



## **CHURCH PLANTER**

Yeo Soungalo

## **PEOPLE GROUP**

Jula People in Côte d'Ivoire

## **TESTIMONY & EXPERIENCE**

*“My father was a witchcraft doctor and I grew up helping him in his work. I was designated to be the one who would inherit his power. But one day, as I was going to look for some leaves to cook traditional medicine, I met a group of young people in the village talking with some adults in the village. I went nearby and I could hear them talking about a Lord who created everything and who has power to heal any kind of diseases. I wanted to know more and one of the adult asked the name of that Lord. I heard Jesus. I felt bad and went back to my father asking him if he already heard about a Lord called Jesus. My father’s answer did not satisfy me for I could see him being embarrassed. The following day, I went to look for the place I could meet those young men. But, I could not. After the holidays, I was about to go back to school, I went to the city and one Sunday I heard people singing in a church, and I could hear the name of Jesus. I went into that church and I could feel joy in my heart. After 2 Sundays, a man came to me and asked if I wanted to live with Jesus, and I said Yes to Jesus.*”

*I have a passion for people living in the dark and who visit witchcraft doctors and juju men. I would like to share Jesus with them.”*

Yeo Soungalo was born on December 29th 1975 in Korhogo. He has been working in ministry for 17 years as an evangelist and church planter. Soungalo is married and has four children.

# JULA IN IVORY COAST

The Jula (aka, Dyula) peoples were traders of gold and kola nuts in the 1500s. They were also skilled craftsmen. For centuries the Jula groups have had high status as merchants. Their trading posts eventually morphed into market villages and cities.

Like many other African peoples, the Julas held slaves, usually prisoners of war from other tribes. Some of the Jula people were part of a prestigious warrior class called tuntigi.

The Koyaga Jula people live mainly in the Woroba District of Cote d'Ivoire. Their traditional hierarchical society involved nobles and vassals, but that is eroding in today's world. The people whose ancestors were kings and generals do not always have higher status than those whose ancestors were farmers. Some Koyaga Jula people today are farmers like most of their neighbors, though most are still involved with commerce.

The Koyaga Jula people are fiercely loyal to their clans, making one wonder if any disciple making movement might need to be done at the clan level. They maintain their cultural history through the oral traditions of dance and storytelling. These mediums are probably the best for presenting the gospel as well, since the people already have an affinity for this way of communicating.


Their social structure is patrilineal and patriarchal, which means that older males hold the highest status and most of the decision-making power. Men and women reside in separate homes, which are made of mud or cement. Some men have multiple wives, though this is frowned upon.

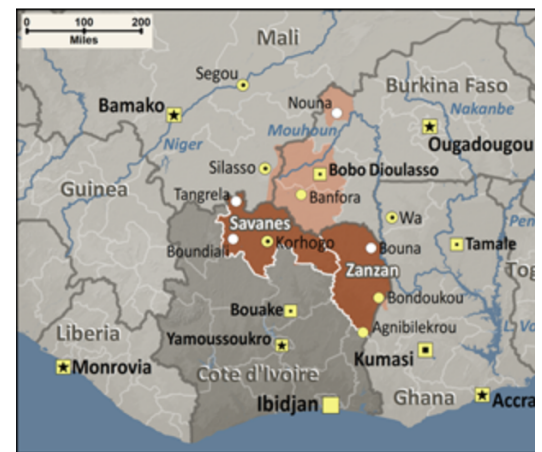
## What Are Their Beliefs?

The Jula peoples, including the Koyaga Jula, have been Muslim since the 1400s. They had good relations with non-Muslim neighbors, and tried to convert them to Islam by setting a good example rather than by force. Today the more prestigious members of this people group send their sons to Islamic schools where they become more entrenched in Islamic theology. Like most Muslim peoples of Africa, they have maintained pre-Islamic beliefs which involve amulets, charms and a complex spirit world.

## What Are Their Needs?

The Koyaga Julas have put their faith in the spirit world and the mercy of Allah instead of the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. They need someone to show them the way to the cross so they can experience God's forgiveness.

Population <b>2,712,000</b>	Main Language <b>Jula</b>
Largest Religion <b>Islam (94.40%)</b>	Christian <b>0.60%</b>
Evangelical <b>0.50%</b>	Progress 



Jula, Dyula in Cote d'Ivoire