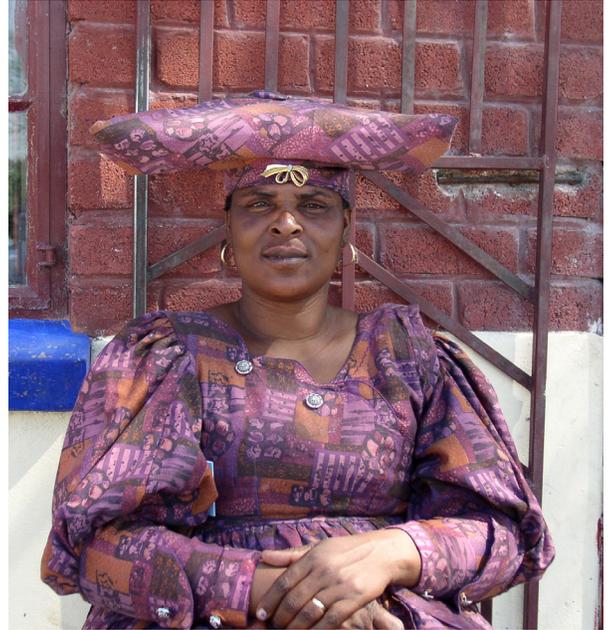




# PRAY FOR THE HERERO OF NAMIBIA

Do you wear a uniform to school? If so, you might have a few options with your uniform, like a short sleeve shirt, sweater, long sleeve shirt, and so on; but they all have a similar color scheme and school logo that look basically the same, right? Or maybe you've been to a camp or even a family reunion, where everyone got a matching T-shirt. When I was little, I would go on trips with my church and we would always get a matching T-shirt to wear on days where we would go to a big public place. That way, if anyone would get separated from the group they would stand out in a big crowd. Kind of a Where's Waldo situation. Our chaperones would be able to spot us a little more easily by looking for the neon-colored, Bible verse imprinted, often puff-painted T-shirt (I grew up in the '80s).

The Herero are an unreached, unengaged people group of over 250,000 that live mostly in the southern African country of Namibia, but Angola and Botswana are also home to some members of this group. The Herero take great pride in their cultural heritage and have stayed strongly united as a people group. The Herero practice ancestral worship and are largely resistant to the gospel message. The women wear beautiful long, wide dresses, but are especially known for their head coverings. In a matching fabric with their dress, the head covering is in the shape of cow horns, showing the importance of cattle to their culture.



Would you pray now for the Herero people? A history of European colonial oppression, including genocide, has kept the Herero people resistant to Christianity. Like a T-shirt that identifies you as part of a group, or a uniform that identifies you as a part of a school, the Herero dress stands out in a crowd. There's no mistaking a Herero woman when you see her beautiful dress and fascinating cow horn-shaped headdress. But ultimately, what we wear on earth will not matter in eternity. The only clothing that will matter, is what we read in Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."



Don't forget to pray for the Herero children, too! Pray that as they grow up hearing about their history and traditions that will also have the opportunity to hear about the God who made them and offers a new, everlasting identity in Christ.