

PRAY FOR THE BAMBARA OF SENEGAL



Have you ever played with a Lego set and been so engrossed in the game that you just wish you could shrink yourself and go inside the house or set and be one of the characters, like a pirate, an elf, or a superhero? I did when I was little. Actually, I still sort of do when I see those little Christmas Village houses. Have you ever seen them? They look so jolly, decked out with Christmas lights and snowcapped trees and the inside looks so warm and inviting. I just want to go in, sit by the fire, and have a cup of cocoa in that miniature Smokey Mountain Ski Lodge. I just know if I did, Bing Crosby would join me by the fire and tell me to count my blessings.

In the not-so cold west African country of Senegal, there is an unreached, unengaged people group called the Bambara. The Bambara are actually the majority people group in Mali, a neighboring country to Senegal. Many have left Mali in hopes of finding a better education or better jobs, or even to flee instability within their own country in recent years. Those in Senegal, like those in Mali, devote themselves to Islam and its five pillars. While some Bambara have established themselves in the larger cities of Senegal, most reside in villages exclusive to the Bambara.



Let's pray that believers in Senegal will be bold witnesses to the Bambara living there. Pray also that the Bambara will read or listen to the Bible that has been translated to their language. Pray that those who encounter the Bible will have a desire to know more and seek out believers who can help them. When large groups of people settle in a foreign country, it's not uncommon for them to group together and form their own culture within a culture. It's sort of like, your Lego set inside your house. Inside that set is a little Lego world – the minifigures within that world look alike, speak alike, and play alike. They're different from the world in which they live – your house. The Bambara living in Senegal have made a home within a home, where they can be with others who are alike. But while they share the same culture, language, and traditions, they also share the same need to know the truth about the God who made them. Pray that the Bambara find a new identity in Christ and that they begin to make a new home in Him.



Don't forget to pray for the Bambara children, too! Pray that as they grow up in a foreign land, but find comfort in their Bambara community, that they too will hear the gospel and believe so that no matter where they might move in their lifetime, they have a "home" in Christ – an eternal home.