

# PRAY FOR THE PILA OF BENIN



Have you ever had a really, really good idea? Did it seem so real to you that you felt like you could see it with your eyes or touch it with your hands? Ideas are invisible. You can't really see an idea; you can just see what you make from it. Like if I had an idea for a really great story, no one would be able to see it unless I write it or tell it to someone. Love is also invisible. You can't really see love itself, just love demonstrated. When you hug your mom, you're showing her love. Also, when you obey your mom, you're showing her love (better go give her a hug and then clean your room). There are lots of invisible things in this world and I'm not just talking about what you can't see without a microscope or telescope. I mean the things that are true and real but can't be seen.

In the hot, dusty city of Djougou in the West African country of Benin, there is an unengaged, unreached people group called the Pila. The Pila have a king, who has great power over the people in the city and surrounding villages. The king also holds the religious standard of their people. For the Pila, this is a strict adherence to their mix of Islam and African traditional religion. The Pila have been resistant to the gospel of Jesus.



Pray that God would soften the hearts of the Pila to the message of the gospel. There are Christians from other people groups who live in the same area, but the Pila typically do not intermingle with them. Pray that these Christians will boldly proclaim the truth despite this barrier. Colossians 1:15 tells us that Christ is "... the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ..." Jesus is God incarnate; God in flesh. Making Christ known, is showing the world who God is. When we share the gospel with those who are far from Christ, we are demonstrating love. Colossians goes on to say, "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible whether thrones or dominions or rulers, or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." The Pila follow a king who has authority over their way of life but also their view of salvation and who they worship. That's a lot of power! But what we just read in Colossians tells us that Christ was before all kings, all thrones. He is the ultimate authority. Pray that the Pila will turn from worshiping false gods and know Christ as King.



Don't forget to pray for the Pila children, too! I'm sure they have great ideas from time to time just like you. Maybe some of those ideas get turned into something they can see and get excited about and share with others. They probably have ideas about the world and how it was created and how they should live in it. But have they seen Christ? Not yet. Have they heard the gospel? Not yet. Colossians also says, he is the head of the body, the church. The church is how the world sees Christ. But what about places where there isn't a church? Let's pray that they meet the God who so loved the world that He didn't remain unseen but was pleased to dwell in Christ, and reconcile to himself all things, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)