



NIGER



CHURCH PLANTER

Amadou Abdoul Razak

PEOPLE GROUP

Songhai of Niger

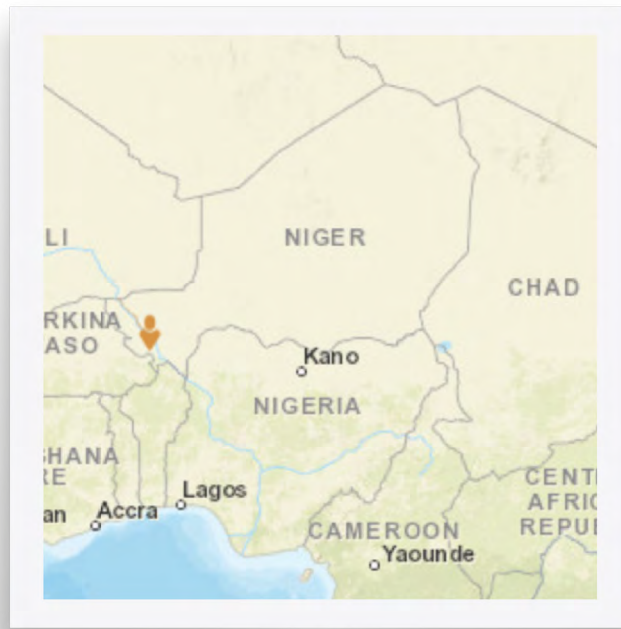
TESTIMONY

"I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into my life when I was younger. It was at a children's care center. The teachers talked about the theme "Jesus gives life and in abundance" I really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit who convinced me and I felt the emptiness in me. After a week of teaching and prayer I decided to give my life entirely to Jesus because I was convinced that He is life and He gave it in abundance."

EXPERIENCE

Amadou Abdoul Razak from the Songhai people group was born on February 25th, 1994. He previously worked as a church planter in Tondibia and San Haoussa. He is married to Mariama Chaibou and they have a son Abraham. His goal is to go reach, preach, disciple, and plant churches among the Songhai people in the village of Gothey.

SONGHAI OF NIGER



The Songhai are located in the westernmost provinces of Niger, mainly inhabiting the lush river plains along the Niger River. Others live farther from the river in the desert areas, where there is little water and sparse vegetation.

The Songhai of Niger, numbering 1,220,000, are Engaged yet Unreached. They are part of the Songhai people cluster within the Sub-Saharan African affinity bloc. Globally, this group totals 2,467,000 in 4 countries. Their primary language is Koyraboro Senni Songhai.

The Songhai are nearly all Muslim. Even though Islam introduced new elements to the Songhai culture, it left the underlying framework of custom and tradition virtually untouched. Islam is superficially important, as evidenced in the fact that every town has a mosque, or at least a Friday mosque. Some communities have imams (religious leaders) who teach Islamic philosophy. Spirit possession, magic, sorcery, ancestor worship, and witchcraft, however, remain the vital components of Songhai belief. Most of the villages have possession troops, magician-healers, and witches. In some places, ceremonies of spirit possession occur at least once a week. The most important ceremonies are the genji bi hori (a festival in which the Songhai make offerings to the “black spirits” believed to control pestilence) and the yenaandi (rain dance). Both of these are held in the dry season. Marabouts (Islamic holy men) lead community prayers but are also used in healing the sick.

What Are Their Needs?

Generally, the Songhai live simple but adequate lives, except in times of drought. Unfortunately, these occur regularly, leaving many children as orphans. Malnutrition is also a problem for many of them. Christian medical teams and humanitarian aid workers are needed to minister to the physical needs of the Songhai. Most of the Songhai have not heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. Prayer is the first step towards reaching them with the Good News.

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