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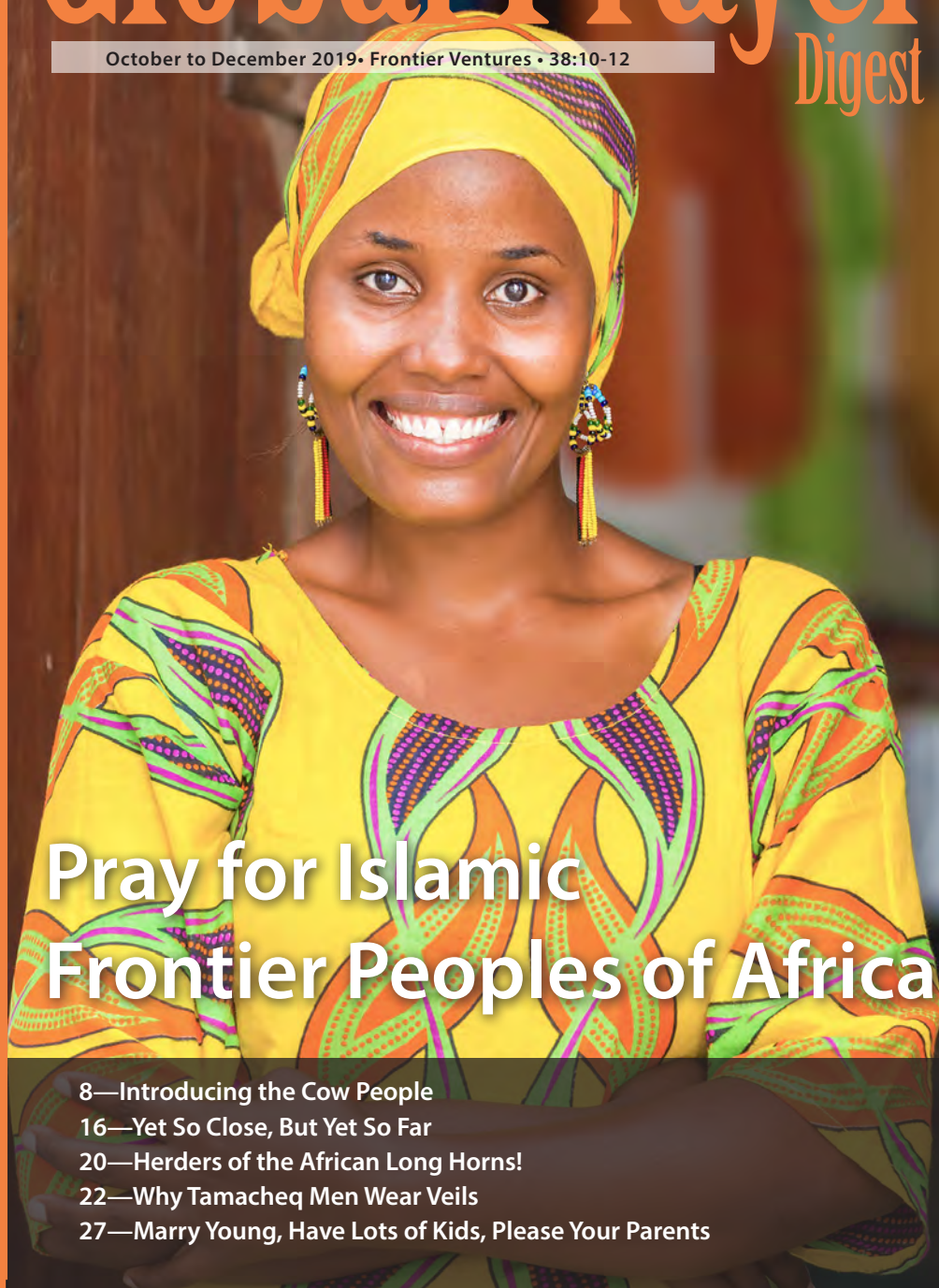
October-December 2019 • Frontier Ventures

38::10-12

Global Prayer Digest

www.globalprayerdigest.org

October to December 2019 • Frontier Ventures • 38:10-12



Pray for Islamic Frontier Peoples of Africa

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Dear Praying Friends,

Most of this issue is about frontier people groups in Africa. It deals with nomadic Muslim groups like the various Fulani tribes. Every time I edit stories about such groups, I am reminded of what the SIM International missionary, Malcolm Hunter, often told me. Malcolm is an advocate for reaching nomads, and he spent many years doing it.

At one time, zealous Muslims reached these tribes. They were willing to do whatever it took to take Islam to these people groups. Even today in late 2019 there is very little witness about our victorious, risen savior among these nomads. The job is very difficult; it means traveling with them under challenging conditions. For example, even the water source usually isn't safe. But Matt 28:18-20 clearly tells us that no tribe, tongue or nation is to be left out from hearing the gospel. Your prayers this month will be part of the process of sending Christ to these nations. Hearts are softened by prayer, and spiritual obstacles are removed. Are you ready for the prayer challenge?

In Christ,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, **GPD**

Join the **GPD** and the Joshua Project in praying each day for these same people groups!

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October 2019

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Pray for the Muslim Frontier People Groups in AFRICA



AFRICA

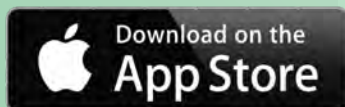
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Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with friends who are involved in this movement.
- You can pray for the people group while you work out.

Why Islam Took and Shook the African Heart

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Today Christianity and Islam are the two largest religions in Africa. Both religions have sent missionaries to this continent, and there is still a battle going on for the hearts and minds of the African people. Before you pray each day for specific African peoples, it would be helpful to know how and why Islam became so popular in this part of the world.

BY WESLEY
KAWATO, GPD
WRITER

Islam in Africa

African Religions Before Islam

The religions of Africa were more alike than people thought prior to the arrival of Islam. Most African religions featured a belief in multiple gods, who were often led by a high god, recognized to be the leader of all the others. They also believed in ancestor spirits. Animism was also a common feature of African religions. That's the belief that the natural world is inhabited by spirits that require appeasement.

The religions of Africa shared other common factors. None of them had written scriptures; beliefs were passed down orally through families. They never had reformers or founders. The religions of Africa never had a Buddha, Christ or Mohammed. There was no desire to spread the faith; no African religion sent missionaries to other people groups.

The first Christian missionaries to Africa had much to learn about the local religions of this continent. They got off to a slow start in the battle for the hearts and minds of Africa, because they did not understand that there was already some common ground, namely belief in a supreme God.

The Spread of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa

Islam arrived in Africa during the 7th century A.D., while Mohammed was still alive. In 614 A.D. the disciples of Mohammed faced persecution in Arabia. In that year Mohammed encouraged 23 of his disciples to resettle in Abyssinia, what is now modern-day Ethiopia. When they arrived in Ethiopia, these early Muslims were protected by King Armah. Armah would later convert to Islam. The Horn of Africa became Islam's first base of operation on that continent. Many of the first African converts to Islam were merchants. By 600 A.D. there were already extensive trade connections between the Horn of Africa and Arabia.

At first all converts to Islam were voluntary. That changed in 641 A.D. By that year Caliph Umar Ibn Al-Khattab had firm control of Arabia. In 641 A.D. he sent armies to conquer Egypt. A year later he conquered Libya. Christians were driven out of both countries. Conversions to Islam increased. In this way northeastern Africa became Islam's base of operations on that continent. Missionaries from Ethiopia, Egypt, and Libya would take the message of the Qur'an south into the eastern part of sub-Saharan Africa.

continued on next page

During the second half of the 7th century A.D. Muslim armies conquered northwest Africa, creating a second sending base for Muslim missionaries. Missionaries from this region would take Islam to West Africa. At times the conversion of key leaders would open the door for the further spread of Islam. In 711 A.D. the king of Senegal embraced the message of Mohammed. This opened the door for Islam to spread even further south into what is now Nigeria. Meanwhile Muslim missionaries from the Horn of Africa spread their religion down the east coast of Africa. They reached Mozambique around 800 A.D. The Kingdom of Kush, in what is now Sudan, fiercely resisted the spread of Islam. Kush blocked the movement of Muslim missionaries into the interior of East Africa. That blockage ended with the collapse of Kush around 800 A.D.

In all parts of Africa, the spread of the Arabic language often opened the door for the spread of Islam to various people groups. Today Islam is strong in much of north, west and east Africa.

Why Islam Became Popular in Africa

Islam spread rapidly into Africa partly because the early Muslim missionaries asked very little of their converts. Most African converts were allowed to worship their traditional gods along with Allah. Secondly, the peoples of Africa saw the Arabs as a source of knowledge and high civilization. Many of these people groups saw adopting the religion of the Arabs as a way of helping them advance. For example, in many African kingdoms, Arab scholars founded the first schools and colleges. Thirdly, in Africa, Islam was associated with trade and wealth. Many merchants in Africa were Arab traders who were already Muslims. Being associated with the religion of the Arab traders often opened the door for wealth and prestige. Some of the Arab traders also intermarried with local women, further spreading Islam to their wives and to the children they procreated since converting to Islam is mandatory for those who marry a Muslim.

Ironically, the reasons that made Islam popular in Africa also allowed it to be shallow in the way it was practiced. Many African Muslims still worship African gods along with Allah. Even those who worship only Allah don't fully accept Sharia Law. Most African Muslims only apply Sharia Law to matters of marriage, inheritance, divorce, and child custody.



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We followers of Jesus Christ haven't lost the battle for the hearts of Africans, even among people groups that are majority Muslim. Most African Muslims are not militants. Groups like Nigeria's Boko Haram are the exception.

Let's Pray!

- Ask God to raise up faithful workers to take the message of salvation to every Muslim people group in Africa.
- Pray for spiritual hunger that will open African Muslims to the true holiness of Jesus Christ.
- Pray that God would use dreams and visions to make the people groups of Africa realize that Jesus Christ is the true way of salvation for their families.
- Pray that leaders of each African Muslim people group will understand that Jesus offers blessings that they will never have without embracing him as savior.
- Pray for Jesus to make an inroad into every extended family in Africa.
- Pray for a disciple-making movement among every Muslim people in Africa.

SHIRAZI PEOPLE OF TANZANIA

REV 1:8, NLT

"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."

Thank God that he will prevail, and the kingdoms of this earth will become the kingdom of the Lord! Pray that the Shirazi people will realize this and join his family.

iStock/JanRoode



The Mission Aviation Fellowship airstrip was lit up with many people of Tanzania, including curious Shirazi people. The JESUS Film was flashing its amazing

truth to them for the first time!

Shirazi people have a history of abuse as attacks, plundering, and enslavement have come from outsiders. However, they are resilient surviving people. Today there are estimated 610,000 of them living mainly in northeast Tanzania.

Shirazi people are almost entirely Muslim, but they also practice folk religion and witchcraft. There is possibly one follower of Christ for every 1,000 Muslims among them. Bible resources are available in their Swahili trade language. But Shirazi people remain in spiritual bondage in this country where technically there is religious freedom. Religious tradition is a cruel prison!

Widespread poverty plagues Shirazi people. To those willing to go, there are many opportunities to help the people with education, literacy, medicine, water wells, and agricultural skills.

Pray for a movement of the Holy Spirit among the Shirazi people that will lead them to place their full trust in Jesus Christ as their sin bearer. Pray for Christ's disciples to find people of peace who will welcome those who carry God's truth. Pray that the next decade will be the one where the Shirazi people begin an unstoppable disciple making movement.—KH

TIGREAN ERITREANS IN ERITREA

Tigrean people in Eritrea believe they must offer sacrifices of livestock or precious corn when they think they have committed too many sins. They also desperately hope to please spirits that can cause rain, heal their sick, and control fearful events. They do not know that Almighty God who, out of unspeakable love for them, has already offered his own beloved son as their scapegoat.

Tigreans suffer from many hardships including droughts, civil wars, famines, all of which result in health and survival problems that have lasted for way too many years.

Tigrean men customarily tend livestock. Women carry water, build round cone-shaped huts, and care for children. Their families average seven children. Women also weave baskets and sleeping mats from palm branches. Those who live in towns and villages usually welcome strangers. Perhaps many will be people of peace to open their doors to disciples bearing God's word for them to hear for the first time.

Audio, visual, and written Bible resources have been translated into the language of this folk Islamic people; however, someone must bring these important tools to them.

Pray that Tigrean people in Eritrea will receive the one true scapegoat who loves them infinitely, and longs to bring them into his kingdom. Pray that soon they will trade their fear for his joy.—KH



A Tigrean woman preparing coffee

iStock/Anyu Newricha

LEV 16:10, NLT

The other goat, the scapegoat chosen by lot to be sent away, will be kept alive, standing before the Lord. When it is sent away to Azazel in the wilderness, the people will be purified and made right with the Lord.

Pray that today will be the day when the Tigreans accept that Jesus Christ was the final sacrifice.

TIHAMI ARABS IN YEMEN

REV 2:4, NLT

But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first.

Pray that we will remember to put our first love first.

iStock/Dmitry_Chulov



A Yemeni man

Tihama is a narrow west coastal region of Yemen on the Red Sea. It consists of arid dunes and plains, except for a few oases. At one time the people in this region hosted important trade routes from Asia to Africa.

They are dependent on agriculture and the sea to provide their daily needs, and they often have scarce resources to properly feed themselves and their children. Besides poverty, literacy is a major problem. According to estimates, half of the Tihami population cannot read. The education system, even in urban areas, remains far from adequate. In some villages there is little more schooling than the memorization of Qur'an, the Muslim holy book.

These people value hospitality and generosity. An utmost priority for them is preserving their families and communities. For that reason, it is essential that those who go to them with the gospel go first to their leaders so they do not "go over the heads" of local leaders.

Pray for workers who will go to Tihami leaders, and that through them, entire families will give Christ their all. Pray that the Holy Spirit will replace Tihami independence with peace, security, joy, and eternal life that only Jesus Christ can provide.—KH

GARRE SOMALI CLAN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

“Asad, a young Garre Somali herdsman, was nervously pacing in front of his friend's hut as he waited to hear the news about an attack that had occurred in his home village of Chiriko, in Kenya. His friend Bashan ran towards him shouting, “They are safe! They hid from the attackers!” Asad smiled broadly and shouted, “Allah be praised!” Sadly, Asad later found out that all members of a family he knew had been killed by the rival Degodia Somali clan while herding goats. Deeply saddened, he prayed to Allah that the war between his people and the Degodia would soon end.

The Garre are a diverse Somali clan made up of two separate groups, the Tuff and the Quranyo. They use three languages to communicate among themselves, including Somali. Famine and civil war forced large numbers of them to migrate to northern Kenya. For years they have fought, mainly with the Degodia clan for control of pasture land located in Kenya. They follow their own cultural traditions and have a special love for their own music.

Pray that believers will use all that is available through the JESUS Films, appropriate music, and friendship evangelism to reach the Garre clan. Pray that the Garre will be so grateful for the grace and peace found in Jesus that they will spread his name far and wide.—PD



Somali women in Kenya

iStock/Sloot

2 THES 3:2, NLT

Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer.

Pray that the Lord will protect innocent Somalis from violent and wicked militiamen who try to kill and steal.

RAHANWEYN SOMALI CLAN

2 TIM 1:14, NLT

Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of Rahanweyn clan members, resulting in spiritual peace and joy.

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Somali huts

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Carrying a warn-out quilt, Bishaaro, a Rahanweyn woman, climbed a ladder to patch the roof of her one-room hut. Rain was coming, and she knew she had to finish quickly. She finished the job and entered the dry hut to cook *meelee* (corn mush) for her family.

There are about 570,000 Rahanweyn people which are located in small villages in an area between the Juba and Shebelle rivers in Somalia. They are herders and often group their animals together. The women do a large part of taking care of the domestic jobs such as building and repairing their mud houses, some farming, preparing food, and helping with herding the animals. Villages are grouped together and are under a ruling committee that handles disagreements among the people and the allocating of water to each herdsman for his animals. They strongly identify as Muslims, although their Islam is more cultural than spiritual. There have been a few believers who have reached out to them, but the Rahanweyn clan remains resistant to the God of the Bible.

Pray that there will soon come a time when Rahanweyn clan leaders accept Christ as Lord and begin a church planting movement. Pray for their family heads to heed the word of the Lord and for their families to be blessed.—PD

SOMALI BANTUS OF SOMALIA

The Somali Bantus are an African minority ethnic group that primarily lives along the river banks of southern Somalia.

They originally were brought to Somalia in the 19th century as slaves by Arabs. They are culturally, physically, and ethnically different from the Somalis who are ethnically cohesive but divided by hostile clans. Somali Bantus speak two languages known as Maay-Maay and Zigua. When civil war broke out in Somalia, many Somali Bantus were driven from their homes and farms by armed Somali militiamen. Fleeing for their lives, they walked through dangerous territory to reach Kenya. Many died along the way. They were placed in refugee camps, and most of those that came to the United States had to wait almost three years before leaving Kenya.

The majority of Somali Bantus are Muslim in name only. Some living in Africa continue to practice their traditional animist rituals. A few in the United States are becoming more willing to listen to believers. Who will reach out to them in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, or Columbus?

Pray that believers will develop long term friendships with the Somali Bantus and help them to receive the blessings of the Lord of lords. Pray that the 2020s will be the decade where a strong church planting movement emerges among them.—PD



Somali Bantu

1 THES 1:6-7, NLT

So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

Pray that the Somali Bantu people will receive the gospel with joyful open hearts. Pray that their faith and love will become an example of what God can do for a community.

MESSIRIA BAGGARA PEOPLE OF SUDAN

COL 3:19, NLT

Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

Pray that soon Messiria Baggara men will find the Savior and learn to show counter-cultural love for their wives.

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It would be an understatement to say that life is unfair for Messiria Baggara women. Like many people groups in Africa,

their society is patrilineal, meaning that the line of descent goes through the father's family, not the mother's. The men tend their livestock, which is their source of wealth. Women must milk the cows and sell the milk; this provides a large part of their income. Yet a man can marry more than one wife, and at the time of the wedding the bride's family must pay the husband's family a bride price.

It would also be an understatement to say that life is tough for nomadic peoples like the Messiria Baggaras. When the grass is green, they stay put while their cattle graze, but when the grass is gone, they are gone too! If the cattle die of starvation, they will die as well. For this reason, the Messiria Baggaras are noted for having violent confrontations with other people groups over water rights. Water is both scarce and essential for all people who live in this dry part of Sudan and Chad that we call Darfur.

Pray for abundant rain to bless the Messiria Baggara people, and that they will praise the God of Heaven for it. Pray that there will soon be a disciple making movement that will allow all their people to choose to follow Christ.—KC

BEDERIAS PEOPLE OF SUDAN

How would you like a name meaning "cow"? Like the people group we prayed for yesterday, the Bederias are among the many Baggara peoples, and Baggara means "cow." Such a name reminds them of their source of wealth, cattle. The Bederias people go to great lengths to ensure that their cattle are safe from frequent cattle raids. Their tents are arranged in a circle into which the cattle are brought for the night so they don't get stolen.



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What makes the various Baggara peoples different from one another? Often it has to do with lineage, not language. They speak variations of Sudanese Arabic, so in many cases, the Bederias can communicate with other Baggara groups. But through the centuries, their lineages have changed, which means that people perceive other Baggara tribes as different.

One similarity that all Baggara people share is Sunni Islam, which is tainted by tribal beliefs. They are often in conflict with settled Christianized people groups, adding a new barrier to gospel witness in addition to the belief that Christianity causes people to abandon their families and live without restraint like people in the West.

Pray for the Lord to raise up loving and strong Bederias families that will show others what Jesus can do for them. Pray for believers to disciple others who will disciple still others.—KC

REV 5:8, NLT

And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

Pray for us to be faithful to the end in filling the bowls of incense. Thank the Lord that the aroma of heaven is in your prayers!

BEDAWIS (BEJA) PEOPLE OF SUDAN

REV 2:26A, NLT

To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, to them I will give authority over all the nations.

Pray for us to hold our ground as we see the Lord win the remaining unreached people groups.

Shalatayn



Beja men

Sudan and southern Egypt, can be nomadic herders, or they can live in urban slums. The herders among them often have to fight for water rights, and if a mining company wants to start a project on their land, they can do so with the blessing of the government. Those who live in urban slums must earn a living any way they can, often with few if any skills that are useful in an urban center.

On a spiritual level, the Bejas were Christians until Muslim missionaries arrived in their homeland. Despite the efforts of Sufi Muslim missionaries, they have kept most of their traditional beliefs, which they mix with Islam. With a population of 2.2 million in Sudan, there are only about 30 believers among the Bejas. If missionaries want to reach them for Christ, they must either live as nomads (like the Muslim missionaries) or share their hardships in urban slums.

Pray for determined workers to live among the Bejas and show them ways to earn a good living in the cities while introducing them to the one who provides abundant life. Pray for Beja families to share in Christ's blessing and disciple other families to do the same.—KC

DAR HAMID PEOPLE OF SUDAN

How would you like to live the same kind of nomadic life that Abraham lived nearly 4000 years ago? The Dar Hamid people of Sudan do.

They wander from place to place, looking for food and water for their animals. If someone went to them, they would definitely be interested in the stories of the Bible! The Dar Hamid face a problem that Abraham faced also, drought that can lead to the death of their livestock. If their animals die, they face starvation.

The Dar Hamid consist of 19 tribal clans or families. Unfortunately, these clans are often fighting one another due to the scarcity of water and grazing land. Since the Dar Hamid travel from place to place, education for their children is sporadic. Most Dar Hamid cannot read or write. The Dar Hamid are Sunni Muslims. They mix their Islam with folk religion such as the use of charms and magic to ward off evil spirits.

Pray that the JESUS Film in Sudanese Arabic is shown to the Dar Hamid leading to a church planting movement among each of their 19 clans. Pray that God sends medical and educational workers to help the Dar Hamid. Pray that the Lord opens the hearts of Dar Hamid leaders to the gospel so that the blessings of Christ will open up to their entire people.—DK



ROM 3:20, NLT

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Pray that the Dar Hamid of Sudan would come to understand that they can never get right with God by keeping rules. Pray that they will hunger for a righteous savior, and find Jesus Christ.

FOROK (FUR) PEOPLES OF SUDAN

IS 48:10, NLT

I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.

Pray that the Lord uses the suffering and afflictions of the Fur people to bring many of them to the knowledge of Christ, the Prince of Peace.



Destruction in Darfur

Darfur—The name brings up images and stories of violence, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. In 2003 the Sudanese government, which consisted primarily of Arab peoples, began a systematic killing and eradication of the mostly black African Fur peoples in the western area of Sudan called Darfur. According to Britannica, hundreds of thousands of the Forok people (aka, the Fur peoples) were slaughtered and hundreds of thousands had to flee to neighboring countries. In 2008 UN peacekeepers were sent to Darfur, but this force did little to stop the violence against the Fur peoples. Today different factions within the Fur peoples are fighting one another, extending the damage inflicted by the Sudanese government. This has continued despite the fact that Sudan has been divided into two countries.

The Fur are an agricultural people who also raise cattle. They grow vegetables, peanuts, and tobacco. They are predominantly Sunni Muslims with only a few known believers.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will direct a lasting and just peace to Darfur. Pray God will send medical, educational, and agricultural workers to help them recover from the years of conflict and destruction. Pray that the Fur refugees in other nations will receive the gospel and return to their home in Sudan as witnessing believers.—DK

GAWAMAA PEOPLE OF SUDAN

Among the Gawamaa people of central Sudan, a man's riches are measured by how much gold his wife or wives



Men in Darfur

wear during festivals and the number of the cattle he owns. The traditional occupation of the Gawamaa has been the raising and the herding of cattle. Most of them still engage in the nomadic lifestyle which follows the seasons to find fodder and water for their herds. Some have settled into villages and have taken up farming as their main trade. They grow tobacco and cotton as cash crops.

The Gawamaa were not the primary target of the Sudanese government in the war that began in 2003; the Fur peoples experienced the main attack of the government forces. But the Gawamaa still experienced violence, economic hardship, and instability from the conflict. Many had to flee their traditional homeland and seek refuge in other areas. Many had to leave their source of wealth, their cattle, and flee for their lives. Today the Gawamaa are in great need of all kinds of humanitarian aid. Most are illiterate and living at the subsistence level.

Pray that peace comes to the land where the Gawamaa people live. Pray that God brings humanitarian workers to aid the Gawamaa. Pray that God gives the Gawamaa a hunger for the truth and that he will raise up Gawamaa leaders who will clear the path for a disciple making movement.—DK

TITUS 2:11-13, NLT

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

Pray the Lord leads many of the Gawamaa to understand the blessed hope that only Christ can give.

GUHAYNA PEOPLE IN SUDAN

REV 3:2, NLT

Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you and your church balance between zeal and obedience.

iStock/Maciek67



(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Seven-year-old Farida listened

intently to her teacher as she told the class about new, exciting things. For instance, their great-grandparents' great-grandparents used to live in Saudi Arabia. To the children, Saudi Arabia was a completely foreign place—far, far away. Then the teacher said that their ancestors had been Bedouins.

Brave little Farida raised her hand and asked about this new word: “Teacher, what does Bedouin mean?” “It means that our ancestors did not live in a village like we do. They moved from place to place in the desert, taking all their things with them.” “Oh, I think that must have been very hard. My father wouldn’t like carrying my bed.” Other children joined in: “I wouldn’t like having to pack my toys all the time.” “My mother wouldn’t like moving around all the time. She likes having friends come to our house to visit.”

The Guhayna are the largest people group living in Sudan. They number over two million. Of Arabic ancestry, they embrace Islam and emphasize honor and hospitality.

Pray for the workers in Sudan to find Guhayna families who have open hearts and ears. Pray for the Guhayna people to be willing to give up religion in exchange for a relationship to Christ. Pray for entire families to decide to follow Christ together this coming decade.—CMW

FEZARA KAWAHIA PEOPLE OF SUDAN

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

“Don’t you dare cross me!” the husband shouted at his wife. “You and the children will do as I say!” The wife shut her eyes tight, trying not to cry. Seeing this, her husband’s tone softened. “You remember that our religious leaders teach that the husband rules over the wife, don’t you?” The woman nodded and looked down. That she couldn’t argue with. Her husband continued, “Then please obey my decision. You and the children are to stay away from those foreigners who have moved in next door. They aren’t Fezara Kawahia people like us—they are neither Arabic nor African. They probably don’t even believe in Allah. I know you like to be hospitable, but our hospitality cannot extend to them.”

The Fezara Kawahia people are a Sudanese Arabic group. Though African by virtue of where they live, they retain much of their Arabic cultural heritage. The women are taught to defer to the men, although they do enjoy relatively more freedom than women in some other Arabic societies. The Fezara Kawahia are almost entirely Muslim.

Pray for workers to find Fezara Kawahia family heads who are open to the things of Christ. Pray for entire families to find that Jesus offers them the answers they need and they would give their all to him. Pray for a disciple making movement to flourish.—CMW

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EPH 5:25-26, NLT

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word

Pray for the Holy Spirit to transform Fezara Kawahia society in such a way that love and honor between husbands and wives comes naturally.

FEDICCA-MOHAS NUBIAN PEOPLE OF SUDAN

REV 5:9B, NLT

You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Pray that our prayers this month will result in the Lord receiving the reward for his blood-stained suffering.

iStock/Riccardo Lennart Niels Mayer



(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

It was a bittersweet day for Mariam. Today

she was to leave home to attend a teacher-training program, and her mother noticed how nervous Mariam was. Her parents knew enough of their Nubian history to name Mariam after a tenth-century queen.

Mariam's mother tried to give her courage, saying, "Remember my cousins in Egypt? Remember when the Aswan High Dam was completed in the 1960s and it flooded our cousins' village? They had to move 20 miles away and start over, but everything turned out all right. Our cousins were strong and determined. They got jobs and rebuilt their lives. You have not lost your home; you are moving to a new place where you will receive an education and pass it on to the next generation. You are very privileged. Don't be sad about leaving home."

The Nubians are non-Arab Muslims living in the northern part of Sudan, near the Egyptian border. In the 6th century the Nubians were converted to Christianity, but they became Muslims in the 14th century. Today, Nubians are almost entirely Muslim.

Pray that God will send loving African followers of Christ to tell the present generation about the Savior. Pray for Nubian family heads to disciple others in the ways of Jesus. Ask God for linguists who will translate the Bible into Nobiin, the Nubian language.—CMW

KENEMBU PEOPLE OF CHAD

The Kanembu of Chad are so close! They believe in and pray to one eternal, omniscient God, whom they know to

be the creator. They believe that God is spirit, who communicates with them in his "holy of holies." Various other religious ideas resemble those of our own. Yet the missing piece is believing that only Jesus's death on the cross can pay for our sins!

About 770,000 Kanembu live in Chad, near Lake Chad and into the northern territories. Rich natron deposits are scattered across more than 30,000 acres of Chad. Natron is a mineral that is useful for washing and bleaching textiles. They are found in salt mines, most of which the Kanembu own. If only they knew that Jesus is like our natron and those who follow him are the salt of the earth!

While the French have established schools in the area, Kanembu children are forbidden to attend these secular schools. They must study Classical Arabic, the language of the Qur'an. Although some boys attend Islamic high schools, most Kanembu are illiterate. Their villages lack modern schools and health care, facilities that are hindered by the absence of quality roads.

Pray that God's Holy Spirit will speak to them about our Savior, Jesus Christ. Ask God to send them missionaries. May they become the salt of Africa!—LR



Chad

iStock/suprunvitaly

2 TIM 2:25, NLT

Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.

Pray that the Kenembu people will keep the truth they now have and embrace the truth that only the Lord Jesus Christ offers.

MAASINA (FULA KITA) OF MALI

1 THES 2:2B, NLT

Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his good news to you boldly, in spite of great opposition.

Pray for the Lord to give courage and love to all workers among the Fula Kita and other people groups in Mali.



The Fula Kita people, also known as the Maasina, herd a special breed of cattle. Not the usual Fulani humped

breed, the Maasina's cattle are a native Fouta Djallon breed called Ndama. These cattle are naturally resistant to the dreaded tsetse flies. They also herd other animals as well as grow crops, but their cattle are their main source of livelihood. Cattle corrals surround each Fula Kita mud hut.

Nearly two million in number, the Fula Kita live in Mali. Nearly all of them have adopted Islam as their religion and were influential in spreading it. Previously, they were animists who sought the power of medicine men, but now often double as Islamic leaders. Today, children must attend their village's Islamic schools. Because of the Fula Kita's dependence upon Islam as part of their identity, Christian evangelism efforts have fallen on deaf ears. They also fear that Christianity will divide their families, especially since many new believers stray from their families.

Ask the Lord to send workers who will explain Jesus' power to make us resistant to the disease of sin and death. Pray that their spiritually deaf ears would be open to the truth resulting in many Fula Kita families learning and telling God's word to others.—LR

SONINKE PEOPLE OF MALI

Especially in times of drought which every season can potentially bring, the worry lines in Soninke farmers' faces grow deeper. The Soninke people of Mali have always been farmers, with millet as their staple crop. Today challenges of drought and herdsmen competing for land threaten their livelihood. Around 1,640,000 Soninke live in Mali, but not all of them farm. With the changing environment and modernization, the Soninke have one of West Africa's highest labor migration rates.



Mali, West Africa

Long ago, the Soninke were the founders of the ancient Ghana Empire. Invading Muslim conquerors destroyed that empire in the 10th century, leaving the local Soninke people with a thirst for the power Islam offered.

In the 1980s, Christian missionaries began planting the seed of the gospel in the Soninke's spiritually dry ground. This seed has been planted many times since. People are distributing Bible stories and a pastor is reading Bible portions over the radio each week. The call-in response is very good. Missionaries have watered the gospel seeds. Finally, the seeds seem ready to take root!

Thank the Lord for these efforts and pray that they will result in many Soninke families accepting the blessings of Christ. Pray for a church planting movement. Pray that God will bring Christian humanitarian workers to help the Soninke with much needed irrigation projects.—LR

1 THES 3:7-8, NLT

So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith. It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord.

Pray that the Soninke church will be filled with men and women of faith, who spread Christ's new life to others.

REV 5:10, NLT

And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.

Pray that the Sokoto Fulani people will joyfully enter into the privilege of becoming priests for our God.

iStock/HomoCosmos



subgroups is the Sokoto Fulani who live mainly in northern Nigeria's Sokoto state. The semi-nomadic rural Sokoto Fulani travel as herdsmen. When they do settle down, they live in temporary villages in small huts.

Not all of the Sokotos are herdsmen; in fact, some are very well educated. These people are called Toroobe and are considered the ruling class. They exercise authority over many others especially within their clan, which is also called the Sokoto. The settled Sokoto Fulani are usually government workers, tax collectors, and municipal rulers. Their children go to school and do well.

All Sokoto Fulani are Muslim, and Islam is a stronghold in their lives. They also believe in supernatural powers, but often engage in the dark side of the spirit world using charms to attain insight and power.

Pray for entire Sokoto families to be free from spiritual strongholds so that they can be free to hear and receive the good news. Pray to the God of the Harvest to send harvesters to plant seeds of faith and reap souls. Pray that Sokoto disciples will make other disciples so that their entire community can be blessed with the presence of the Lord.—JS

SOKOTO FULANI PEOPLE IN NIGERIA

Fulani is a familiar people group in West Africa, especially in Nigeria. They are mainly nomadic herdsmen, and one of their few

WESTERN FULANI IN NIGER

Many say that it is not possible to be a follower of Christ and Fulani at the same time; but nothing is impossible with God

(Luke 1:37). The Western Fulani of Niger are mainly herdsmen of long-horned cattle which also supply most of their food. However, many have settled in and near Niamey, the capital of Niger and the city of Dosso.

Social customs are strong. When one Fulani wants to express friendship to another, he may lend him a cow which the recipient is careful to guard dearly.

Although the Western Fulani are overwhelmingly Muslim, their age-old traditional practices and customs are often more important to them than Islam. They honor a code of high moral behavior, and they extol generosity and dignity. They show little emotion; being reserved is considered a virtue. So strong is this stoicism that a mother is careful not to show affection to her infant and never calls her firstborn by his name.

The Western Fulani desperately need to know the savior who knows them by name. Their names are written on God's heart, and he yearns for them to know him and call him "Abba," Father.

Pray that GPD readers may plant the seeds of the gospel that will drop on fertile ground as they pray for the Western Fulani to meet Christ as their savior.—JS



A Fulani and his cattle

DeBoordenave

REV 2:5B, NLT

If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

Pray that as the Church, we will be the light of the world to dying nations like the Western Fulani who, at this time, will not allow Jesus to be lord of their communities.

MANGA KANURI PEOPLES

REV 2:7A, NLT

Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

Pray for spiritual ears to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying!

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are also located in Chad and Cameroon and in areas around Lake Chad. Most Kanuri are farmers and also raise sheep, goats, and some horses. Owning a horse is considered a symbol of prestige. Some Kanuri in cities are involved in government jobs. Others have a low social status if they work as blacksmiths, well-diggers or butchers.

The greater the number of people in a family, the more prestige the family has. They will often lend out a member of their family to other households to help with field labor or assist them with their needs for defense. That family, in return, will clothe and feed the young man and perhaps provide a bride for him. However, polygamy is common and divorce is high, with approximately eight out of 10 marriages ending in divorce.

The Kanuri people desperately need to meet Jesus as their savior. They need to know about his sacrificial death that covers all of their sins.

Ask the Father to soften the hearts of the Kanuri so that they can respond to the gospel. Pray for workers who will help them begin a family based church planting movement.—JS

Although Christianity is not the majority religion in certain African tribes, there are usually some believers. That is not true for the Kanuri tribes in Niger. These people are 100 percent Muslim. Besides Niger, they

TAMACHEQ (TUAREG) PEOPLE IN NIGER

If you see a man dressed all in black with most of his face covered, more likely than not he is a Tuareg, more politely called Tamacheq. In contrast to most Muslim groups, the men in this tribe veil their faces while the women do not.



Tamacheq man

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The Tamacheq depend on their animals for survival. In 1972, the worst drought in 50 years struck the Sahara Desert, and these nomads were forced to travel southward in search of pastures for their herds. Many of their animals died of thirst. Although some relief came two years later, the drought had such a devastating effect upon their lifestyle that many chose a less rigorous urban lifestyle and never returned to their original homeland.

The Tamacheq who still remain nomadic live in lightweight, leather tents or grass huts. They can pack up their households and goods on the backs of two camels and one or two donkeys and be on their way. Though Islamic, they are considered by many Muslims to be lukewarm because they practice magic and have many folk beliefs.

Ask God to send believers to the Tamacheq people who can share the truth about Jesus who loves them and wants them represented at his throne in heaven for eternity. Pray for churches to adopt the Tamacheq and pray for them. Pray for Tamacheq people to begin their own disciple making movement.—JS

REV 7:9, NLT

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

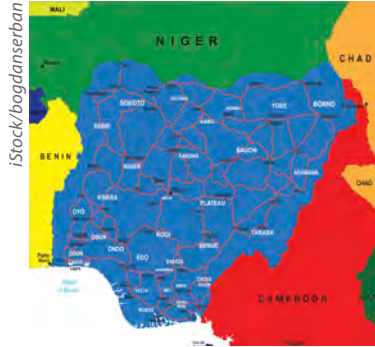
Pray that this reality will give you hope and drive you forward to complete the task of engaging the last remaining unreached peoples.

YERWA KANURI PEOPLE

PS 68:5-6A, NLT

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing...

Pray for the Lord to bless and prosper Yerwa Kanuri families in such a way that they will experience God's presence and mercy.



labeled largely agricultural, are also the dominant people group in Nigeria, maintaining political influence over nearby people groups. They are the Yerwa Kanuri, one of the Muslim tribes in Africa.

The Kanuri were not always Muslim, though they became so in the 11th century due to heavy influence from the Arabs. To this day, Islam is the dominant religion amongst the Kanuri.

As in many Islamic cultures, family is a very important part of society. However, among the Kanuri people, families tend to be broken. The divorce rate is about 80 percent. Young unmarried women are very desirable, but to marry one demands a high bridal price, resulting more often in the remarriage of divorced women. The effect is that a large number of broken families among the Kanuri are fractured and stitched back together, only to be fractured again.

Pray that the Yerwa Kanuri would find healing, wholeness, and identity in Christ. Pray that the Kanuri would hear and accept the offer to become a part of God's family, and that they would discover a love far greater than any they have ever experienced. Pray for the restoration and strengthening of families among the Kanuri.—BK

WOLOF PEOPLE

Located in Senegal and Gambia, the Wolof homeland came to exist hundreds of years ago, when the Wolof tribe conquered many tribes and formed an empire of separate, self-governing states. In the 1800s, Senegal became one of the French colonies. The leaders of the resistance to the French were often charismatic Muslim



A Wolof drummer

leaders, who have since become folk heroes. The sects of Islam that surround them are honored and followed unquestioningly by many Wolof today. Islam and Wolof identity are still intertwined. French colonization eventually led to some Senegalese being granted French citizenship—a fact responsible for the significant Wolof diaspora in France.

In Africa, the Wolof are primarily agricultural, especially in the rural areas. Peanuts are their main cash crop, with millet and sorghum being the primary part of their diet. In the cities, the Wolof work as merchants, teachers, or government officials. They are also noted for their fine culture: art, dress, dance, and music.

Pray that Wolof family heads have a revelation of Jesus Christ. Pray for Wolof believers to have courage and boldness in sharing the gospel with their neighbors, and for divine opportunities. Pray for a strong Wolof church planting movement, and for open doors in the Muslim culture for the gospel to not only enter, but thrive and grow.—BK

PS 27:1A, NLT

The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid?

Pray that Wolof families will make Christ their light and enjoy his salvation and love!

HAUSA PEOPLE

REV 7:14B, NLT

Then he said to me, “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.”

Pray that soon the church will experience the privilege of being a part of such special company. Come Lord Jesus!



(This fictional account is meant to illustrate the spiritual condition of the Hausa people.)

The old Hausa’s man’s frown become even more pronounced. He said, “Islam has helped us in every way.” His adult son shook

his head and responded, “We were forced to convert to Islam by the Fulani. Many of our people only became Muslims to keep from being killed. Once again we have militant Islamic groups threatening us.” The father said, “The Christians are the real threat. They want to change our ways and destroy our families like Christianity has done in the West. I won’t stand for it.”

The urban Hausa are more serious about their Islamic faith than those in rural areas who tend to mix Islam with animistic beliefs in various spirits. Both groups are unified about the “threat” of Christianity. They view it as a competing religion that if accepted, will weaken their families and put them at risk of persecution.

Pray for the gospel to penetrate the hearts of Hausa leaders who will be used of God to strengthen their families with the bond of love and hope. Ask the Lord to do a new and powerful work in the hearts of the Hausa people that will result in abundant blessings.—CL

DYULA (AKA, JULA) PEOPLE

The Dyula people played a central role in the spread and growth of Islam in West Africa! After



converting to Islam in the 13th century, they carried this religion along trade routes, sharing it wherever they went. Despite nearly 100 percent of the Dyula being Muslims, many continue in a tradition of animism, worshiping spirits and engaging in rituals. In addition to satisfying the demands of Islam, they labor daily to appease a variety of gods.

It is estimated that 2,884,000 Dyula people live in Cote d’Ivoire. God’s word is available to them in their heart language; yet there are almost no known followers of Christ among them. The Dyula desperately need believers who will demonstrate and preach the reality of God’s love and salvation to their families.

Pray for the Lord to bring a great spiritual awakening to the Dyula, awakening their hearts and minds to Christ in such a way that entire families will worship him together. Pray for the Lord to reveal himself to them in a such a powerful way that the Dyula will begin to disciple others. Pray for their freedom from the bondage of false gods and empty rituals so that they can enjoy the peace of eternal life with the Savior.—CL

REV 12:9, NIV

This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to have grace for those we pray for knowing that Satan has led all of mankind astray, including the Dyula people.

FULA JALON PEOPLE

TITUS 2: 14, NLT

He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Pray that this truth will become abundantly clear to the Muslim Fula Jalon people, and that their elders will act upon it, resulting in blessings for this entire tribe!

DeBoordenave



(This fictional account is meant to illustrate the spiritual condition of the Fula Jalon.)

“You are willing to do this?” The young man turned to look at his friend. “Of course.” “You are willing to let your parents dictate your future, marrying you off to this

stranger? And you are willing to tend to her father’s livestock just for the opportunity to wed your first wife?”

The young man considered this. Finally, he answered, “Yes. I am ready to marry. I am 20 years old. I plan to have three wives like my own father. And I also plan to send my children to Islamic school, just as my parents sent me, so that they too can learn the ways of Allah.”

The Fula Jalon are true Muslims, religiously following the teachings of the Qur’an. They believe Islam and only Islam can fulfill their spiritual needs. This people group has remained resistant to efforts to share the gospel, and less than one in 1,000 allows Jesus to be their Lord.

Pray for Fula Jalon family heads to open the door for their people to follow Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to reveal himself to this people group, resulting in disciples making more disciples. Pray for his Kingdom to come and for his church to be established among the Fula Jalon.—CL

EASTERN MANINKA PEOPLE OF GUINEA

What does the old TV series, “The A Team” have to do with the Maninka people? One of the stars, Mr. T., claimed that his Maninka ancestors were brought over to America as slaves. Sadly, he was probably right; during the 18th and 19th centuries, one third of the slaves sold by Muslims to the trans-Atlantic traders were Maninka people.

It may seem strange to us that 75 percent of Maninka (or Mandinka) people of Guinea cannot read. Others see little reason to learn. Theirs is an oral society. They acquire their stories, history, and traditions through storytellers, so reading is not a vital skill for them.

Over three million Maninka live in Guinea, but they are also spread throughout seven neighboring countries. Typically, they live in traditional walled villages. Extended families stay together in compounds. Each community is ruled by a chief and elders. A Maninka child is born either freeborn, slave, artisan, or Muslim cleric. There is no intermarriage between these castes. They mix their Islamic belief with divination, healing, casting spells, and wearing charms. There are no known followers of Christ among them.

Ask God to open the doors to their families and compounds and give them opportunities to hear the gospel message in their own language, Kankan Maninka, available on audio and video media. Pray for a family-based disciple making movement in the 2020s.—AHS



Guinea, West Africa

iStock/LorenzoT81

PS 139:7, NLT

I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!

Pray that the Eastern Maninka people will not be able to escape a new Holy Spirit-led movement among them that will turn their hearts to Jesus Christ.

FOUTA TOORO FULANI PEOPLE OF SENEGAL

1 THES 4:7, NLT

God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.

Pray that the few believers among the Fouta Tooro Fulani will demonstrate such love for one another that their Muslim neighbors will not be able to resist the pull of the Holy Spirit.

iStock/dk_photos



What's in a name? Fulani is the name of a key West African people. Tooro is the name of a region, and Fouta is the name they have given it. This narrow strip straddles the Senegal River for 400 kilometers, some 250 miles. The Sahara Desert stretches to the north and east. The Fula language reaches across 20 West African countries. The Fouta Tooro Fulani speak their own dialect called Pulaar.

Why is there only a small handful of followers of Christ among these Muslims? Reasons include the grip of the Muslim religion, social pressure, and the lack of missionaries. Though they cannot understand the Classical Arabic of their Qur'an, they can understand Bible teachings in their own language. The Bible and Bible teaching is available in Pulaar in print, audio, and video. Over half the population over 15 years can now read. Internet use has increased, and many people have cell phones. Digital messages can be transferred to their phones or downloaded from an app provided by Global Recordings Network (GRN.)

Pray that the Lord will enable the spiritual barriers to be broken down and that many Fouta Tooro families will begin a church planting movement. Pray that their family heads will understand that Jesus offers eternal life to all. Pray that they will disciple others who in turn will disciple others.—AHS

PULAAR FULANI PEOPLE OF SENEGAL

If you are the head of a Pulaar Fulani household in Senegal, and someone wants to arrange a marriage with your daughter, you first set the bride price. The price varies a lot depending on your social status. A noble or prosperous family can ask a much higher price than an artisan or someone with a slave ancestry. Membership in Muslim religious brotherhoods also helps.

Pulaar people herd livestock, but they also grow crops like sugarcane along the banks of the Senegal River. They mix ancient customs, Islamic traditions, spiritism and magic, and marry within their strictly divided classes. Pulaar are faced with poverty, illiteracy, polluted water, and diseases.

Even small Pulaar villages have well-built mosques. By contrast there are only two or three tiny house churches for followers of Christ among them. How can we reach them with the gospel message? Several factors can help. Christian teachers, aid workers, and medical teams can help physically and spiritually. There are several hundred Pulaar believers in Mauritania, across the Senegal River who can reach them. Many of the younger generation are moving to cities where there is increasing use of the Internet, so they can access the JESUS Film and Global Recordings Network resources.

Ask God to use these resources to bring the liberating message of the gospel to the spiritually needy Pulaar people. Pray that this will lead to a church planting movement.—AHS



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PS 121:5-6, NLT

The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night.

Make this your prayer for the Pulaar Fulani people.

IS 43:19A, NLT

For I am about to do something new. . . . I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

Pray that Moor hearts are softened to the gospel, that the living waters of God's word in Hassaniyya spread among them, and that strong Moor churches are raised up in their communities. Pray that they will be blessed by both physical and spiritual water, and give thanks to the God of Heaven.

iStock/HomoCosmicos



Moorish women

MOORS OF MAURITANIA

From ancient times, the industrious Moors of northwestern Africa have been nomadic traders and merchants. In 711 AD they, along with Muslim Berber tribes, helped conquer large parts of Spain and Portugal. In 1492, Christian European kingdoms expelled the Moors, forcing them back to northwest Africa.

Today, almost 3.7 million Moors live in Mauritania, with large populations elsewhere in the Western Sahara. Mauritania has a hostile desert environment, severe poverty, and racial tensions. Although slavery has been officially abolished in Mauritania, Moors still practice it, with child slavery rampant. The White Moor people from Berber-Arab origins are considered nobility. The Black Moor people of African ancestry essentially remain slaves in Moor society.

Largely Islamized by the mid-11th century, the Moors today are almost completely Sunni Muslim. However, most Moors still engage in folk religion, involving spirits and charms. Bible portions, audio Bible recordings, and The JESUS Film are available in Hassaniyya, the Arabic language spoken by Moors.

Pray that the Holy Spirit brings dreams, visions, and power encounters to the Moors, especially to their spiritual and family leaders. Ask for an end to slavery and for entire Moor communities to be blessed through turning to Christ.—CR

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