

Global Prayer

Digest

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A Harvest Among the Fulbe Peoples of West Africa

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Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

Each month I join a Skype prayer meeting with African mission leaders from the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI). These are the experts on what we should be praying for in Africa, and this time they made it clear that the Fulbe, better known as the Fulani peoples, should be featured in our prayer guide. We prayed for the Fulbe peoples seven years ago, but these 27 million people need much more prayer today because of recent events that affect them directly.

At one time farmers and nomadic herders had cooperated with one another (see day 7). Cattle provided manure to fertilize crops, and the crops provided food for the cattle. We call that symbiosis, where two entities benefit one another. Unfortunately, symbiosis has given way to violent rivalry. War and drought have made the land less productive, and now the two groups are competing for the same space. The results are tragic, as our friends at MANI point out. You might find the entries for our first nine days to be almost redundant but the humanly impossible situation needs to be addressed with prayer. Let's join our African brethren in praying for the Fulbe peoples.

In Christ,

Keith Carey

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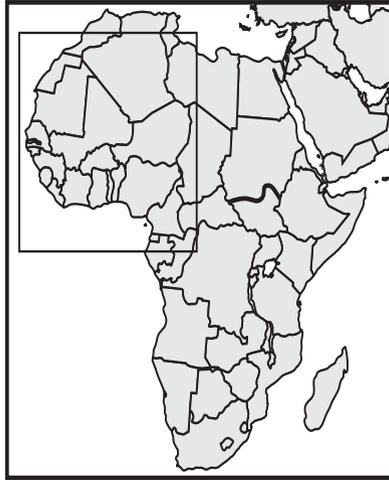
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PRAY FOR

*A Full Harvest Among the Fulbe Peoples
of West Africa*



Fulbe by Any Other Name

According to *Peoples on the Move* the Fulbe are the largest nomadic group in the world with a population of about 27 million. The Fulbe, also known as the Fulani, the Fula, Peul, or Pulao, are more like a people group cluster than one people group. They share related languages and live scattered all over West Africa, reaching as far east as Sudan. Yet many have migrated to Europe and the United States where they can more easily be reached.



Who Are the Fulbe and Why Are They Important?

- Historians don't know for certain where the Fulbe peoples originated since they had no written history until the Arabs mentioned them in the 11th century, and European sources began to write about them in the early 15th century. Most of the 21 countries that they live in today are in West Africa. Generally, they live in the Sahel Desert just south of the more arid Sahara Desert. Others have migrated to places where water is more abundant like northern Nigeria and Cameroon where they intermarried with other tribes.
- The Fulbe have always been very powerful in Africa. In the 17th and 18th centuries, but mainly in the 19th century, they took control of much of West Africa culminating in the Fulbe Empire, also known as the Sokoto Caliphate. It was founded by Usman dan Fodio. Unlike many conquering people, the Fulbe remained

BY KEITH CAREY

Fulbe by Any Other Name

primarily nomadic livestock herders and traders, though through the centuries some have become more settled and began farming. Those who have remained nomadic often look down on those who have settled into a farming lifestyle. Ironically, they depend on such farmers for millet and other grains that they eat along with milk and meat from their herds. Their wealth is in the size of their herds, and Fulbe people have been known to steal livestock from those who can't stop them from doing so.

Fulbe Values and Religion

- For centuries the Fulbe peoples have followed traditional African religion which is animistic at its foundation. They believe in a supreme god, who has little or no contact with humans. They believe that there are supernatural forces that need to be controlled by following certain traditions. If you follow the traditions of your ancestors, then things will go well for you. But if you stray from the traditions or break taboos, you are likely to wind up with sick livestock and other misfortunes. They are also aware of using foresight and working good plans to ensure that their lives are in order. They call this *hakkilo*, roughly translated as intelligence or foresight.
- A second Fulbe value is called *semteende*, or reserve and modesty. Children need to exercise *semteende* by behaving appropriately in front of their parents, and spouses should maintain a certain amount of distance from one another in public. The Fulbe people try not to speak out of place or make false assumptions.
- A third moral value is *munyal*, which means exercising patience and self-control. Fulbe people value keeping their emotions in check and not overreacting, even in times of hardship and tragedy. To violate these values, especially publicly, would bring shame on the Fulbe and more importantly, on their family and clan. The Fulbe peoples will go to great lengths to avoid shame.
- Combined, these virtues are known to the Fulbe as *pulaaku*, roughly translated as “Fulbe-ness.” These virtues and the code of behavior that goes with them are passed down from one generation to the next.

Getting Settled and Becoming More Islamic

- The process of Islamization of the Fulbe has been going on for about a thousand years. During that time, their traditional beliefs in supernatural beings have been gradually replaced by faith in Allah. But even today, those who live nomadic lifestyles tend to remain animistic. Those who are settled as farmers or in cities are more dedicated to Islam. More on that later. But for now, let's briefly look at the process of Islamization among the Fulbe.
- According to Dr. Moussa Bongoyok, a scholar who studied the ways of the Fulbe, Islamization has gone hand in hand with the process of settling into farming or urban lifestyles. He divides their history into four parts. The first time period he calls the "Pre-Jihad Period" that began with their founding as a people up to the 18th Century. The Fulbe were completely animistic at that time. Almost all were nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralists. They lived in peace with neighboring tribes, and they seldom had much of an impact on them.
- The second era began when they were exposed to Islam for the first time. Initially they resisted embracing Islam, a religion that was brought to them by Muslim conquerors. Though the Fulbe peoples moved further south, they were eventually forced to accept Islam around 1030 AD. However, most remained animistic, and they were not living in accordance with Islamic teachings. That led to a period of jihad, which took place during the 19th century. Islamic warriors, led by Usman dan Fodio, caused the Fulbe to become more Islamic, and in the process, they established Fulbe kingdoms. As Fodio's forces expanded their jihad, they began to impose orthodox Islam on Fulbe peoples and others who lived near them. Powerful Hausa leaders opposed Fodio, but he was almost unstoppable at that time. During the 18th century, Islam became an integral part of Fulbe identity as their empire expanded. Fodio established the Sokoto Caliphate in northern Nigeria, from which he conquered in the name of Islam land in the south and east. (Bongoyok, "The Sedentary Fulbe of Northern Cameroon: Culture and Worldview")
- The third period that Bongoyok refers to is the European colonial period that began in the 19th century and ended with African independence in the 1960s. The French, British, and German colonizers quickly noticed

Fulbe by Any Other Name



that Fulbe leaders were better organizers than other local leaders. Fulbe leaders already had power and respect, so they were natural choices as intermediaries between colonial powers and the African population.

- The fourth period began with independence and continues to the present day. That time period has

brought about a loss of political power for the Fulbe. Bongoyok notes that this could change in places like northern Nigeria where Sharia (Islamic) Law is in effect.

The Fulbe Peoples Today

- The Fulbe peoples seem to be going two different directions in the 21st century. Those who remain nomadic and pastoral look down on the ones who have settled on farms and in cities. To them, these people have compromised their Fulbe-ness. Furthermore, such urban dwellers do not possess cattle, the measure of Fulbe wealth. Those who live in the cities may despise the Fulbe who remain pastoral as being un-Islamic since the animistic ways are more dominant than their Muslim practices.
- As time goes on, the Fulbe are more and more likely to settle in cities, especially those who make their living through trade. Urban life is posing serious challenges to their traditional values. Western and Arab ways are replacing the ways of the Fulbe. They are becoming a thing of the past for many who want to excel in their new urban environment. Ironically, those who are more settled are likely to become more dedicated to Islamic ways even though this often means becoming more Arabized and militant in the process. As it stands today, the Fulbe are instrumental in efforts to Islamize West Africa.

Let's Pray!

- Pray that Fulbe people will understand that Jesus is the one they need to guide them during this time of great changes.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will draw both rural and urban Fulbe to the person of Jesus Christ.

TESTIMONY OF A FULBE (AKA, FULANI) BELIEVER

LK 19:8-10, NET

But Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, half of my possessions I now give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I am paying back four times as much!" Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this household, because he too is a son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Pray that many wealthy Fulbe people will, like Zacchaeus, understand that they don't need to depend on their wealth, and they must submit to Christ.

Something didn't seem right to Boubacar, (not his real name) a wealthy Fulbe man. Now that his father was dead, he was being offered the chance to be the traditional ruler of his village. He would



have been given high status, but he declined. Little did he know what was to come. A few months after declining the high position, he heard the gospel, and this wealthy Muslim put his faith in Jesus. He said that "my conversion to Christ was a bigger throne than that of a traditional ruler."

He knew that he needed to get grounded in the word, so he went through discipleship training. Soon he started a fellowship in his palace to bring family members to Christ.

Boubacar suffered from diabetes, a disease that eventually took his life. He gave his Bible to his brother and said to him, "Take this Bible. It is the word of God; make sure you read it regularly." His family had seen his life of faith and love for the church, so they did not doubt what he said. In fact, his utterances while on a sick bed convinced them all the more that Christ is the sure way to heaven.— *Taken from a report from a Nigerian missionary*

Pray that when Fulbe people come to Christ, they will understand the joy and peace that only he offers.

TESTIMONY, CONTINUED

DAY

02

On his sick bed, Boubacar pleaded with his household not to cry, because when he dies he will go to heaven. When they were Muslims, they thought salvation came from luck. Even their Prophet Mohammed said he did not know where he would go when he died. Boubacar's family knew that he went to heaven, not only because of his utterances on his sick bed, but because of the life he lived after he embraced Christ.



In support of this conviction that he made it to heaven, one of our top female mission leaders received a revelation from God confirming that Boubacar was with Jesus. According to this mission leader, when Boubacar died, she saw in a dream a multitude of angels coming down from heaven and filling the sky to the extent that you could not even see it! In this vision, one of the angels went to Boubacar's grave and beckoned him to come up, and immediately his soul came out from the grave and a white robe was given to him to wear. Then he flew with the angels to heaven. The climax of this whole story was that a lot of Fulbe who never heard the gospel before but only Boubacar's testimony decided to give their lives to Christ after he died.— *Taken from a report from a Nigerian missionary*

Pray that when there are "first fruits" among the unreached Fulbe peoples, they will live with such great faith that entire villages will embrace Jesus Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give the right words to today's missionaries as they seek to minister Christ to diverse people.

LK 7:12-13, NIV

As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

Pray that soon there will be a strong Fulbe church where people will put their complete trust in the life-giving power of Jesus Christ. Pray that they will understand that God offers us life abundantly in the here and now as well as beyond the grave.

NOMADISM AND FARMING AMONG THE FULBE

GEN 31:6-7, NET

You know that I've worked for your father as hard as I could, but your father has humiliated me and changed my wages 10 times. But God has not permitted him to do me any harm.

Pray that, unlike what happened between Jacob and Laban in the book of Genesis, the farmers and herders will find ways to cooperate and help one another like they did in years past.

IMB



(This story is intended to illustrate common events.)

Wearing an old knit hat, the teenaged Fulbe tried to make his skinny cows move from the dried-up pasture land along a path that he hoped would lead to better wild grass. His brother,

YaYa, shouted a warning, "Don't go on that path! It leads to a village where the farmers have guns." Tired the boy cried, "What else can we do? The cows need food and water." YaYa responded, "Do you remember the guys who came to our camp and brought us food? The ones with the big guns? They said if we go with them we will have lots of food, and if we die we will go to paradise because we will be fighting Allah's enemies. Maybe we should join them."

For centuries both the Fulbe herders and farmers have lived together in north, central, and west Africa. Currently drought, civil wars, political upheaval, and infiltration by jihadists have caused strife between the two communities.

Pray that the word of God and his grace will begin to change the lives of these people so they will find strength and peace in Christ. Pray that they will repent so God can heal the wounds that are ripping the souls of both herders and farmers. May they find answers to prayers for much needed water, but most importantly, may they drink from the water of life given by Jesus.—PD

FULANI VIOLENCE AGAINST CHRISTIANS

DAY

04

“The violence here in Nigeria constitutes a real challenge for churches and mission work. But on the other hand, people displaced by that insurgency can come to places where they can easily be reached by the gospel.” Reverend Ifejika was talking to a visiting missionary. “The upsurge



monino

in attacks have made some Muslims to ask the question: Is this really a religion of peace? Is it really what we should follow? And as they come into contact with those who follow Christ and believers who show them his love, some of the Fulanis are turning to Christ. We have heard stories of how God visited some Fulani through wonders and miracles. Out of this crisis, something great has come. For years churches were focused on converting people and claiming territories, without making disciples. However, even before this upsurge of violence the era of Western missions in Africa had changed. For security reasons westerners could no longer go into areas they used to go. But African Christians can mix with all people.”

Regardless of the efforts made by Nigeria’s Muslim President Buhari, to stop the brutal violence against Christians (primarily caused by Boko Haram) the persecution continues especially in the Middle region where the Hausa-Fulani Muslim herdsman have intensified their attacks.

Pray for the courage of believers reaching out to Muslims in spite of all they are enduring!—PD

GEN 18:23, NET

Abraham approached and said, “Will you sweep away the godly along with the wicked?”

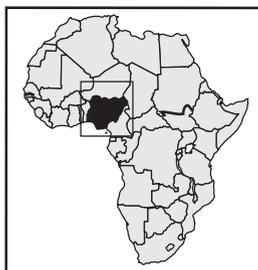
Pray that we will intercede for the wicked as well as the godly, knowing that without God’s influence, we might do the same thing.

ADAMAWA FULANI IN NIGERIA AND CHAD

GEN 17:5, NET

No longer will your name be Abram. Instead, your name will be Abraham because I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.

Pray for the Adamawa Fulani to seek the blessings of God in his way. Pray that they will be willing to become "fathers" of multitudes of nations by sending their best to reach them for his kingdom.



Yossouf, an Adamawa farmer in Nigeria, was telling an NGO (Non-Government Organization) worker why life has become harder in recent years. "We would have had much more corn if the herdsmen had not allowed their cattle to eat our corn plants. There are also more herdsmen here than ever because some come from Chad where it is even dryer."

"Last week herdsmen attacked a farming village not far from here, burning houses and killing two people. The herdsmen always start the fights. They hope that by destroying our homes and land we will leave. The chief of the village was so angry that he and some other men attacked the herdsmen. Some farmers even have burned their farmland after harvesting their crops so that the herdsmen will not have grazing land and will be the ones to leave. The government does not give us any protection."

A proud people of over 1.4 million, the Adamawa Fulani live in northern Nigeria and Chad. Only about three percent of them are Christians.

Pray that the grace, compassion, and love of Jesus will be known among the Adamawa Fulani people so they will forgive those who harm them. Pray for courage and safety for Adamawa believers so they can draw others to him.—PD

SOKOTO FULANI IN NIGERIA

DAY

06

The Sokoto Fulani and others cheered while drums played and the women broke out with loud ululation (high pitched vocal sounds) after Governor Aminu Tambuwal

of Sokoto State made his speech. He announced that his administration had concluded plans to send 200 students to India and other countries to study medicine. The governor said the majority of those to be sponsored would be girls. This is because Nigerian Muslim females need women to provide them with medical care. He also said that the government wants to send over 100 other qualified students to good universities so they can study pharmacy, dentistry, radiography, and medical laboratory science. He closed his speech by saying that he hoped that good teachers and schools will develop in Nigeria.



Valerie Barry

GEN 18:18, NET

After all, Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations on the earth will pronounce blessings on one another using his name.

Pray that when some from the prestigious Sokoto Fulani embrace the Savior, they will use their influence to bless the nations in the name of Jesus.

There are over 390,000 Sokoto Fulani people in Nigeria. They are among the most successful Fulani groups in the country. Many are government workers, medical professionals, educators, businessmen, municipal rulers, and they take leadership positions in their mosques. Their children, both boys and girls, are encouraged to study. Sunni Islam is the center of their religious life, and only a few have secretly become believers in Jesus.

Pray that the lives of believers will affect the Sokoto Fulani in such a way that these Muslims will seek and find Jesus Christ.—PD

DAY

07

NIGERIAN FULANI

JUDE 24-25, RSV

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen!

Pray that God will keep the Nigerian Fulani from falling and that he will present them without blemish before the presence of His glory. Pray that they will rejoice as they bask in His glory, dominion, and authority before their neighbors. In this way, it will be clear that the Lord reigns among the Fulbe peoples!—Bob Rutz

(These events are hypothetical.)

Cows grazed in a field in Nigeria as a Fulani herder gazed at the lush grass on the other side of a wooden fence. There was a sign nailed to the fence, but the herder was not able to read. The herder climbed over the fence. Here was enough grass to feed his cows for weeks. There was a man standing in the distance, who turned to face him. "Get off my land!" The man fired a rifle at the herder. The shot missed and the Fulani herder scrambled back over the fence and rejoined his herd of cows.



DeBoordenave

The Fulani of Nigeria don't value education, so illiteracy is a serious problem among them. Nigerian government officials have fenced in what had been Fulani land to create cattle ranches. Since then there have been violent encounters between the ranchers and the nomadic herders because the herders can't read the "No Trespassing" signs.

Most Nigerian Fulani are Muslims. There are few, if any, followers of Jesus Christ among them.

Pray that the gospel will be preached to this people group in a format they can access, such as radio. May the Nigerian Fulani come to see the value of education. Ask God to lead Christian teachers to reach out to this people group. Such people can teach reading, writing, and the message of salvation in the local language.—WK

HABEE FULBE

DAY

08

(These events are hypothetical.)

The Habee herder leads his cows into the rice field of the Hausa farmer. As the farmer watched, he did not object. The cows began eating rice stalks, but in a way, the cattle would pay the farmer back with their manure to fertilize the rice fields. That is the way it had always been. The cattle herders and the farmers had a symbiotic relationship, meaning they each provided something to benefit the other. Unfortunately, this situation is deteriorating, as you will see in other prayer entries this month.



Azim Khan

GEN 20:10-11, NET

Then Abimelech asked Abraham, "What prompted you to do this thing?" Abraham replied, "Because I thought, 'Surely no one fears God in this place. They will kill me because of my wife.'"

Pray for workers to find those among the Habee people who have a healthy fear of God and are willing to obey him.

The Habee Fulbe of Nigeria are nomadic herders. They live in the same part of Nigeria as the Hausa, who are mainly farmers. No one knows when the Hausa learned about the value of manure in making crops grow, or when the Habee began providing manure for their Hausa neighbors. As you can see from earlier prayer entries, cooperation has been replaced with violent rivalry today.

The Habee were one of the first people groups in Africa to convert to Islam, but this people group still retains a belief in nature spirits. In recent years a few Habee have become followers of Jesus Christ.

Pray that a mission agency will target the Habee for outreach. May this people group realize their need for salvation. May the few followers of Jesus Christ grow in faith, so they may take the message of salvation to their countrymen. May such believers be protected from persecution.—WK

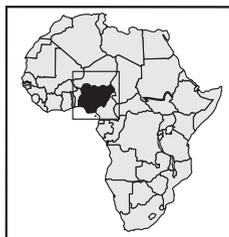
FULA JALON PEOPLE

ACTS 2:22-24, NET

Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man clearly attested to you by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through him, just as you yourselves know—this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you executed by nailing him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles. But God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held in its power.

Pray for true repentance leading to action to come to the Fula Jalon people when they hear the gospel.

(These events are hypothetical.)



Ali, a boy from the Fula Jalon people group in Nigeria, sat at a desk in a wooden school house. There was only one book on his desk and that was the Qur'an. It was the same on every other desk. Only boys sat in the classroom. Ali spoke. "Teacher, is there no knowledge outside the Qur'an?" The teacher, a middle-aged man, gaped in horror. "Ali, don't ask such questions! Allah won't be pleased." Ali then

asked, "Teacher, why are there no girls in school? She should be in school." This time the teacher glared at Ali and hissed, "Allah has decreed that only boys deserve an education." Ali decided not to ask any more questions.

The Fula Jalon are one of the first Fulbe people groups to realize the value of getting an education. They are more settled than most of their neighbors. The Fula Jalon are nomadic herders only during the dry season, so you can say they are semi-nomadic. They live in villages and plant crops during the wet season. Almost all members of this people group are Muslims, but Roman Catholic missionaries have won a few who now follow Jesus Christ.

Ask God to raise up many faithful workers who will teach this people group about Jesus Christ, the Lord. May the Fula Jalon followers of Christ come together to form believing fellowships that will be a witness to their Muslim neighbors.—WK

FOUTA TOORO PEOPLE

DAY

10

The explorer Antoine de Saint-Exupery once wrote: “What makes the desert beautiful is that somewhere it hides a well.” Despite a harsh environment and humble, hidden lifestyles, let us pray that the Fouta Tooro people group become a deep well, full and rich with true living water.



GEN 22:8, NET

“God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham replied. The two of them continued on together.

Pray for all the Fulbe peoples to understand that Jesus Christ is the only true sacrifice. He alone can pay for our sins!

Much of the story of the Fouta Tooro is unknown. They lead quiet, hardworking lives as sojourners in their own homelands. Almost all Fouta Toro are Muslim, and many school children learn to pray and recite passages from the Qur’an in their village mosques. However, most people in this group only have a superficial knowledge of Islam, and religion is a valued tradition of recitations and rituals rather than a faith-based relationship.

Although the region that Fouta Tooro reside is known for its extreme temperatures and dry climate, it is also a rich farmland due to two growing seasons. The nomadic Fouta Tooro roam in small groups, living in makeshift huts constructed from leaves and grass. This people are engaged in a fight to claim their citizenship and receive their recognition from governments as a people group.

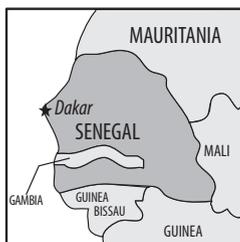
Pray for willing laborers who are called to live alongside the Fouta Tooro in an unforgiving and often dangerous climate. Pray for the person of Jesus Christ to be revealed directly to the Fouta Tooro, as a shepherd, as a big brother, and as the true king. Pray that the Fouta Tooro would claim their heavenly citizenship.—EC

FULAKUNDA PEOPLE OF SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA

1 COR 12:2, NET

You know that when you were pagans you were often led astray by speechless idols, however you were led.

Pray that the Fulakunda people will see the errors of their ways in depending on the Islamic religious system and spirit beings. Pray that they will taste and see that the Lord is good.



Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit... (Romans 12:2a, TPT)

Only through Jesus can true freedom and transformation come to the Fulakunda people. A sub-group of the Fulbe, the Fulakunda number almost 1.8 million people in Senegal and about 47,000 in Mauritania. They live as herdsmen of cattle and sheep.

When the weather allows it, they also grow cash crops. Children lack a formal education.

Devotion to Islam dominates Fulakunda culture. The Fulakunda follow good morals and virtues that include justice, patience, generosity, and honesty. Village life emphasizes adherence to obligations and rules. Within the last 60 years, some Fulakunda turned to Islam from old animist beliefs. In Mauritania many still hold to strong beliefs in evil spirits and sorcerers. The New Testament, The JESUS Film, and audio recordings are all available in Pulaar, the Fulakunda language.

Ask God to raise up powerful prayer efforts to break the hold of Islam and remaining animism on the Fulakunda. Pray that the Fulakunda believers stand strong in the Lord and grow in Christ with biblical materials in Pulaar. Ask for African workers to help disciple Fulakunda believers and to share Christ with unbelievers. Pray for vibrant disciple-making movements among the Fulakunda people.—CR

GORGAL FULBE PEOPLE

DAY

12

Spread across Central and Western Africa, bounded by the Sahara Desert to the North and the Central African Republic to the south, the Gorgal



Fulbe people live out their lives. Once a nomadic people, the Gorgal have settled down into a semi-sedentary lifestyle, often amongst the weaker tribes they have conquered.

The Gorgal have a long history of raising livestock and continue that practice to this day. The task of caring for the animals goes to the men, as does the planting, raising, and harvesting of crops. During the dry months, the young men take the cattle in search of water elsewhere in an attempt to protect the local water supply. The women, meanwhile, take care of domestic matters such as cooking, maintaining the huts, weaving, spinning, making soap, and caring for young children.

The Gorgal are devout Muslims, though their understanding of Islam is tainted by animism. Deviation from Islam is not tolerated. What education the Gorgal receive typically consists of learning to pray and recite the Qur'an.

Pray that the Gorgal people will soon encounter the love of God and be softened to the message of the gospel. Pray that they would encounter Jesus in dreams and visions, and that a radically loving and evangelistic community of Gorgal believers would be raised up to reach their own people.—BK

MATT 7:7-8, RSV

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Pray that God will send his ambassadors to the Gorgal people to teach them by example how to ask blessings from a loving heavenly father. Pray for living examples of believers among Fulbe peoples who know how to keep on asking until they receive, seeking until they find, and knocking until every door is opened to all the resources of heaven needed to live the lives God has designed for them.

GURMANCHE FULANI PEOPLE

1 TIM 1:1-2, NET

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, to Timothy, my genuine child in the faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord!

Pray that Gurmanche fathers will encounter the risen Christ, and begin to disciple their sons in such a way that these boys will be a blessing to the nations.

DeBoordernaive



Semi-nomadic herders, the Gurmanche Fulani are a large people group living in western and central Africa. Possessing lighter skin, straight-

er hair and noses, and thinner lips than other African peoples, some believe the Gurmanche and other Fulbe peoples have a Caucasian origin. They are highly dignified, and they take great pride in what makes them a distinctive people.

Like other semi-nomadic peoples, the Gurmanche stay in place during the wet months, and travel with their herds during the dry months in search of water and grazing land. The women take charge of preparing the evening meals, often a millet porridge. Milking the cattle and making butter are other important chores. Interestingly, clothing the family falls to the man, allowing him to develop and express his own style. When a son turns 15, he passes his work on and takes on the role of a supervisor. The Gurmanche are of the opinion that having others work for you moves you into a higher social status. Thus, they are not well known for being hard workers. They also believe that fear is a weakness, and is the root of mental illness.

Pray that the Gurmanche people would encounter the wonder of the gospel, and that they would be impressed by the servant heart of Jesus and his bravery in going to the cross. Pray for many to be disciplined into the ways of Jesus Christ.—BK

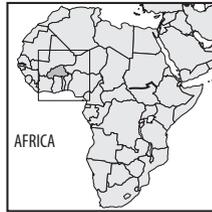
JELGOOJI FULBE IN BURKINA FASO

The small landlocked nation of Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world. Per capita income is less than two US dollars per day, and life expectancy is only 58 years. Droughts and floods are common, which makes it almost impossible to grow enough food. Hunger and malnutrition are constant problems especially for women and children. An estimated 1.5 million children experience stunted growth due to the lack of food.

In the north and northwest of this country there is a Fulbe subgroup known as the Jelgooji. As nomads they have something in common with Abraham and Lot of the Old Testament. They travel throughout the year searching for water and food for their herds of cattle and flocks of goats and sheep.

They are almost entirely Muslim. Yet they blend folk religion with their Islamic beliefs. It is very hard to reach Muslims in general, and even harder to reach nomads, whose lifestyle is difficult for potential missionaries to adopt. However, there is a way to get through to them. They value the oral tradition of storytelling and the use of proverbs. At this point in time, there are gospel recordings in their language that they can use, and believers can use stories and proverbs to teach them about their savior.

Pray for the Lord to raise up believers who will gladly live among these nomads and tell them about Jesus through stories.—DK



GEN 26:1, NET

There was a famine in the land, subsequent to the earlier famine that occurred in the days of Abraham. Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines at Gerar.

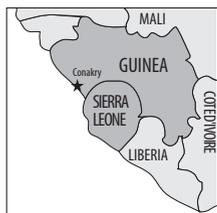
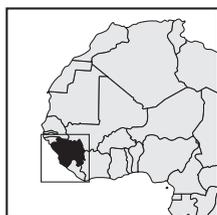
Pray that in times of famine and drought, the Jelgooji people will learn to depend on the Lord rather than seeking man-made solutions.

KRIO FULBE OF SIERRA LEONE

I PET2:7-8, NET

So you who believe see his value, but for those who do not believe, the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and a stumbling-stone and a rock to trip over. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Pray that the Krio Fulbe will see the incredible value of the Lord, and make him the center of their lives.



Saidu examined the diamond. From his youth, when he was forced to fight for the rebels in the 1999 Sierra Leone civil war, he knew a real diamond from a fake. That war was about illegal diamond smuggling. He thought of his own father who never saw a diamond in his youth. He traded cattle like Fulbe people had done for centuries. Nowadays, Krio Fulbes trade diamonds and other precious gems. The most privileged of

Krio Fulbe people are involved in better types of trade; they own large shopping centers.

The Krio Fulbe inhabit the western side of Freetown, Sierra Leone, along a heavily-wooded peninsula they consider their homeland. However, now they are spread throughout the country, working as traders. The rural Krio Fulbe still live in huts, herd cattle, farm crops, and cultivate gardens. They trade milk and cheese in local markets. Nomadic Fulbe follow the herds.

The Fulbe make up nearly 10 percent of Sierra Leone's population. Nearly all are Muslim, though many practice tribal religious customs as well. Divination, magic, and witchcraft are common. There are two mission agencies working among the Fulbe, but few have accepted the invitation to become part of God's heavenly family.

Pray that the Krio Fulbe people's eyes will be opened to the truth about our Lord Jesus. Pray they will easily trade their old lives for new, eternal lives in him.—LR

BAGIRMI OF C.A.R. AND CHAD

DAY

16

(This story is intended to illustrate the lifestyle among this people group.)

Miriama was jealous of her husband's other wife.

He had married her because Miriama had not yet born him any children, and to the Bagirmi Fulbe, children are essential. They believe that a person lives from generation to generation through his children. With a son, a man's name will remain. Consequently, if a Fulbe dies without any children, he is believed to have died twice. So a wife who can bear children is highly valued, and one who cannot is considered a burden.

This new wife, with the tell-tale Bagirmi copper skin and straight hair, had only hours ago given birth to a son. To add insult to injury, Miriama was left to prepare for the ceremony held to celebrate the birth of a firstborn son and the naming of the son.

The Bagirmi are a 250,000-member subgroup of the Fulani (Fulbe) who occupy the Bagirmi region of south-central Chad and parts of the Central African Republic (C.A.R.). Their region is squeezed between the Sahara Desert in the north and dangerous areas where dreaded tsetse flies live in the south.

Nearly every Bagirmi is Muslim, though many still practice traditional beliefs.

Pray that the Bagirmi people will learn that Jesus is the only son through whom they can find eternal life.—LR



DeBoordenave

JN 6:40, NET

For this is the will of my father—for everyone who looks on the son and believes in him to have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Pray that many from the Bagirmi tribe will look to the son, and believe in him for eternal life.

SECRET BELIEVERS IN WEST AFRICA

IS 11:9, NET

They will no longer injure or destroy on my entire royal mountain. For there will be universal submission to the Lord's sovereignty, just as the waters completely cover the sea.

Pray that soon African Muslims will gladly submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, and part of this prophesy will be fulfilled.

Fulnet



Yaw was in a bind. If he told the truth, he, his sons and grandsons would be killed. He didn't mind losing his life, but he hated to bring death upon his family. If he didn't tell the truth, he would be turning his back on his Lord. He couldn't live with that.

Before Yaw were four prisoners who had been forced to stand for 10 days in the town square, awaiting punishment for abandoning Islam. Their houses had already been razed. Today, the whole town had gathered to witness the judgment. The official declared with a hiss, "These men will receive their sentence for leaving Islam. If any of you are also following Isa Al-Masih, then you should confess that and receive your due. We will discover who you are, either way."

Yaw could not deny his Lord, Isa Al-Masih. He stepped forward. The crowd froze. Wordlessly, a woman revealed her faith. Then a young couple. Eventually, half the crowd had joined Yaw. The official choked out, "You are all Christians? Then you can no longer attend our mosque! You must find your own place of worship!" With that, the believers were released.

Pray for courage for West African Muslims who decide to follow Jesus. May they be faithful to their Lord in the face of persecution. Pray that they will walk in the ways of Jesus Christ and depend on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance. May they keep their eyes on their eternal future.—CMW

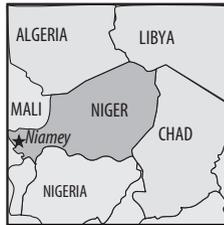
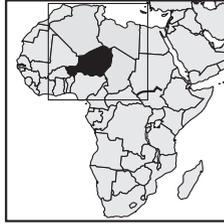
WESTERN FULANI PEOPLE IN NIGER

The baby's name is Saikou, but he will never hear it from his mother's lips. He will never receive any embraces from his mother. Does she not love him? Has she moved away? Is she dead? No! The baby is Western Fulani, and a Fulani mother may never utter her firstborn son's name nor show him affection.

The Western Fulani (also known as Fulbe) are a cattle-herding agrarian people.

According to Africa Inland Mission (AIM), the north of Niger is a no-go zone due to rebel activity, but mission workers are able to enter southern Niger. Over the last 40 years, a number of workers have reached out to the Western Fulani, leading to a small number of believers scattered across the country. Nonetheless, the Western Fulani are still classified as unreached; many have never heard the good news that Jesus died for them, and fewer yet have heard this news in their heart language, Fulfulde. AIM partners with Serving in Mission (SIM) to support a joint team living in a rural setting and teaching land management as a way of building relationships with Nigerien nationals.

Pray that the Western Fulani will come to know the God who loves them and wants to bless them, the same God who can make their land yield an abundance. Pray that many Western Fulani leaders will soon have the gift of faith in Jesus.—CMW



GEN 22:14, NET

And Abraham called the name of that place "The Lord provides." It is said to this day, "In the mountain of the Lord provision will be made."

Pray that Western Fulani people will understand that Jesus Christ is indeed God's only provision for forgiveness of sin.

WODAABE PEOPLE

GEN 21:22, NET

At that time Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do."

Pray that the Wodaabe people will soon come in contact with blessed believers, and they will know that God is with them. Pray that they will understand he can be with them as well, but they must repent and obey him. Pray that soon God will be with the Wodaabe people in a powerful way.

iStockPhotos



A Wodaabe beauty

Is the planet warming? If you are a Wodaabe you would think so, because you have experienced a long drought, and it's causing serious problems in your daily life. Like most other Fulbe peoples, the marginally Muslim Wodaabe people depend on their cattle for everything. Even when foreign aid comes in to help their desperate situation, they usually get none of it, because it goes through the hands of others who can sell it to people who are less in need.

In the west, the Wodaabe are the best known Fulbe group because of their mating dance. On YouTube one can see males elaborately adorned in embroidered dance tunics and wearing cosmetic paint. They sing and dance and show the whites of their eyes and teeth in order to attract a woman. If they attract her, her family pays a bride price. If there are children, she goes back to her parents until the child is weaned.

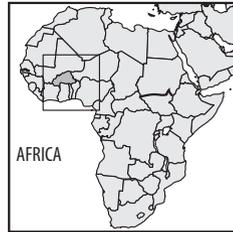
Pray that soon there will come abundant rain for the Wodaabe people, and that it will result in them fearing the Lord and giving him praise and glory. Pray that Wodaabe people will learn that children are not an "error" but a gift from God. Pray that missionaries will work among them and that churches will adopt them. Pray for Wodaabe believers to disciple others in the ways of Christ.—TP

BIBLE TRANSLATION WORK

DAY

20

What do you do if you are spiritually lost and you can't read? That is the reality of many Fulbe peoples. Given their geographic spread, they speak different dialects. Perhaps you listen to recordings of scripture, see the JESUS Film, watch a drama of a Bible story, or listen to gospel music.



SIM International, a mission organization, sent Phil Reid from the UK to Burkina Faso to translate the Bible for a Fulbe group. His wife served them as a physician, opening doors to Fulbe women and children. The couple learned French, a trade language, and a Fulbe language. They hired translators, set up an office, got the help of translation consultants, and by the year 2013 the New Testament was ready to be printed and distributed. By 2015, 25 percent of the Old Testament was complete. In 2016 the Wodaabe New Testament was completed. Currently the team is working on 1 and 2 Kings, Esther, and Numbers. In the meantime, literacy must be promoted if the Fulbe are to be able to read the Bible in their language.

Pray that the Reids and their translation team will flourish. Pray that there will be literacy instruction, and that people will have an eager desire to read the New Testament. Pray that the few Fulbe believers will grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus and be encouraged to witness to other Fulbe people. Pray that African churches will fund and send their own translators.—TP

PHIL 4:19, RSV

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will prompt the believers in Africa to learn the Scriptures and trust their lives to God who supplies all their needs, according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- Bob Rutz

TRAINING IN MINISTRY OUTREACH

ACTS 1:6-8, NET

So when they had gathered together, they began to ask him, “Lord, is this the time when you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He told them, “You are not permitted to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth.”

Pray for God to raise up thousands of believers who will gladly take Jesus at his word. Pray that they will receive power from the Holy Spirit and go out as his witnesses to the remotest peoples in Africa.



How can an outsider make a difference in the lives of unreached Africans? Africa Inland Mission (AIM) has found the answer: “Relationships are the foundation for

meaningful discipleship which, in turn, lays the groundwork for a Christ-centered church.” Before sharing the gospel, teams have discovered they need to share more menial things, such as meals, laughter, and tears.

Training In Ministry Outreach (TIMO) is AIM’s two-year program that trains new cross-cultural workers from around the world to do ministry in Africa. TIMO doesn’t work where the gospel is already being proclaimed by others. They believe it is critical to learn the local language and culture to proclaim the gospel. Their teams live among those with whom they share the gospel, and they adopt the local lifestyle. Their goal is that “they will know we are Christians by our love.” Some of them live among shepherds and nomadic peoples. They live among those completely unreached by the gospel, so they can say with the Apostle Paul: “I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some” (I Cor 9:22b NASB).

Ask God to bless and multiply TIMO’s efforts to bring unreached people into the Kingdom of God.—JS

FULNET WORK

DAY

22

GPD interces-
sors are

focusing on the
Fulbe people for
this entire month.

Many organiza-
tions work with
and among them,

but one, Fulnet, works *primarily* with Fulbe people.

We know that the Fulbe are primarily in West African nations, and Fulnet works in 24 countries where they live. Would you be surprised to learn that four of those nations are the USA, Switzerland, Austria, and Iceland? Fulnet goes beyond Africa to even the remotest parts where Fulbe people have migrated!



Fulnet

ACTS 1:9-11, NET

After he had said this, while they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud hid him from their sight. As they were still staring into the sky while he was going, suddenly two men in white clothing stood near them and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven.”

Pray that the Lord will give hope and joy to all those working with Fulnet. Pray that they will realize that as long as they are on the Lord’s team, they are on the winning team.

Three key elements drive the momentum of Fulnet: prayer mobilization, strategic research, and networking in church planting. First, Fulnet believes that without prayer they can do nothing. Victory is won in the spiritual realm first before meaningful results are seen in the physical realm. Second, we are in the information age. Correct and verifiable information from reliable sources is vital for legitimate and efficient action. And third, networking is vital for church planting. Training and equipping all members with consultations and conferences accelerates missionaries to the goal of making disciples among the Fulbe peoples. Join the effort; adopt a people group from one of the 24 countries. Go to <http://www.fulnet.org>

Pray for workers who are filled with the fruit and the power of the Holy Spirit to go out as Christ’s ambassadors to every Fulbe group. Pray that soon the Fulbe will be among the most reached people groups.—JS

GLOBAL MEDIA OUTREACH (GMO)

ACTS 3:19-20, NET

Therefore, repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that he may send the messiah appointed for you—that is, Jesus.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to use Global Media Outreach to show African Muslims the way to have their sins wiped out, so they too can experience spiritual refreshing and the presence of the Lord.

IMB



What if technology is the key to fulfilling the great commission in our lifetime? Global Media Outreach (GMO) utilizes thousands of online missionaries (OM) to connect with

people wanting to know more about Jesus. One OM had a remarkable contact with Khalid, a Muslim imam. After one sermon an old man approached Khalid and asked if a person who strictly followed the teachings of the Qur'an was guaranteed a place in heaven. Khalid searched the Qur'an, but found no verse to verify it. He was unable to find the old man. One year later the same old man appeared again. Khalid told him that he did not have the answer. The old man said, "I am not the one who needs the answer. It is you who needs the answer!"

This statement started Khalid's search for truth, and eventually he found Jesus to be the truth. Searching to know more, he contacted GMO, and his OM monitored his resignation from the mosque and his remarkable escape from the head imam who put out a death sentence on his life. He eluded eight killers who did not see him when he escaped his home and two deadly traps set for him. He was able to contact the chief imam, forgive him, and share Christ with him. That imam also gave his life to Christ. Both are sharing the truth of Jesus as the only savior!

Pray for a lasting, fruitful ministry. Ask God to send more angels to imams.—JS

SIM WORK WITH THE FULBE

DAY

24

Who are the largest nomadic people in the world? The Fulbe. They have been traditionally nomadic herdsman, though many live in settled communities.

They live in all West African nations and are still strong Muslims.



SIM

Who is reaching them with the gospel of Jesus Christ? Many mission organizations. Predominant among those focusing their efforts on these West African nations is Serving in Missions (SIM). SIM has over 4,000 workers serving in six continents and in over 70 countries around the world.

How do they focus on the Fulbe? Their ministry aims at facilitating the training of Fulbe to reach other Fulbe. The greatest percent of the population in these West African nations is young, so educating the youth is one of SIM's primary goals. They provide education based upon gospel principles, realizing that they are training future leaders. They are also committed to church leadership training. Their overall goal is to bring men, women, and children into relationship with Jesus Christ as growing and passionate disciples.

SIM asks us to pray for their English ministry, medical ministry, and Girls Off the Street and Boys Off the Street ministries to demonstrate Christ's love in ways that transform lives.—JS

1 TIM 1:5, NET

But the aim of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to use SIM to raise up many "Timothys" to disciple the believers so that the entire continent of Africa can be transformed.

MOVEMENT FOR AFRICAN NATIONAL INITIATIVES (MANI)

MATT 19:26, NET

Jesus looked at them and replied, “This is impossible for mere humans, but for God all things are possible.”

Pray for God to do the impossible through his children in Africa. Pray for MANI to identify and train believers to begin disciple making movements among the various Fulbe communities in Africa.



“How will we reach them?” The African mission leaders seated around the long table gazed up at the map that was being projected on the large screen at the front of

the auditorium. Red dots representing Fulbe communities were spread across the northwestern portion of the African continent like a band of storms.

The question hung in the air. Finally someone said, “There are two main problems; location and lifestyle.” Heads nodded. Everyone was aware that the Fulbe live in a very dangerous area. They also understood that Fulbe are nomadic, and few workers are willing to live this kind of lifestyle. “It seems impossible,” someone finally sighed. He continued, “This is why we must pray and encourage others to pray as well. Our God delights in doing the impossible.” And so they began to pray.

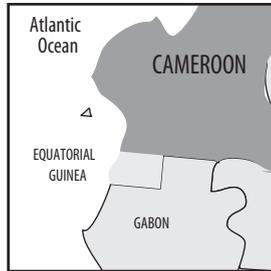
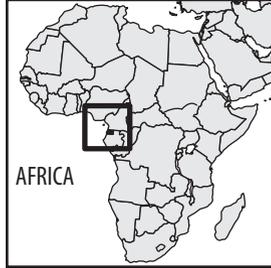
Reaching the Fulbe is a challenging task, even for a network of African mission agencies like the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI). Despite MANI’s efforts to mobilize the body of Christ, the Fulbe continue to rank among the world’s least-reached people groups. MANI leaders are the ones who provided the direction *GPD* needed to produce the prayer guide you are using this month.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to direct members of MANI as they strategize, mobilize, and partner with mission agencies and churches in establishing God’s kingdom among the Fulbe. Pray for the hearts of the Fulbe to be responsive to God’s invitation.—CL

GEY FULBE PEOPLE IN CAMEROON

(This story illustrates aspects of this culture.)

Imagine sitting around a camp fire after a long day of following your cattle through the dry grasslands of northern Cameroon. This is the favorite time of the day. Someone starts to tell a story. It's about Mohammed, the founder of Islam. You've heard it many times before, but it sounds fresh as you give your full attention to the skilled story teller. He reminds you that the Gey Fulbe were one of the first black African tribes to convert to Islam. He goes on to tell of the mighty exploits of Mohammed who brought many tribes into submission to Allah.



Practically every one of the 3,800 in the Gey sub-group is Muslim. There is a Bible translation, audio scripture teaching, and a JESUS Film in their language, Adamawa Fulfulde. But they pay no attention to this information because Islam is their way of life, and any deviation is attacked by the community.

Pray that God would raise up faithful workers to tell the Gey Fulbe about Jesus Christ, the master story teller. Pray for people of peace to welcome Christ's ambassadors. Ask the Lord to raise up many Gey Fulbe people who will allow Jesus the central place in their hearts. Pray that soon they will learn to tell the parables and stories of Jesus Christ.—AS

2 CHR 9:6, NET

I did not believe these things until I came and saw them with my own eyes. Indeed, I didn't hear even half the story! Your wisdom surpasses what was reported to me.

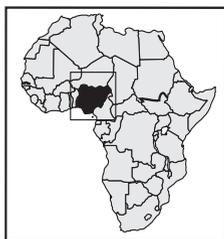
Pray that when the Gey Fulbe people hear the story of Jesus, they will be willing to go anywhere to hear more about the glorious God we worship.

PERSPECTIVES IN NIGERIA

MATT 13:24, NIV

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field."

Pray that what Perspectives students in Africa learn will be like "good seed" leading many to produce an abundant crop for the kingdom of God.



In 1954 the then-named Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) transferred many churches, mission stations, Bible schools, and medical programs to the leadership of the newly formed Evangelical Churches of West Africa (ECWA) which now has a mission arm that sends over 1,600 African missionaries.

Nigerians have been especially active in mission efforts. They founded the Nigerian Evangelical Mission Association (NEMA). In 2002, NEMA introduced the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course, which is an excellent tool for helping people to see what God wants his church to do among every nation. In 2016, they expanded their focus audience to include broader church involvement. So far over 4,000 people have taken it.

Perspectives is also becoming a unifying tool in Africa. A pastor who completed the training plans to host an annual Perspectives class for laymen throughout his Nigerian city. Perspectives continues to expand in West Africa. A team from Nigeria has been invited to help launch the Perspectives program in Ghana.

Pray for students who have completed Perspectives to apply their knowledge to further God's kingdom. Pray that the training in Ghana will be fruitful and those attending will have a life-long commitment to the Great Commission.—AS

MINISTRY TO MUSLIMS IN BURKINA FASO AND GHANA

DAY

28

What does it take to bring people to Christ? Isn't it the kind of love that our savior has for us? That is the way people will know that Jesus is the name above all names.



Kojo working with the men

A year ago we prayed for Kojo Issaka, a Ghanaian missionary who is reaching Muslims and marginal Christians both in northern Ghana and in Burkina Faso. He tells people about the love of Jesus Christ, and how he can change our lives for the better, in the here and now, as well as for eternity. Sometimes he talks with women about the Lord, and their Muslim husbands object to having them go to church. He builds relationships with the husbands, and helps them to see the value of allowing Jesus into their family life.

Some are coming to Christ; among them are a couple of Fulbe. Kojo is training leaders, discipling believers, and making sure people have Bibles.

Pray for African believers to faithfully give to make sure Kojo and others like him have the opportunity to extend Christ's kingdom among the lost in West Africa. Pray for the Lord to raise up many others to join Kojo in discipling new believers, and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commands. Pray for Kojo and other African missionaries to excel in demonstrating the love of the Lord to those who do not know him.—KC

PHIL 4:15-16, NIV

Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.

Pray that like the Philippians, African believers will joyously support workers who need senders to reach the unreached.

Pray For The Fulani

And we are to learn from them, the unbaptized hordes? Yes, from them: values for our faith, lessons for the church, and understandings of the Bible.



I present the Fulani. The Fulani number 27 million nomads roaming across most of West Africa; 10 million Fulani in Nigeria alone. They are the world's largest unreached nomadic ethnic group, now stirring up hatred and violence through much of Nigeria, most recently in the territory of my home diocese, Tiv land of Benue State.

Three years ago the violence against farming villages in Benue State was so harsh that hundreds fled into Makurdi to be cared for by the Anglican Churches and others. Most recently, the Fulani have staked the right to graze openly there by claiming that they were the first people to occupy Tiv land. This gave permission to invade, rape, and destroy. Last month over 15,000 people were displaced by Fulani in nearby Taraba State.

How could these people bring value to Christians? Let me consider two answers. First, the model of their life as nomads; second, lessons from a church among them.

First, if we consider how they live, we find three things that speak well of them. The Bishop of Kafuchan, where Fulani roam, once told a group of us about the Fulani as the model for the good shepherd. As the good shepherd lets nothing come before the welfare of his sheep, so the Fulani will not let anything harm his cows. ...

Also, consider that they possess very few things. They do have huts where the family stays while the men are grazing their cattle, but these do not have garages or attics. Downsizing comes easily for them—maybe 30 minutes to prepare for a three-month journey. ... If they

Pray For The Fulani

don't have flat screen TVs and places to hang out, what do they have? Community. They have a means of communication that does not require passwords, Wi-fi, or even postage. News travels. After all, they are all related to one another in some way. Each person's most gripping concerns are the same across the tribe, and shared life means shared concerns and care. They have community that is deep and intense.

Now consider what it would take for a church to be established among the nomadic Fulani. The first thing not on the list is a building. No carpet color to disagree on, no mortgage, no upkeep. Next, committees seem to be universal in churches, but for the Fulani I cannot come up with a single title for one. So what does that leave for the life of the church? Bible study together in the evening and meditation during the day; same for prayer and looking after one another. About the Bible, they find themselves on almost every page: Abraham called to journey out, Moses in the wilderness with a rowdy crowd, Israel away from their homeland, the holy family as refugees. That's a lot closer resemblance to them than to me and retirement and fretting over the Internet speed.

I know I have painted a rosy picture of a people who are not rosy at all. My description is Fulani life fully redeemed, a far cry from them today. What I have tried to do is to show how God could use them—even them—to model a lifestyle for us as individuals and as a church. And if the Fulani, then also any and every other group yet to come under the rule of the Lord of the nations, Jesus Christ.

The Fulani need people praying for them. That—and only that—will bring the rosy details into reality. Since traveling there in 2013, I have developed a list of addresses of people who prayed for these nomads. The time is now to intensify the church's prayer for them, and I hope to have new information for restarting this prayer mailing.

If you would like to be part of this prayer effort to make these rosy descriptions become reality, please write me at the return address, and I will add you to the mailing. These requests will come about twice a month.

The address is to join the Fulani prayer is:

HarvestingFields@gmail.com



Haiku Cycle for Fulbe

Cosmic Lord Jesus -
subtle cultural inroads -
unexpected ways.

What would Jesus write?
Snippets and morsels of truth.
Call them parables.

Fulani/Fulbe.
Some came as slaves to far shores.
Debts must be repaid.

Nomadic peoples.
Some sail vast sand desert seas.
Honor in movement.

African deep sight –
masks inspire modern artists.
Jesus sees deeper.

Their lives are canvas.
Muslim peoples of word songs.
We send word paintings.

Some call Fulani
Earth's most beautiful people.
They reflect God's face.

Jesus speaks pictures.
Robes of kings become flowers.
Fulani had empires.

Jesus loves Fulani.
His heart burns for their embrace.
Pray He reaches them.

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