



PRAY FOR THE JULA OF MALI



Have you ever heard of a little story called Robin Hood? Who hasn't, right? This well-known story has been retold time and time again in novels, picture books, full length movies and short films. My personal favorite is the 1973 Disney cartoon version, where Robin Hood and his merry men were portrayed by various animals. I totally had a crush on that foxy Robin Hood (I think it was the accent). Assuming then that you are at least familiar with the story, did you know that there is actually no known original author of Robin Hood? In fact, at first it wasn't a written story at all. The tales of Robin Hood were sung; passed around as entertainment long before you could check it out at the library or stream it on Netflix.



In the West African country of Mali, there is an unreached, unengaged people group called the Jula. They are unreached because there are no known believers or churches among them. They are unengaged because there are very few, if any known gospel witnesses among them. The Jula are well-known for their trading skills. When they're not working, the men spend their time studying Islam while the women cook, clean, and care for children. Obedience and honesty are highly valued by the Jula, as well as community and respect for the elderly, as only a small percent live past the age of 45. The Jula preserve their culture and remember their history through storytelling and dance.

Pray that Christians in Mali who share a similar culture will be burdened to share the gospel with their Jula neighbors. Portions of the Bible have been translated into the Jula language. Pray that more translation work will be completed so the Jula will have access to all of Scripture in their language. Like the famous story of Robin Hood that has been sung, told, read, or watched by each passing generation, we pray the gospel will be similarly shared with the Jula – a people who love stories. Unlike Robin Hood, we know exactly who the author of the gospel is – the author and perfecter of our faith. Not only do we pray that the Jula hear the story, but that they truly come to know the author of this story, and may their love of storytelling be used to propel the gospel to other unreached peoples that have yet to hear.



Don't forget to pray for the Jula children, too! As they grow up hearing stories told and sung of their heritage, pray that God will give them a new story to tell and sing, and a new part of their heritage – the day that they heard the good news and were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.