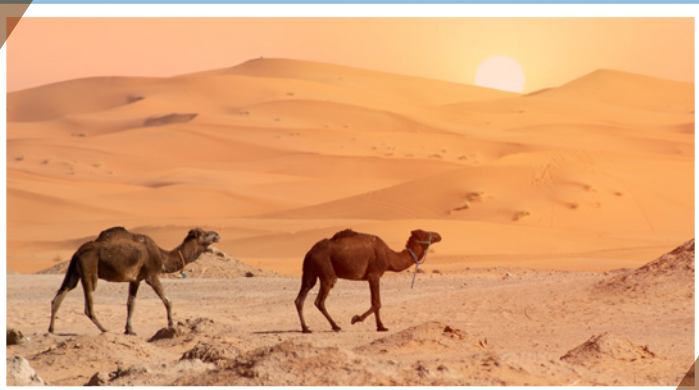




MEET JESSE

Jesse Ishaku Amah-Kabong served in West Africa with his family. They were sent by their home church in Nigeria to work in Mali through an African mission agency.



NEVER TOO YOUNG!

I was nine years old when I first went on a cross-cultural mission trip abroad. My family and I packed our bags and left our home country of Nigeria for Mali. We were going as missionaries in a predominantly Muslim region, I didn't know if we would be safe.

As my dad prayed for us before the journey, I felt encouraged. I was excited to share the gospel with the people in Mali. However, my first one-on-one evangelism with a friend didn't result in a conversion. I was ill at ease as I tried to break the ice that felt like striking a frozen lake. Gathering my courage like little David before Goliath, I told him, "Jesus became

my friend, and he'd like to be your friend too." I handed him a gospel tract with trembling hands and invited him to read.

His response was casual and comforting. He said he'd like Jesus to be his friend, just not immediately; he'd think about it. As an introvert, it had taken a lot of strength to reach out, and I was a little discouraged about his response. I have been praying for him, and I hope he will make Jesus his friend one day soon.

As I've watched my parents reach out to those who have never heard the gospel, I have seen first hand that it's not easy. I know too that it's not a job exclusively for grown ups.

In Mali, we had a sports

ministry and showed the children films in the evenings. My role was to invite my friends to come and to help my dad set up for the shows. We'd then speak to the children about Christ. Many people gave their lives to Christ, especially during the film, *'The Passion of the Christ.'*

Every Wednesday, we went out with my parents for evangelism, handing out gospel tracts to people in the streets. I was delighted to be involved because it added to my Bible knowledge and experience in missions. I've also learned to trust God as I watch my parents walk by faith despite trials.

We were in Mali for four-and-a-half years, and I have no

regrets about my time there. I want to go back to Mali, and I'd like to be a missionary. I don't know where God would want me to go; he hasn't shown me yet. But I have been praying for many countries and people groups who don't know about Jesus.

It has been a pleasure reaching the unreached with my parents, especially my dad, because he led me to Christ. He also baptised me and has taught me about Jesus.

No one is ever too young to be used by God. God will show you what he has for you as you participate in missions. You can start serving God now in your country.



Mali Flag

DID YOU KNOW...

The Sahara is growing! It now covers 10% more land than it did when records began in 1920

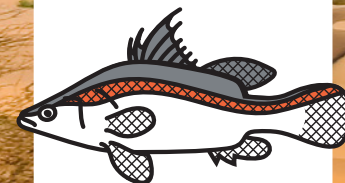
WEST AFRICA



The West African coast has become a ship graveyard. In one bay there are more than 300 unwanted ships abandoned there.



The Mandé people were the first to develop farming practices. They grow a lot of rice and millet.



Millions of people along the coast of West Africa are involved in the fishing industry. They catch sardines, mackerel and plaice, as well as seafood like prawns.

WHO LIVES IN WEST AFRICA?



- The Moor people group live all across West Africa. In the past, they conquered lands as far north as Portugal and Spain.
- The Berbers are famous for taking camels across the Sahara. They moved goods in big groups known as camel caravans.
- The Mandé people were one of the first people groups to make woven textiles and clothes.

The Moors are just one of the people groups that cross country borders

WHAT CAN WE PRAY ABOUT?



- The people groups of West Africa are Islamic. Less than 1% of the population of West Africa is Christian.
- A group of church leaders, AIM missionaries and staff recently visited the region.

We want to send a team of missionaries there. Pray that people would come forward who want to go and serve. Pray too about all the practical things to set this up.

