

Yawo of Malawi and Mozambique

The People Group

The majority of Yawo live in southeastern Malawi and northwestern Mozambique. They adopted Islam more than a hundred years ago after their interaction with Arab slave traders. Yawo people are highly aware of the spiritual realm and its impact on their daily lives. Most Yawo live in fear of the spiritual realm.

Social and religious homogeneity are extremely important in Yawo society which means becoming different, even in small ways, is significant. **This is one of the key barriers the Yawo face in accepting the truth of the Gospel, as it can be challenging for believers to maintain family and social links after deciding to follow Jesus.**

The Ministry in Malawi

Following years of relationship building and investing in culture and language learning, the team is journeying with growing faith communities of Yawo believers. **Local leaders are being raised up to lead these faith communities and believers are being baptised.**

These groups of Yawo believers and seekers face challenges in their communities, but are increasingly being recognised as established groups in their communities. **The team works to respond wholistically to people's needs through adult education and skills training.**

Prayer Needs

- » **Pray for Yawo believers to grow in their faith and discern what it looks like to follow Jesus in distinctively Yawo ways**
- » For the Yawo believers to seek opportunities to share the good news of Jesus within their communities
- » For vulnerable people to be protected from the health and economic impact of COVID

Team Members

Jean-Claude and Joyce
Heather and Jonno
Tim and Melanie
David and Susie
Shirley and Gary
Gunther and Sarah (candidates)

The Ministry in Mozambique

The team is journeying with individuals, families and groups in faith and life. Small but growing groups of Yawo men and women are meeting to explore God's stories. Some are at the beginning of their journey with Jesus and others have chosen to follow Him.

They are building authentic relationships, growing in their culture and language learning and seeking God's guidance, as they look for opportunities to share His love through word and deed.

Prayer Needs

- » Pray for intercultural workers to develop deep cultural understanding so they can communicate the message of Jesus in ways that make sense to their Yawo friends
- » **That seekers will connect with the team and begin to explore Jesus**
- » For emerging believers to grow in faith and understanding of Jesus

Team Members

Ben and Sam
Kath and Cam
Tobias and Heather
Sally
Scott and Rebekah

Stories of Hope

Word and Deed - Malawi

Jean-Claude and Joyce are passionate about sharing the message and hope of Jesus with their neighbours and Yawo friends. But this sharing takes place within the context of a wholistic response to their friends' needs.

The Yawo live with daily challenges of poverty, preventable diseases and limited education. Joyce is a tailor, and one way that she is responding to her friends' physical needs is through teaching them how to sew as an income generating initiative.

One woman that Joyce is teaching is Mama H. Jean-Claude writes that through learning to sew, Mama H has, "... a sense of hope and empowerment to repair, make and sell clothes. After seven months of sewing lessons from Joyce, Mama H is now a tailor and she is running her own business of making and selling clothes."

But this is just the start! Jean-Claude goes on to share that, **"Mama H became a believer in 2020, and Joyce and I baptised her in February. A few months later she began sharing her faith with her own people. God is good!"**

This is just one story of many.

Praise God for the way He is using Joyce and Jean-Claude to reach out and share His love through word and loving action. Give thanks for the partnership of Australian followers of Jesus that is enabling Jean-Claude and Joyce to be present in this community. **And pray for Mama H, and others, as they grow in their understanding of God's Word and share their faith in Jesus with their own community.**

More Stories from Malawi and Mozambique

- » **Episode 15 of Missioning** with Melanie: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning
- » **Episode 11 of Missioning** with Scott: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning
- » **Short news articles:** www.globalinteraction.org.au/News

God Has a Plan - Mozambique

Cam shares how God is using an unlikely friendship.

"My friend Rachid spent his life farming and seeking God through his Muslim faith. He started noticing me as I rode my motorbike past his house and became curious. One day he stopped me and asked me who I was and why I was here in Mozambique.

This was the start of our friendship and soon we were meeting every week to share Bible stories and talk about life.

Through relationship, opportunities opened up to share who Jesus is and the freedom that comes with knowing Him. **After learning who Jesus is, Rachid decided that he wanted to follow the Jesus path.** He saw through God's Word that Jesus is the doorway to being in relationship with God.

Would Rachid have ever discovered Jesus if we didn't encounter each other in the Mozambican bush? I can't say for sure. Maybe God would have worked out another story. But what is apparent, is that God had a plan when He called us, an Australian family, to Mozambique. The plan involved Rachid hearing the stories of the Bible in a way and language he could understand.

This unlikely friendship between an Aussie and Yawo man resulted in Rachid being introduced to Jesus despite being part of a community where very few know Him.

The story of Yawo people encountering Jesus is only just beginning. **There is continuing need for Jesus followers to be here so that many more may discover what following Jesus means for them. Could God be prompting you?"**