



# THE MALINKE CLUSTER

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ~ 1 Peter 2:9*

## A Changing History

Vibrant colors. Geometric patterns. Lively rhythms. The culture of the Malinke peoples captures the imagination, and their history is likewise enthralling. Descending from the great Mali Empire that flourished in West Africa in the 13th century, being absorbed into the Songhai Kingdom in the 14th century, becoming victims *and* perpetrators of the slave trade, and then bowing under colonization, this people have known the top and the bottom of history. Their encounter with Islam began as early as the 12th century, and after a series of holy wars in the 19th century, they are nearly 95% Muslim today. This vast people cluster spans nine countries in West Africa, and while there has been some progress in Kingdom work, a majority of **the Malinke are completely unreached**. Can this current history be changed? **A great move of prayer and laborers will be the impetus** for these vibrant peoples to run into the arms of a living Savior.



APPROXIMATELY  
14,225,100  
UNREACHED  
PEOPLE

15 OUT OF THE 23  
PEOPLE GROUPS  
ARE 100%  
UNREACHED.

## The 8 Largest Peoples in the Malinke Cluster

People	Population	
Maninke	7,855,000	●
Mandingo	2,274,000	●
Malinke	2,045,000	●
Khasonke	935,000	●
Kuranke	557,000	●
Yalunka	206,000	●
Manya	185,000	●
Jahanka	127,000	●







Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.  
~ 2 Corinthians 5:17 ~

## A Dignified Culture

Large families are important to the Malinke, and they all live together in one compound in a larger village governed by local chiefs. Subsistence farming is a respected and common occupation among the Malinke men; other culturally important roles include *dyulas* (traders), *marabouts* (scholars/holy men), *griots* (storytellers), and artisans. Because of their strong oral tradition, *griots* are especially significant to keep the stories of village and family history alive. A special treat is when they are accompanied by music played on the *kora*, a traditional instrument resembling a harp. Music and dance are an integral part of their cultural identity. Hospitality is another important cultural feature as the Malinke believe it upholds human dignity.

To neglect hospitality is to exhibit a selfishness that defiles the dignity of another person; this is a deadly sin. **Wouldn't they love to discover the hospitality extended to them by the Creator of the Universe**, whose selflessness opened a path straight to the Father's House?

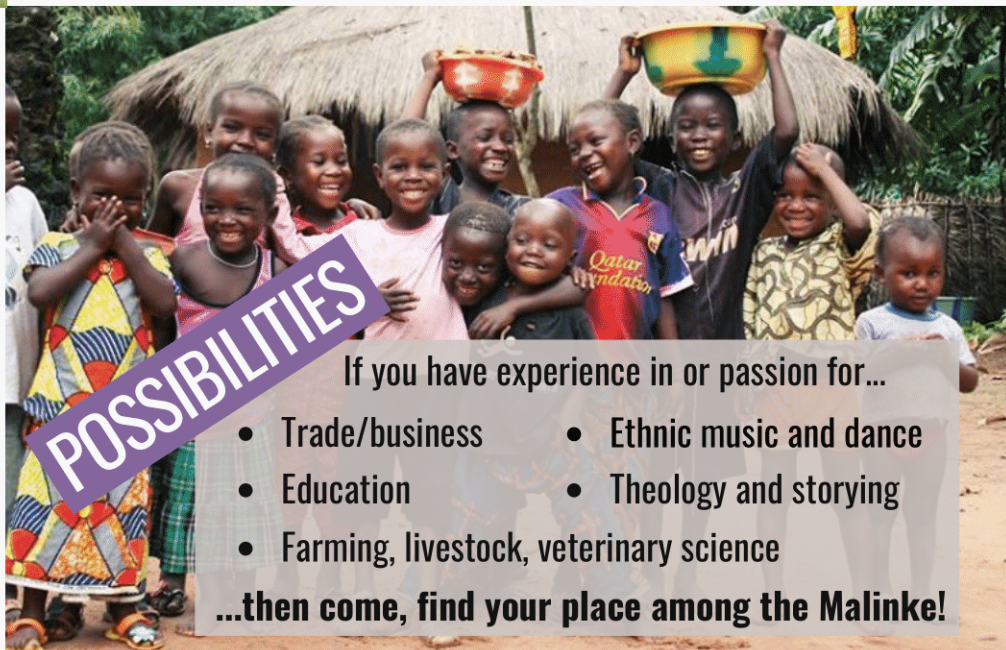
## A Harvest Coming

The Malinke flavor of Islam is blended with the animism and folk practices of their past. It is not unusual for a Malinke to offer prayers in the mosque and then sacrifice a chicken to the spirits, as belief in magic, healing arts, and divination are highly valued.

Even the educated, who may conceal their belief in magic, will likely possess a charm or amulet of some sort.

While the New Testament, Christian broadcasts, and the JESUS film are available to many of the Malinke peoples, hardly any have taken the steps to follow Christ. Perhaps this is due to the fear of alienating family and friends... but **what if family and friends can all take those steps together?** This is the Father's heart for the Malinke, and **as we join Him in prayer, it will become a reality.**

Prayer is the first step towards seeing a full movement to Christ among them. *Will you be there for the harvest as it comes in?*



If you have experience in or passion for...

- Trade/business
- Education
- Farming, livestock, veterinary science
- Ethnic music and dance
- Theology and storytelling

**...then come, find your place among the Malinke!**

## Pray

- May God raise up many global partners around the world to pray for the Malinke peoples.
- May the Malinke begin to develop open ears and open hearts to the truth of the gospel.
- May entire family and friend networks together discover their living Savior.