

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

MALI (Africa)**General Information**

- Name: officially the Republic of Mali
- Population: April 2009 census: 14,517,000
- Economy: Mali is among the 25 poorest countries. It is highly dependent on gold mining and agricultural exports such as cotton.
- Almost twice the size of Texas, Mali (478,764 sq. mi.) lies in the Sahara Desert. The only fertile area is in the south.

**Challenges**

- Islam: The insurgency gathered pace in 2007, and was exacerbated by an influx of arms from the 2011 Libyan civil war. The Saharan branch of al-Qaeda was quick to move into this increasingly lawless area, and seized control of the Tuareg north after the March 2012 military coup, effectively seceding from the rest of Mali and establishing a harsh form of Islamic law.
- The population is predominantly rural (68% in 2002), and 5–10% of Malians are nomadic. More than 90% of the population lives in the southern part of the country, especially in Bamako, which has over 1 million residents.
- An estimated 90% of Malians are Muslim (mostly Sunni and Sufi), approximately 5% are Christian (about two-thirds Roman Catholic and one-third Protestant) and the remaining 5% adhere to indigenous or traditional animist beliefs.

Pray For

- IMB missionaries who work to relieve food and medicine shortages.
- Aid workers and missionaries targeted by Islamists.
- Pray for continued open doors for the Gospel.
- Ask God to provide the resources for Joshua Project, a research initiative seeking to highlight the ethnic people groups of the world with the fewest followers of Christ. Accurate, regularly updated ethnic people group information is critical for understanding and completing the Great Commission.

Reference

- <http://mnnonline.org/article/17296>
- <http://www.joshuaproject.net/joshua-project.php>