

Tukolor in Guinea



Photo: Link Up Africa



Map: Bethany World Prayer Center

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

People Name	Tukolor
Country	Guinea
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	44,500
Language	Pulaar
Religion	Islam
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	No
Jesus Film	Yes
Gospel Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	1
Workers Reported	0

BACKGROUND

The Tukolor are thought to have descended from the Fulani and the Wolof or Sereres tribes. The Tukolor are known by a number of names, including Pulaar and Haal. They have retained their respective languages, and many are also bilingual in Arabic. Most Guinea Tukolor live a rural life. They raise livestock, farm, and fish

Many Tukolor, particularly youth, have emigration to the cities in search of better job opportunities.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Traditional Tukolor society has four main social classes, each having twelve "castes." Their social life is a mixture of native customs and Islamic traditions. Neither Islam, the effects of colonization, nor the goals of various national leaders have been able to erase the old social divisions.

The Torobe are the aristocratic class. The middle class, or rimbe, is made up of fishermen, farmers, tradesmen, and administrators. The middle class includes the craftsmen, and the lower class includes the freed slaves and the slaves. Social status rarely changes; however, slaves are freed at every third generation. The Tukolor marry within their class divisions, women usually between the ages of 16 and 18, and men between the ages of 25 and 30. Although it

is uncommon, a man may have up to four wives. Families are generally large, with an average of six children per family.

Traditional rural Tukolor villages are small. They have round huts made of clay or rough bricks, with straw roofs. Villages are governed by a group of elders from the aristocratic caste. Dietary staples include rice, millet, sorghum, fish, nuts, and fruit.

Tukolor women often wear large embedded pieces of wood in the soft lobes of their ears and have two small facial slits near the outside corners of both eyes.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Tukolor first accepted Islam in the eleventh century. Traditional Muslim beliefs such as the nature of man and his destiny after death play a significant role in the people's outlook on life. Muslim brotherhoods teach a mystical approach to Islam: the people seek closer relationships to God through rituals, prayer, and other techniques.

Islam has not brought any major changes to Tukolor attitudes toward spiritism and magic. The people use charms, amulets, and witchcraft. The Tukolor attribute supernatural powers to various Muslim clerics who practice divination, the use of supernatural powers.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Decreasing income from the sale of agricultural products, encroachment by the Sahara Desert on farmland, deforestation, and increasing population are resulting in extreme financial concerns for the Tukolor. Nearly all village water sources are polluted. Malaria and other infectious diseases inflict a heavy toll each year. Although there is some literacy among the aristocracy, most of the Tukolor are illiterate.

Islam has enormous penetration into every aspect of Tukolor life. A somewhat isolated people with minimal exposure to other religious ideas, the Tukolor view the world and gain their personal identities from their rigid beliefs in the Islamic family and community. They are extremely reluctant to leave the world they know.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord to open the door for Christian missionaries to go to Guinea and work among the Tukolor.
- * Pray that the Christian Tukolor language broadcasts will reach the people.
- * Ask God to save Tukolor leaders who will share the love of Jesus with their people.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will break up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Tukolor.