



# Freezes in Africa

*Serving Where God Leads*

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## No Fetish!!

One of our first encounters in West Africa was with a man named, "Grandpere", whom we met in the marketplace when we were searching for taxi drivers we could call to take us around the city of Dapaong, Togo. "Grandpere", or Grandfather, who is in his late thirties, is called such by his family and friends because he looks exactly like his grandfather. His family believes that he is a direct reincarnation of his grandfather who was a direct reincarnation of his grandfather before him.

As Grandpere became more comfortable with us he began to tell us more about his family and their African traditions. One day he asked if we would like to come to his house and meet his family. We were eager for this opportunity because it gives us a much better understanding of the local culture if we can visit a native individual and his/her family in their home.

As the visit went on, Grandpere asked if we would like to see his family's fetish. A fetish is an object believed to have supernatural powers, or in particular, a human-made object that has power over others. Essentially, fetishism is the assignment of value or powers to an object.

Fetishes are extremely important in traditional West African religions. Fetish shrines stand guard outside family compounds, topped with animal skulls and littered with offerings such as food and wine. Communication and good relations with the ancestors, who live in a spirit world is seen as the key to a healthy, prosperous life.

The fetish of Grandpere's family is locked securely in a separate room of the house. Their fetish is several pots set on the ground in one corner of the room. They believe that a spirit lives in the pots. They bring offerings to the spirit and they make sacrifices of goats as homage, or worship, to their spirit.



When Grandpere asked if we had a family fetish, he was astounded when we said no, we don't have a fetish, but we have Jesus Christ and that is all that we need and that is all that you and your family need. Even though his family practices the Catholic faith, it is extremely difficult for an African family to completely abandon their traditional religion.

God states in His Word: "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you." Deuteronomy 18:10-12"

What a wonderful, God-given opportunity to share the Good News! Please pray that our time with Grandpere will result in a life-changing experience for him and his family.

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### [Thank you](#)

Many thanks to all of you for your prayers, encouragement and support. Your love for Jesus allows us to do God's mission work.



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### [Prayers](#)

For Pastor Joseph Napon and his family in Burkina Faso, whose brother recently passed away, creating an immense hardship for them all .

For the students of the West African seminaries, who will soon be pausing their studies until September, that they be kept strong in their faith during the semester break.

Our efforts to learn the culture and the languages.

For all mission workers worldwide.

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