



Mali, West Africa

Dembélé family • Oct - Dec 2020

“Our country is going through its deepest crisis since independence in 1960” explains M’Bimba Dembélé.

Mali is currently undergoing an embargo following a coup, thus the biggest prayer request is for the security situation. This is in addition to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic.

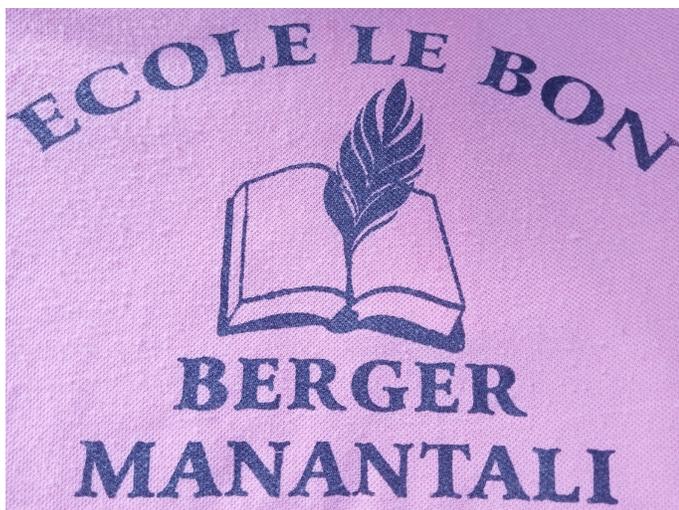
The area in which M’Bimba and his family are currently residing, Manantali, is considered very safe and has so far, been free of any Covid-19 cases. Their ministry remains active despite many nationwide restrictions, put in place by the authorities to bring this multifaceted crisis under control.

“Please pray for my war-torn country that is going through the Coronavirus pandemic and an utterly unreasonable and most ill-timed embargo. There is great hope that at long last, war will end and living conditions (will) start improving throughout Mali in the near future.”



The church in **Sollo**, a village in Southwestern Mali, is also very active, although they have to observe the restrictions on gatherings (not officially lifted). The Love God Love People Ministry here, is an evangelical project started in 2007. Their objectives are to stop, through evangelism, any form of Islamic radicalism as this could be conducive to the Jihad war (happening in Mali and the Sahel at large); to empower the Christian minority to change the religious landscape through quality education; and to providing unemployed, persecuted Christians, by providing small job opportunities. This creates self-supporting opportunities, so that they will no longer have to depend on Muslim relatives or neighbors who pressure them into renouncing their faith.

Love God Love People Ministry's **radio station, KanuYah FM Sollo** (KanuYah means God's love) broadcasts 24/seven, with 9-11 hours of daily Christian programs/evangelizing in 7 languages (including French and English). "We started this radio in 2008...and our listenership ranges between 1 ½ and 2 million people."



Their bilingual (English and French) **school, l'École le Bon Berger** (Good Shepherd School), is one of the extremely few schools that have remained open for the whole year. "It is also one of the very best!" They are currently requesting permission for its extension; please pray with them for this. The school consists of a

kindergarten, a primary school, and a junior secondary and has 96 pupils, 13 teachers and a management team of four people.

They also started an environmental project called **RePlan** (short for Restore the Planet). This project was born out of their concern over a phenomenon which is at the same time local, countrywide and universal, i.e. desertification (where fertile land becomes desert). “The greater part of Mali is a vast expanse of sand and little is being done to stop the desert – if anything, large scale deforestation through overexploitation of our natural resources is on the increase, while the crucial need for reforestation is being ignored. We want to make people realize that our Father’s plan has never been the destruction, by man himself, of the very planet on which He has placed us. Rather, the earth is a garden we must tend while using its resources for just our needs. Therefore, it is high time we did whatever we can to return it to its previous state or condition as God intended it to be, hence our environmental project, RePlan, now well under way, as we have planted thousands of trees.” Although it is still a young project, their prayer is that it will create awareness of the necessity for change.

Their church in **Manantali**, are composed of some of their school, radio station members, staff, and their families. “We are always engaged in intense prayers for our country and in response to individual prayer requests. In particular, we successfully engage in prayer healing as well as praying for soldiers in the war zone.”



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