

Mandinka in Ghana



Photo: Link Up Africa



Map: Joshua Project / GMI / IMB

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

People Name	Mandinka
Country	Ghana
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	136,000
Language	Mandinka
Religion	Islam
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Gospel Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	2
Workers Reported	0

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

The Mandinka speak Mandinka, one of many Manding languages. The Manding languages are spoken in nine African nations by approximately 11 million people.

Most Manding speakers can trace their roots back to the once great Mali Empire, which rose to power in the 1200s under the rule of Sundiata. After unifying the kingdom, Sundiata began conquering the surrounding peoples.

There are three clear divisions within Mandinka society: free-born, artisans, and slaves. The free-born class is the most diverse. It formerly consisted of only noble rulers. Today, however, it includes merchants, farmers, and others. The artisans include leather craftsmen, blacksmiths, and singers, or griots. Artisans are looked upon with fear and awe because their crafts often involve spiritual rituals.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most of the Mandinka are farmers. Rice, millet, sorghum, and peanuts are their staple crops. Others raise goats, sheep, bees, poultry, and dogs. Cattle are sometimes kept, but only to gain prestige, to use as ritual sacrifices, or to use as a "bride price."

Mandinka society is patrilineal (male-dominated) and the smallest social unit is the family. The oldest male serves as the head of the lineage. Clans can be recognized by their symbolic emblems, animals, and plants. If someone travels to another village, he is shown hospitality by the villagers who share his last name.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Islam was first introduced to the Mali Empire by foreign merchants. Gradually, Islam was blended with their traditional beliefs, which involved worshiping the spirits of the land. Today, it is not uncommon for someone to first pray in the village mosque, then sacrifice a chicken to the village spirit.

Most of the Mandinka people observe Islamic rituals with little understanding of what they mean. They view Allah as being the one supreme god. However, they also see him as inaccessible and little concerned with the daily affairs of his creation. Many of the Mandinka consult marabouts (Muslim "holy men") for healing, protective amulets, or insight into the future.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Unfortunately very few of the Mandinka can read. Christian teachers need to find open doors to reach them with the gospel.

PRAYER POINTS

* Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Jn 4:35)

* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in this people group where Christ is not preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)

SOURCES

<https://goo.gl/xCR8Pu>
<https://goo.gl/yeFBpR>
<https://goo.gl/orVlj8>
<https://goo.gl/KTHLZO>
<https://goo.gl/sluF8b>
<https://goo.gl/zJCmDM>
<https://goo.gl/KQQGES>