

# Africa Inland Mission's Prayer Sheets




005 - October 2020



## Who are the Bara people?

The Bara live in small village communities of 50 to 300 people, scattered across the grasslands of south-central Madagascar, not very accessible by road. Much of their lifestyle revolves around the care of their cattle and their rice fields, however changes are taking place due to the discovery of sapphires in their area. Many other tribal groups have come to dig for gemstones. The traditional Bara authority structure gives power and respect to the Lonaky, a family and community leader responsible for the spiritual and material well-being of the village.


Number over 500,000 and are subsistence farmers




Live in south-central Madagascar



Their way of life is changing with the discovery of gems in their area



Their belief in ancestral spirits influence every detail of their lives.



## What do they believe?

The Bara believe in Zanahary, the Creator, who is a high and distant figure, and they also fear and worship ancestors – the living dead who can exert influence for good and ill on those still alive. They have a complex system of customs, rituals, taboos and practices which play a key role in their animistic worldview. Much emphasis is given to death and dying, and elaborate rituals have traditionally accompanied burials.

## What is being done to reach them?

There are portions of the Bible in the Bara language, and work continues on translation. An AIM team lived in Betroka among the Bara for a few years from 2013. During that time they saw some of the Bara commit their lives to Christ. Though the team has ended, there are still some missionaries living and working among the Bara. They are looking for more team members to work with them, to share the gospel and to encourage the local church in evangelism.

Watch a video: [eu.aimint.org/bara](http://eu.aimint.org/bara)




## Give thanks:

- \* For the missionaries currently living and working among the Bara. Give thanks for their vision for the Bara, as they learn the language and seek to make the transforming news of Jesus Christ known.
- \* That seeds are beginning to bear fruit! A previous witchdoctor came to know Christ, and others, seeing the transformation in the witchdoctor's life, have also given their lives to Christ and been baptised.
- \* The gospel of Luke is broadcast every day in the Bara language through a small radio station, and also in the open market in Betrok, a popular local meeting place.

## Please pray:

- \* For the Bara, all decisions revolve around ancestor spirits. Many have never heard the gospel. Pray for Christ to break these strongholds and for the truth to set people free.
- \* Pray for women who have few rights and are often abused. Pray they will have the courage to come for help, as Christians develop a ministry to support them.
- \* For more people to hear God's call and go to the Bara.
- \* For the Jesus Film, which is being broadcast in the Bara language in many villages. Pray that God would use this film to plant the seeds of the gospel and change people's hearts.

## Who is AIM?

Africa Inland Mission is a missionary organisation that helps churches send gospel workers to work among African people.

*If you are interested in going yourself, giving to help send gospel workers or want more prayer info, please feel free to contact us.*

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