

In spirit and truth

“God is Spirit and those who worship must worship Him in spirit and truth.”

John 4:24 (NIV)

After spending several days in my little village house with no running water or electricity, I headed into town. I could only spend a few days there, and I had a lot to get accomplished. As I reached the outskirts of the village, my attention turned from my list of things to do to intercessory prayer.

I met a procession of voodoo priestesses returning from a ceremony. Voodoo is a religion in southern Benin (beh-NIN) that worships spirits and ancestors. At first, I thought I would just step aside, but then I decided against this. Greetings are such a big part of the culture, and the women might have been offended had I not greeted them. So I did. Almost all of them greeted me in response, many of them shaking my hand.

But the thing that was so strange was that every single one of them greeted me in the language of her vodun (the spirit that would possess during the ceremony). Never had anything like this happened to me.

It could have been creepy or even a little scary; but as I walked away from them, I wept because they do not know the one, true God who is greater than all the spirits they worship. I wept because they do not know they are living in bondage and fear of vindictive spirits instead of serving God.

God set me free from the kingdom of darkness to which I, too, once belonged. He loves the people of Benin and longs to give them freedom from fear.

—DEBBY, WEST AFRICA

Heavenly Father, REVEAL TRUTH TO BENIN SO THAT VOODOO CAN BE SEEN FOR THE LIE THAT IT IS. SPIRITUALLY ARM THE MISSIONARIES WITH THE ARMOR OF GOD SO THAT THEY CAN STAND AGAINST SATAN AND HIS DECEPTION. FREE THESE PRIESTESSES FROM THE CHAINS OF SATAN.
Amen.