



REPUBLIC OF GUINEA



CHURCH PLANTER

Aly André Camara


TESTIMONY

Aly André Camara comes from a family of Christians and grew up going to church. Through the teachings at Sunday school, he understood the way of truth and André accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord and followed Him all his life.

EXPERIENCE

Aly André Camara from the Kissi (Konkabay) people group was born 1986. He has taken Missiology lessons and his goal is to evangelize the people and build churches among the Kissi of Guinea. He is married to Fanta Guilavogui.

KISSI OF GUINEA

Population 582,000	Main Language Kissi, Northern
Largest Religion Ethnic Religions	Christian 33.00%
Evangelical 9.00%	Progress 



The Kissi inhabit the thick tropical forests of Guinea. They speak a Niger-Congo language called Kisi. To the north of the Kissi are the dominant Mande-speaking tribes. Because the Kissi are neither culturally nor linguistically related to the Mande-speakers, they have been somewhat neglected by the government, both politically and economically.

The Kissi are primarily farmers. Most of the farmers also raise some livestock. Agricultural work, such as sowing, weeding, and harvesting, is shared equally by the men and women. Boys tend to the livestock, which are usually cattle and goats. Cows are considered very valuable animals, not for their milk, but as religious sacrifices.

The Kissi live in small, self-governing villages that are tucked inside groves of mango or kola trees. Each village is compact, containing no more than about 150 people. Houses are usually raised slightly above the ground and are round with mud walls, cone-shaped thatch roofs, verandahs. In the center of the village is a public square with a dwelling place for the village headman. He offers sacrifices at the village shrine and acts as judge over the community.

To the Kissi, a child is not considered “complete” and is thought of as dirty and impure. Therefore, when a boy or girl reaches puberty, a purification ritual is held. This ceremony, called a biriye, “cleanses” the child and ushers him into adulthood. Afterwards, the boy or girl is expected to take on adult responsibilities.

Music plays a unique role in the Kissi culture. Sometimes, it is used for certain types of communication. The music does not necessarily have a melody, but rather a rhythmic sound with much drumming and whistling.

A number of the Kissi have converted to Islam, most of them continue to practice their traditional ethnic religion. Ancestor worship (praying to deceased relatives) is common. Small stone statues are used to represent the spirits. They are worshipped and offered sacrifices by the village headmen. The Kissi constantly live in fear of the supernatural. They wear charms in order to protect themselves from the evil spirits. Witchcraft is also practiced by sorcerers and witches. Some of the elders and religious leaders communicate with spirits through trances and hypnosis.

Although the Kissi have access to the New Testament, only a few have become Christians. Additional efforts are needed to reach the hearts of these people with the love of Christ. Above all, prayer must be made on their behalf in order to break down the strongholds that are keeping them bound.