

A place to belong

“I go to prepare a place for you ... I will come again, and receive you unto myself.”

John 14:2–3 (KJV)

Daouda (DOW-duh) was from one of the fanatical families in Sokode (SEW-koh-day). He had been living with Summer Institute of Linguistics translators as their live-in guard. Many Christians witnessed to Daouda, but he remained firmly entrenched in Islam. His wife was also a Muslim.

Christians prayed for Daouda and his wife, Assana (ah-SAH-nah), to be saved. When Assana began to hear about Jesus, she was confused and prayed to God to reveal the true way. One night in a dream, Jesus said, “I am the true Way. Follow Me.” She accepted Christ and began praying for her husband. Months later, Daouda became a Christian, but his family totally rejected him.

We had lived peaceably with the Kotokolis (KOH-toh-KOH-lee) until the unexpected and sudden death of Daouda. His death was a challenge for church leaders who had to talk with the extended family about having a Christian funeral. The family finally agreed.

Days after the burial, we visited Daouda’s wife. She told us that ordinarily Daouda’s family couldn’t sleep at night after a death because of the cries of the departed soul. (The Kotokolis believe that the person’s soul hovers until the third day, when the *imam* prays that God would forgive the departed’s sins, thus allowing the soul to find a resting place.) “But,” she said, “when my husband died, everybody in the house slept normally. They were all astonished that they heard no crying. I told the family that it was because my husband was a Christian and had immediately found his resting place.”

—PATSY, WEST AFRICA

Father God, HOW CHALLENGING IT IS TO HEAR OF THE UNWAVERING FAITH OF THOSE WHO FACE REJECTION, RIDICULE AND TREMENDOUS PERSONAL LOSS, YET REMAIN TRUE TO YOU. MY PRAYER IS THAT KOTOKOLIS WILL REMEMBER THE TESTIMONY OF HIS PEACEFUL DEATH AND OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO JESUS, THE PEACE GIVER. *Amen.*