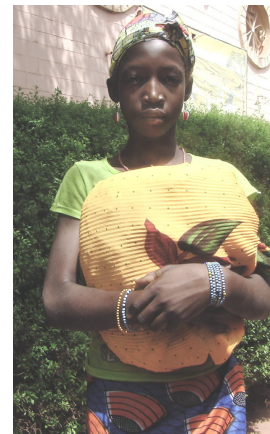




Warmest January greetings, dear Pastors, Supporters and Friends, from David and Linda Arzouni, your missionaries to Bamako, Mali, West Africa!

The end-of-year holidays for 2010 are now warm memories of the past. And we are all peering curiously into a brand new year: 2011. This new year, like an unfamiliar terrain, stretches out in front of us as far as our eyes can see. In partnership with you, God is giving us another year to live in a way that will make Him proud, another year to love His Word and His people, another year to serve with Him among the poor of Mali, people such as Garra-Irrey and her family.

Just like Abraham whose name, *Father of a Multitude*, stood in sharp disparity with his childlessness, so 9 year old Garra-Irrey's name – *Much Is Better* – stands in contradiction to her abject poverty. She clutched all of her worldly belongings in one small yellow bundle and came with us from her village to the capital city of Mali. Last month her formerly Muslim brother, Ibrem, whom we discipled, prevailed on his family to let her come to him in Bamako, so that she can have a chance to go to school. Her heart is tender to the Gospel.



But what about all the other children who cannot leave their village? A better plan is to take both Christ and school to them. Our hope is to bring many children like Garra-Irrey to faith and education in the village of Waramajanna. During the past two years the Lord has helped us make our way into the heart of this Wahabbi Muslim community with a self-sufficiency farm project. The project will help fund a literacy program for adults and a primary school for kids like Garra-Irrey.

Many doors of ministry are opening up to us because of this project. Not too long ago we shared with you about a breakthrough we had on the first day of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, when David read from the Bible about "true fasting" to all the elders of the village. The words of Isaiah 58:3-11 cut deeply. We just recently learned that, after having shared that passage, two feuding families reconciled, making an impact on the whole community. One village elder said, "Since you've been coming here, we have more peace in our village." We continue to have more opportunities to counsel and pray with Muslims.



A few weeks ago, Dauda, one of the main Wahabbi leaders, asked David and Pastor Isaac to take his wife to Bamako. It is not every day that a radical Muslim will entrust his veiled wife to two Christian men for a trip to the city. Imagine our joy when an opportunity opened up for us to pray with Mariama, this woman completely concealed in her black burka! She spent the next two hours asking us about our faith in Christ.

Then this past Sunday, as we sat in the village chief's compound with several men (similar to the 3rd photo), and as the women and children listened from a short distance, Pastor Isaac and I had our first informal church service in Waramajanna. There was no music, no liturgy, and no particular order to what we did, and certainly no time for a photo to be taken! But the Word was read, and truths were explained, and prayers were said, as Malinkes, Fulanis, and Bambaras – all of them part of unreached people groups – listened favorably, and joined in the final prayer.



We believe, someday soon, many of them will come to Christ. We believe, someday soon, veiled Muslim women like Mariama will send their children to our school right there in their own village of Waramajanna. Thank you for believing with us!

Your hands extended into Mali,

Linda and David (Faouzi) Arzouni

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