Africa's third smallest state, became known as a haven of calm in a stormy region. And while Islam has been declared the state religion, conformity is not enforced, and other religions have considerable freedom allowing it to be a vital and key base for Christian witness.

President Ismael Omar Gelleh endorses the country's French ties, as a lack of water, industry and natural resources make the country dependant on French aid and their large military base. Born in 1947, President Gelleh is the second president of Djibouti, succeeding his uncle, Hassan Gouled Aptidon in 1999. The president is considered a peacemaker who has played an important role in trying to reconcile the different factions in neighboring Somalia.

#### **Prayer points:**

🌐 Pray the present freedom of religion not be lost to the Islamist voice which grows louder as the economic situation declines.

🌐 Pray President Ismael Omar Gelleh clearly hear the Gospel.

*Father in Heaven, we rejoice in the calm of this little African country and praise You that their president is known as a reconciler. LORD God, show President Gelleh the truth of Jesus, who reconciled to You all who would believe. Offer him real peace through the blood of Christ. Thank You that Djibouti plays a critical role as a key base for Christian witness. We praise You that through this nation, Your children are allowed to be open ambassadors of reconciliation. We ask that You hush the Islamic voice in this precious land and allow its impact upon Djibouti's people to be minimal. We ask this in the Holy name of Jesus.*