



# PRAY FOR THE KOTAFON OF BENIN



Have you ever gone alligator hunting? I have! Well, sort of. When I was little, my family had a very special friendship with an older couple in our church. We spent so much time together that people thought they were our grandparents. In fact, we called them Maw-Maw and Paw-Paw. My favorite memories of Paw-Paw were when he took us out on his boat on a lake in Louisiana (where I grew up). We would ski and fish during the day, but then he would take us kids (Maw-Maw opted to stay safely inside), out on the lake when it was completely dark. He would drive the boat to a cove, switch off the motor, and then we would just coast near the bank. He would take a huge flashlight, shine it on the edge of the bank, and then we would see them. Dozens of red glaring eyes staring right at us. The best part was when the eyes would inch closer and closer to the boat and then slowly disappear under the water.



In the west African country of Benin, there is an unreached people group called the Kotafon. The Kotafon adhere to the gods of voodoo, a religion birthed in Benin. They consider voodoo sacred and an important part of their daily lives. The Kotafon people live around Lake Aheme, which they believe to be under the power of a voodoo goddess, Awilé. People paddle their dugout canoes from around the lake to participate in honoring Awilé and cleansing evil spirits from their villages.

Praise God that there is a church in North Carolina that is partnering with an indigenous missionary and other Benin believers to preach the gospel to the Kotafon. Four Kotafon churches have been planted with 10 men now attending Bible school. However, voodoo worshipers are persecuting those who are turning to Christ. Pray that the spread of the gospel will not be hindered by Satan. Pray that those who are persecuting the new believers will see their faith and turn to Christ in repentance and faith.



Don't forget to pray for the Kotafon children, too! When I was in that boat in the lake looking for alligators, I was never really afraid. I had a lot of trust in the one driving the boat. The children of Benin who see and take part in these satanic voodoo rituals can never really put their trust in a goddess of a lake. They will always be afraid. Pray that the Ko children will meet the One who truly has power over all the lakes, rivers, seas, mountains, hills, valleys, storms, seasons, and even the alligators. Pray that they might know the peace of trusting in that Savior and knowing that this all-powerful God is also all-loving.