

Upcoming Events

- Starting TODAY - Nursery for children ages 0-5 years
 - Parents/Guardians - Nursery attendant will escort you.
- 4/15 - 19 - BMA National Meeting, Missouri
- 4/21 - Missionary Joe Costa - Beirut Lebanon
- 5/12 - Baby Bottle Campaign Begins (Runs Mother's Day to Father's Day)
 - Bottles will be made available soon in foyer
 - Please see Marie Bodine with questions
- 5/15 - Business Meeting to Appoint Deacons
- Wednesdays 7pm - Bible Study, Prayer & Book Discussion
 - Resource: *Church is a Team Sport : A Championship Strategy for Doin Ministry Together by Jim Putman
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions
Designated Offerings can be made to - Local Outreaches, Changemakers, Etc.
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People via our CONNECT Card
- On which MISSIONAL TEAM should I be Serving?
 - Internal / Discipleship - Don & Carm Hickson
 - External / Outreach - Jose & Ivis Quann
 - Bldg. & Grounds - Bill & Laura Dolhansky
 - Technology - Mark & Jillaine Couse

— MISSIONARIES —

BMA Missions

• 10 / 40 Window

Persecuted Christian

- MALI (WEST AFRICA) -
BIBLES IN MINORITY LANGUAGES BRING JOY

- In Mali, Bibles are scarce & difficult to obtain outside of the capital, especially in minority languages. Front-line workers have been partnering with VOM for several years to get Bibles of various languages & types, including children's illustrated Bibles & audio Bibles, into the hands of Christians scattered across the vast nation. During one recent distribution, 50 full Bambara-language Bibles & 50 Boomu Bibles were distributed along with 250 New Testaments. A brother named Matthew received his with joy, saying, "I am glad to have the Bible in my mother tongue. It will do good for my family". One pastor gave a Bible to a local judge. While doing so, the pastor read Deuteronomy 16:18-20, which says that judges should judge the people fairly without taking bribes or showing partiality. The judge responded by saying, "Pastor, you have given me the greatest gift, & this Bible teaches me"
 - Mali is a poor country with a growing population that remains predominantly Muslim. Although missionaries arrived in the early 1920s & have worked in most areas of the country, there are few Christians. Small congregations of believers continue to worship in towns known to be centers of Islamist activity. Several missionaries have been kidnapped in Mali or have been kidnapped & brought to Mali from neighboring countries in recent years. Some are still in captivity today. Threats by Islamist groups have led some mission agencies to withdraw workers from the country. Recent military coups have led to sanctions by the international community, further degrading Mali's economy.
 - 88% of Malians are Sunni Muslims, with most also practicing animism. 3% are Christians. Islamic extremist groups persecute Christians in Mali. Bibles are scarce & difficult to obtain outside the capital, especially in minority languages.
 - In 2012, believers fled to the south as extremist groups in the north destroyed church buildings & pastors' homes in their efforts to create an Islamic state. Christian converts from Islam face harassment from family members & their communities. Open & active churches exist in the north, though outreach & evangelism in the community can be dangerous. Several pastors were forced to leave after receiving death threats for actively sharing their faith.
- PLEASE PRAY:
- That new believers will be discipled & rooted in their Christian faith.
 - That churches in the north will shine the light of Christ while being marginalized & mistreated.
 - For unity in the body of Christ as Malian believers endure persecution together.
 - For those proclaiming the gospel in the north, a stronghold for Islamist activity.
 - For Hadijatou, who was persecuted by her family because of her faith in Christ.

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