

Praying for the Religions of West Africa

Islam

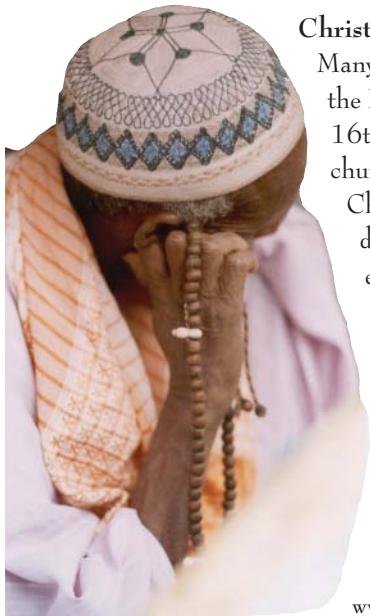
Millions of West Africans bow in prayer to Allah as followers of Islam, the region's dominant religion. Rote memorization of Qur'anic passages in Arabic, a language most of them don't understand, leads to a faith devoid of any real meaning.

☞ Pray that West Africans will become dissatisfied with the emptiness of Islam and seek to have a real and living relationship with the God who created them.

African Traditional Religion

Many West Africans are followers of complex animistic beliefs collectively referred to as African Traditional Religion. In fact, Islam and Christianity are often just thin veneers covering centuries old beliefs to which West Africans continue to cling. Ancestral worship, consultation of spirits, worship of nature, and animal sacrifice are common practices for many Africans.

☞ Fear of spirits causes many West Africans to cling to their traditional animistic beliefs. Pray they will come to know the freedom and peace that can only be found in Jesus Christ.



Christianity

Many Africans converted to Catholicism when the French colonized West Africa beginning in the 16th century. Others are members of evangelical churches, and some are heartfelt followers of Jesus Christ. Some, however, continue to consult witch doctors and follow other traditional practices even as they attend church and proclaim to be Christians.

☞ Pray that born-again believers will hold to the truths of scripture rather than turn to traditional practices in times of difficulty. Pray they will be strong witnesses to friends and family members.

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