

REACH THE REST UPDATE

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Proximate Church Reaches the Jallonke

Reach the Rest church planters in Mali identified a church in Kenieba, Mali as a suitable proximate church to reach the Jallonke people.

The Western Malinke people, who are members of the Kenieba church, live and work among the Jallonke. The Jallonke are a previously unengaged and unreached people group. When challenged with the engagement, the church identified Phillipe as God's man and selected him for the task.

Phillipe loves the Lord and has been involved in Kingdom services for years as an evangelist, literacy worker, and NGO development agent. He is an out-spoken witness for Christ. Being an elder of his local church, Phillipe became a catalyst to motivate others in his congregation to reach the Jallonke.

Phillipe was excited as he prepared to go to neighboring villages. Before leaving, Phillipe received a Vista unit from Benjamin, a Reach the Rest field leader. This device enables Phillipe to show the Jesus Film in the villages where there has been little or no exposure to the Gospel.

The Jallonke's First Known Believer

Phillipe recalls having a conversation with the Muslim leader of a Jallonke village about Jesus. Over 25 people listened as he shared the Good News. Phillipe then played an audio version of the Gospel of John using an audio listening device called a Proclaimer. Those listening had many questions.

Upon leaving the village, the Proclaimer unit was entrusted to a "man of peace" by the name of Baba. Phillipe returned often to answer questions and share God's Word. Baba repeatedly played the unit for the people of his village. Over time, Baba understood his need for a Savior and became a follower



Baba

continued

Prayer Points

- Pray for those who are exposed to the Gospel through the Jesus Film, listening devices, and personal testimonies by those who have embraced the Good News of Christ.
- Pray for the ongoing discipleship efforts of new believers and their continued spiritual growth and understanding of God's Word.
- Pray for those that attempt to stand against the efforts of church planters and others who are sharing with villagers. May the power of God's Word break through strongholds.
- Pray for the health and protection of church planters and workers as they travel and work to spread the Gospel.
- Ask the Lord to save key Jallonke leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel to their own people.



The Jallonke *continued*

of Jesus. Baba became the first known Jallonke believer in Mali!

Opposition Reaches Home

Unfortunately, many in Baba's village refused to hear about Jesus. They isolated Baba and his family. In fact, when his wife gave birth, the members of the village refused to attend the naming ceremony — a highly anticipated and regarded ritual within the Jallonke community. When Phillipe, who had been discipling Baba, heard the news, he came to the village bringing several believers.

Phillipe had the honor of proclaiming the name of the baby. He also announced that the church would be the extended family for Baba's new baby. This simple act was not only a great encouragement to Baba's family, but the villagers were able to witness the love and care demonstrated by these followers of Jesus.

Persistent Witness Provides Opportunities

Baba continued in his newfound faith and spent much time being disciplined by Phillipe. He also



Phillipe (L) receiving a Vista unit from Reach the Rest field leader, Benjamin (R)

recognized the importance of sharing his faith and discipling others as they became followers of Christ. In spite of their opposition, Baba continued to treat the villagers kindly and encourage them. Eventually he was given permission to play the Proclaimer unit and show the Jesus Film to the whole village.

The First Jallonke Church

After the first showing of the Jesus Film, several people began asking questions and seeking more information about Jesus. Baba patiently answered each question and prayed over his fellow villagers. Several responded and 15 Jallonke villagers accepted Christ. They were soon baptized.

Baba and this small band of believers began meeting each Sunday to worship. Eventually a

small building was constructed. The change in the lives of these believers was noticeable throughout the village and, as a result, others began responding to the Gospel. The church was growing and adding more members.

The Spread of the Jallonke Church

Soon church planters recognized that there were other Jallonke villages without Christ and a Gospel witness. In the face of potential persecution and armed with the Jesus Film and Proclaimer units, these servants began sharing the Gospel in nearby villages — often experiencing up to 150 people gathered to hear about Jesus.

Reports indicate that thousands have heard the Gospel through the efforts of these church planters moving from village to village with the Good News of Christ. New believers are being baptized, disciplined and forming house churches. It is apparent that the Father is drawing the people of West Africa to Himself through the efforts of faithful men and women. We now know the Jallonke people will be standing around His throne and worshipping Him forever.

FOCUS ON The Jallonke

The Jallonke are located primarily in the country of Guinea. Some also live in Senegal, southwestern Mali, and northeastern Sierra Leone. They are primarily subsistence farmers, with rice and millet being their staple



crops. Peanuts, sweet potatoes, maize, and beans are also grown. Chickens, herds of

cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats are kept.

The Jallonke number approximately 15,000 and are nearly 100% Muslim. The Bible is available in their language. However, their devotion to Islam and fear of persecution have prevented all but a few from converting to Christianity.

Much prayer, further missionary efforts, and additional evangelistic tools are needed to reach this people group with the

Truth. Above all, they need people who will begin to faithfully intercede for them, tearing down the strongholds that are keeping them in spiritual bondage. Only then will their hearts be prepared to receive the Gospel as it is presented to them.



REACH the REST

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