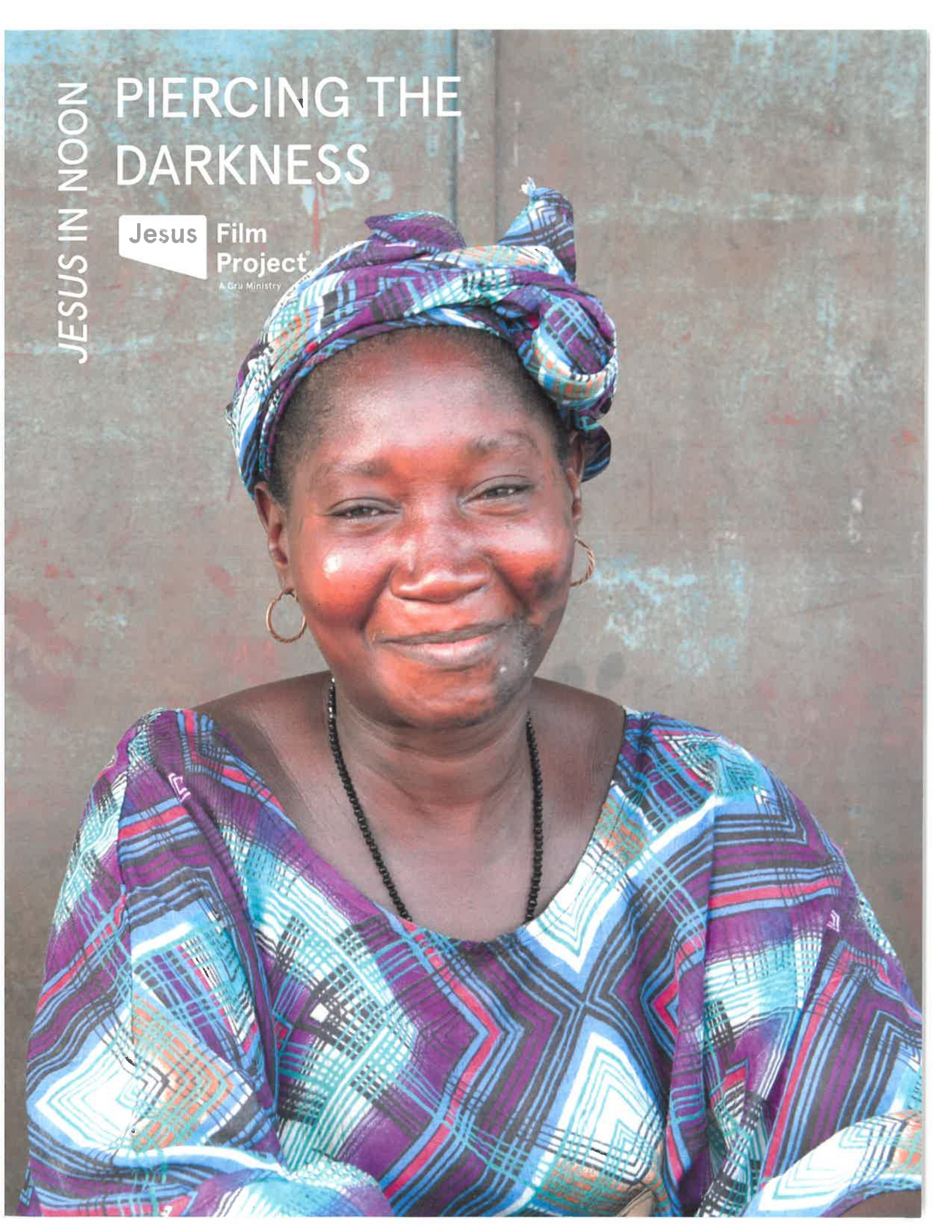


JESUS IN NOON

PIERCING THE DARKNESS

Jesus Film Project
A Cru Ministry



PIERCING THE DARKNESS

JESUS in Noon

Language Name:

NOON

Recording Dates:

NOVEMBER 17-
DECEMBER 18, 2017

Target Country:

SENEGAL

Recording Team:

LUKE*

Film Version:

JESUS

CHAD

MATT (*Author of Report*)



We walked with Mama through the market in search of foam mattresses for our recording booth. Our studio was housed in a Baptist school. Lively children played throughout the day. School bells, which sounded more like sirens, rang on the hour. Our recording booth, constructed from those mattresses, prevented these sounds from entering our recording.

A Wise Mama

Our coordinator, whom we called Mama, made our work a joy. With her warm smile she radiated God's love. Mama easily made friends with everyone she met. She laughed and joked with the taxi drivers just minutes after meeting them. Mama served as our project coordinator, translator, storyteller and friend throughout the recording process. We always looked forward to our time around the table with her, hearing stories, laughing and learning some nuggets of wisdom.

We spoke with Mama about spiritual warfare and the difficulties of serving in ministry. Mama said, "Sometimes we need to go through these things, to experience them. It makes God real to us. Being a disciple of Jesus is so exciting!"

Mama told us how hard it is to evangelize in this nation, where less than 5 percent of the population identifies as Christian. She knows she may never see the fruit of her work, but that does not prevent her from sharing the gospel. She said, "Our responsibility is to tell the truth by the Holy Spirit and to go and do His work." While we were enjoying a traditional Senegalese dinner of *yassa poulet* (rice and chicken with a delicious onion sauce), we could hear the call to prayer from the place of worship next door. Mama wisely said, "That sound means we still have work to do."

**Some names and/or locations have been changed for confidentiality.*

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Tearing Down Strongholds

Many Noon speakers practice traditional religions mixed with animism. Even most who call themselves Christians worship spirits. They attach horse tails to the back of their cars, an animistic tradition. The enemy has a strong foothold here. Mama said, “We live in a culture of shame and honor.” If a follower of the majority religion openly converts to Christianity, his or her family will often persecute, ignore, or even disown them completely. The thought of being shamed by their family is usually enough to keep many Senegalese from attending a Christian church or reading a Bible.

While attending a church service, we heard a man passionately praying for chains to be broken, that people would be released from bondage. Piercing screams filled the church. A woman had a fearful, pained look on her face. The elders rushed to her side when she collapsed on the floor. A short time later the same thing happened to another woman. We felt like God was releasing a stronghold in them.

The Noon people need to hear the truth of our living Savior. Having *JESUS* in Noon will allow them to accurately hear the gospel in their heart language. Local believers are so excited to have this film and trust many nonbelievers will come to Christ through its use.

“The Film Is Too Good!”

Etienne, our dialogue director, provided the voice for Jesus. Toward the end of the project, we heard Etienne’s 18-year-old nephew passed away. The boy was like a son to him. As the oldest member of his family, Etienne was responsible for making funeral arrangements. Despite his grief Etienne made the film a priority, and we completed *JESUS*. We were so grateful for his dedication to spreading the gospel.

The review committee members told us they’d seen the French version of *JESUS* many times and couldn’t wait to have the film in Noon. They watched intently. One member, a respected, elderly priest, told us the film was perfect. With a smile another man said, “The film is too good!”



Sometimes God gives us a glimpse of His tender care, as with this mother and her child.

Personal Thoughts

The believers in Senegal inspire me. They work with patience and determination in a culture that rejects them. They taught me you must have faith in the waiting. Seeds have been planted in Senegal. It’s not for us to say when these seeds will produce a harvest; that is up to the Holy Spirit.

While in Senegal we met a U.S. Cru® team working on a local campus. Through tears one young woman, Laura, told why she chose to stay in Senegal after serving on a summer mission here. She said it was a rainy day and the traffic was bad. A woman had been hit by a car, and her body lay in the street. Laura said she wept thinking about what eternity looked like for the woman in the road. In that moment she knew she had to remain in Senegal for the millions of people just like that woman who need to hear the truth.

Prayer Requests

- ➞ **Pray** Senegalese believers will be bold for Christ when faced with persecution from their family members.
- ➞ **Pray** those ministering in Senegal will not feel discouraged by the lack of fruit but trust God for a harvest in His time.
- ➞ **Pray** as the Noon people hear Jesus speak their heart language, God opens their spiritual eyes.



Often when people hear Jesus speak their heart language for the first time, they listen. Even those formerly closed to the gospel take notice. That is the hope for the Noon *JESUS* film, created uniquely for them.

Thank you for making this possible.

Duplicating, emailing or posting this information on the internet may result in believers being persecuted or even killed. The safety of many depends on your discretion.

Cover photo by
Katie Kuykendall;
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