The Wolof homeland is located in Senegal and The Gambia. Hundreds of years ago, many tribes in northwestern Senegal were conquered by the Wolof, who eventually grew to form a large empire of separate, self-governing states. By the 1500s, this empire had split into four major Wolof kingdoms.

The French expanded into Senegal during the 1800s, making it a colony of French West Africa. In 1946, the Wolof of Senegal were awarded French citizenship, which they retained even after Senegal was granted independence in 1968. Today, many Wolof have immigrated to France in search of a better life.

The Wolof, particularly the women, are known for their beauty. They dress fashionably, wear sophisticated hairstyles, and are often the fashion trendsetters for others around them. While many Wolof have settled in cities and work as merchants, teachers or government officials, most still live in rural areas and work as peasant farmers.

A typical Wolof village consists of several hundred people living in compounds that are grouped around a central village square. In the center of the square is a platform used for public meetings. A mosque is located on the square’s east side.
ASSESSMENT
Historically, the Wolof have been resistant to the gospel. Most missions working in Senegal have an outreach to them. Senegal’s government allows registration of churches, ownership of property, and open proclamation of one’s faith, but few Wolof have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Witnessing and church planting strategies to reach the Wolof need to be reassessed. The moment has come to pray, research, consider possibilities and, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, move forward with a new approach. Introducing Jesus as Savior to the Wolof will require a return to New Testament methodology. God has a plan, and He has the power to break through the resistance. He is not willing that any Wolof should perish in hell.

APPEAL
The Holy Spirit has directed and prepared one couple to lead a church planting team to the Wolof. Both are fluent in the Wolof language. Other messengers are joining them. The team is very optimistic. Why? They know that the kingdom reign of Jesus in the lives of the Wolof is God’s plan. The apostle Paul spells out this truth clearly in 1 Timothy 2:3, 4: “God…wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” Would you like to join the team? There is a place for you.

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