



PRAY FOR THE FULANKE OF MALI



Have you ever noticed how many different colors there are in the world? Most of the time, if you were to compare apples and strawberries, you would simply say they are red. But, if you put an apple next to a strawberry can you say the red is exactly the same? Maybe it would be better to identify the color of a strawberry as strawberry red, and the color of an apple, apple red. What's even more fascinating is if you look closely at two red apples, you'll probably be able to notice a slight difference in its color too. Did you know that the Crayola crayon company sells a box of crayons that holds 152 different colors? Instead of just blue, you might find cornflower blue, midnight blue, or my favorite...bluetiful. Instead of just plain orange, you can color with burnt orange, red-orange, or macaroni and cheese orange. It's fun to think of all the possibilities!



In the West African country of Mali, there is an unreached, unengaged people group known as the Fulanke, or Fula of Arbala. They are a part of a huge people group known as Fulani. The Fulani are typically nomadic herdsman, but the Fulanke are unique in that they have intermarried with Malinké women and have settled as farmers. While they continue to be proud of their Fulani heritage, the Fulanke no longer speak any of the many dialects within the Fulani languages. Instead they speak a language of the area in which they live. Like their ancestors, the Fulanke say "to be Fulanke is to be Muslim." However, they are steeped in animistic religious practices and live in fear of spirits.

At Crayola, different pigments are blended together and then mixed with wax to produce the little color miracle you can hold in your hand. When you think of all the possible colors you can make, 152 just doesn't seem like enough. Peoples of the world are as varied as colors of the world. There's no one person who is exactly like another. People groups also change over time as they mix with other people groups. Culture changes, language changes, traditions change. As different as we all are individually and also as groups, we all have at least one thing in common. We were made by the same God to love Him and enjoy Him forever but without trusting in Jesus for salvation we remain far from God. The Fulanke are far from God. They have not yet heard how they can return to Him. Pray that God will send believers from other people groups who speak the same language to share the gospel with the Fulanke.



Don't forget to pray for the Fulanke children, too! Their everyday lives are probably very different than yours. They speak a different language, eat different foods, sleep in a different kind of house, play different games, but despite all the differences, they are still kids just like you. Crayola couldn't possibly make a crayon that would represent every color in the world. God loves variety! All colors are His. All colors are a visual expression of His glorious design, and the God who made all colors and all peoples, also desires that all people hear of His goodness and grace that He offers in Christ.