



PRAY FOR THE **MANINKA** OF SIERRA LEONE



Have you ever gone to the kitchen sink to get a glass of water and when you turn it on nothing at all comes out? Or have you ever gone to a lake to swim or fish and it was completely dry? Many, many places in Africa completely rely on rainfall for its water supply. So, when there are droughts (which happens often), sometimes lakes, rivers, and streams dry up, and when you turn on the faucet there's no water to fill your glass! There's an AMAZING fish in west and southern Africa, called the lungfish that God designed to survive these harsh conditions. When the river completely dries up, the lungfish buries itself deep in the mud and coats itself with a mucus shell that keeps it wet. It can stay in this condition for up to five years! Then, when the rain finally comes, it breaks out of its shell and starts swimming again.

In the coastal west African country of Sierra Leone, lives an unreached, unengaged people group called the Maninka. The Maninka are mostly farmers who are dependent on good rains to produce good crops. They work together and are committed to their community. They adhere to the beliefs of the community and have a deep desire to keep peace above all else. This can become quite the juggling act as the Maninka must observe both the principles of Islam and the religious traditions of their African culture, first praying in the mosque and then making a blood sacrifice to the spirit or ancestors of the land.

Pray for the Maninka people. Like the lungfish, the Maninka have learned to survive harsh conditions. Can you imagine what might happen if the gospel was preached to and accepted by the Maninka? A people group that has learned to depend on one another to survive and values peace and harmony with their neighbor, could be an awesome force for the gospel. Can't you just picture the good news spreading and being received with gladness, like a long-awaited rain quenches a dry and thirsty land and brings new life to those who have never tasted living water? Lord, may it be so!



Don't forget to pray for the Maninka children, too! Maybe they know all about the lungfish and get excited to see it wriggle out of the mud when the rain fills the river. Pray that as they witness how God has provided a way for this fish to survive, they will also know that God has provided a way for them to have eternal life through Christ.

