

DAN IBSEN – GUINEA



BIO

Dan grew up in the Spruce Grove area of Alberta as the second son of seven children. Melodie was born in Saskatchewan and grew up in Medicine Hat and Edmonton, Alberta. Dan and Melodie met at the University of Alberta and were

married in 1976. Dan taught school in Edmonton until they went to Canadian Theological Seminary in Regina. Soon after graduating, they became the first resident pastors of Westlock Alliance Church.

In 1985, they were appointed to Nigeria with The C&MA in Canada, but they were asked to do French language study in Quebec instead because they couldn't attain visas. In March of 1986, the regional developer for the Desert Sand region asked them if they would consider going to Guinea, which had just opened to the Gospel after seventeen years of being closed to missionary effort.

The Ibsens left for Guinea in the fall of 1986, lived in Conakry for two years, and then served a smaller community in the interior called Gueckedou for five years. They returned to Conakry in 1993 and served there until 2009, when they moved to their current location in Mamou, Guinea.

Together, they have four adult children: Corilee, Charles, Kyle, and Kerrienne. They are all either working in missions or preparing to serve.

## **GOOD TO KNOW**

Changes in Guinea over 30 years

- Not open to missions after independence 1967-1985
- Influx of missionaries from 1985-1995
- Trade increased with the outside world – especially China
- Influx of refugees in 1990s

Peoples of Guinea – 11 million people; 40 groups

Fulani – 4 million in middle of country, Muslim

Maninka – 3 million northeast, Muslim

Susu – 1 million on coastal areas, Muslim

Kissi – half a million in south, animistic background, mostly Christian

Pele – 3-400K in south mostly Christian

CMA Church – 80,000 primarily from the south of Guinea

RS Roseberry – apostle to West Africa

Simpson wrote early on about vast unreached peoples of West Africa and developed what he called the Niger Vision 1890 first group of workers sent to find the headwaters of the Niger River and then use that as a highway to the interior and plant missions stations along the way.

1911 – Roseberry arrived in Sierra Leone to carry out this vision

1919 – first mission outpost established on the Niger River at Baro

1921 – Kankan as HQ – 19 missionaries, 3 in Guinea, others in Sierra Leone  
1939 – 79 workers –14 gospel outposts in Guinea with workers; 60 in other countries

What does indigenous mean – planting an indigenous church

Idea originating with Henry Venn and Rufus Anderson; popularized by Roland Allan (see Books to Read below)

Self-supporting; self-governing; self-propagating; self-theologizing

1950s - Dr LL King insisted on all CMA works adopting a 3-self philosophy

1962 - all Guinea churches were supporting their own pastors



What mission principles were used to establish the Guinea national church?

1. Strong vision of wanting to see a national body established
2. Commitment to sacrificial incarnational lifestyle – Kurlak story (grave pic)
3. Transformed nationals that joined in the ministry
4. Ongoing evangelism and discipleship
5. Leadership training – Telekoro Bible School; Baro Women's School
6. Political factors – nationalization push by government

In what way is the church missional?

1. A focus on the unreached Muslim tribes
2. Guinean missionaries supported by mostly Guinean funds to UPGs

### 3. Church schools with many Muslim students attending

Dr Dan Ibsen's doctoral project <https://bethel.academia.edu/DanIbsen>

#### VIDEOS TO WATCH

Dan Ibsen (2009) [on raising a family in Africa](#)

Dan Ibsen (2012) [on remembering Dr Isaac Keita](#) - a former president of the Alliance national church in Guinea (20 minutes with Chris Braun, Mabilia Kenzo, Arie Verduijn)

#### BOOKS TO READ

