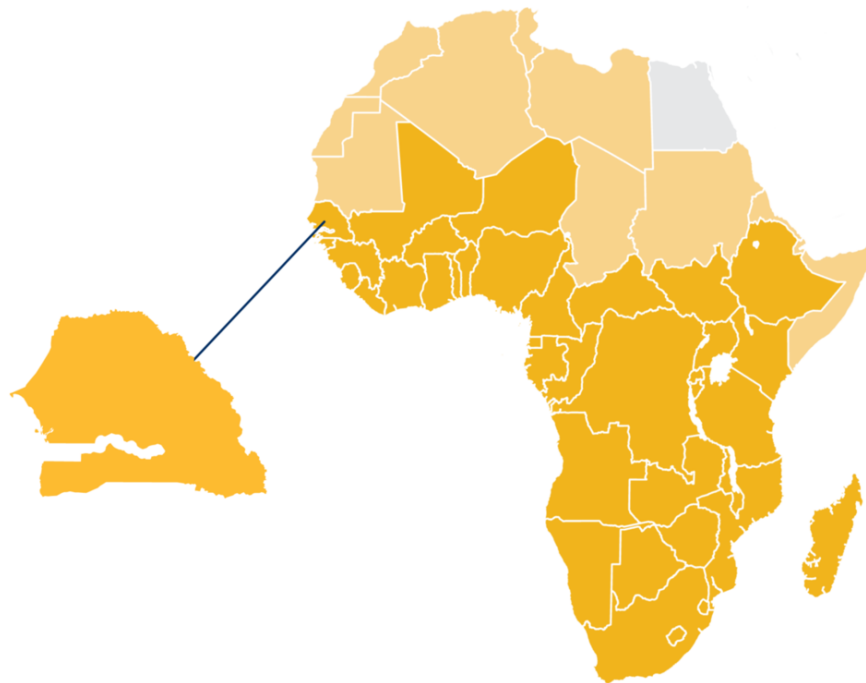


22 March 2023

### Africa Region



### Senegal

One of the few countries in the world whose earliest inhabitants date to the Paleolithic Era—or “Old Stone Age”—Senegal boasts continuous habitation dating earlier than 10,000 B.C.—an ancient culture! Located in the western-most part of Africa, Senegal serves as a bridge between North Africa or Maghreb, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Its strategic geographical location helps to explain why Senegal was the gateway for Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa, coming through Mauritania in the 10th century. The country is ethnically and religiously diverse. Although there is significant integration of all groups, Christians are concentrated in the west and south, while groups that practice indigenous religious beliefs live mainly in the east and south. As 94% of the Senegalese population is Muslim, major parts of the country belong to one of the Muslim brotherhoods. The long tradition of Teranga (hospitality) in Senegal, early contacts with Westerners, and the use of the Wolof language as a “trade language,” are strong elements that facilitated the relationships between Christians and Muslims. Senegal achieved its independence from France in 1960 and is today one of the most stable democracies in Africa. The work of the Church of the Nazarene in Senegal officially begun in 1988.

In Senegal, there have been good results in lay development and spiritual formation through courses on orality in the histories of the Old and New Testaments. This teaching methodology resonates with such ancient cultures, whose stories have been orally transmitted for thousands of years. The message of the eternal God who existed before human history, and of His Son who came to redeem all of humankind from the bonds of slavery to sin, is one that transforms cultures old and new.

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419 Members



2 Fully Organized Churches; 3 Not Yet Organized Churches



6 District Licensed and 4 Ordained Ministers on 1 District

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## PRAYER



- Pray for peace and stability in the country, given the tense political times; and pray for the presidential elections in 2024.
  - Pray for the transition of the district leadership.
  - Pray that the Lord will give wisdom for the most effective ways to share the Good News of Jesus in this country, and that the holy life of His people will be an example of evident and influential transformation.
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## PRAISE



- We give thanks to God that the church is growing, and for the peace and hospitality of the Senegalese people, which opens doors for the sharing of the Good News of Jesus.
- We praise God for the peaceful relationships between Christians and Muslims (the majority population) in Senegal.



- October 1988: Pastor and missionary Gilberto Sabino Evora was sent from Cape Verde to begin the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Senegal. The work grew out of prayer cells and fasting on Fridays.



Rev. Gilberto Évora and Mr. Antero Fontes (leading) in the Inauguration service of the Church of the Nazarene in Senegal.

- 13 November 1988: The first Church of the Nazarene was inaugurated, led by Mr. Antero Fontes, finance officer of the Cape Verdean embassy at that time, and treasurer of the Evangelical Fellowship of Senegal. These two men, Evora and Fontes, led the work together for six years, until the Evora family returned to Cape Verde.



A "backyard service" of the Church of the Nazarene, Baobabs, in 1992

- God added to his church those who were being saved, among them the current Regional Director of Africa, Dr. Daniel Gomis. In his words, “the hospitality of these Nazarene families and their commitment in the Lord's harvest” attracted him to the church.



The congregation of the Baobabs Church of the Nazarene.

- 25 June 1999, Pastor Antero Fontes returned to Cape Verde with his family, leaving Daniel Gomis in charge of the young church.
- The Church of the Nazarene sent missionaries, the Owens family from the United States to Senegal by the end of 1999; and within a few years, the Louw and Eby families joined the missionary team and national leaders as the church gained dynamism and the Gospel began to spread throughout the country.
- In 2009, Rev. Antero Fontes, second generation of this Cape Verdean missionary family, arrived in Dakar along with his family, to work closely with Daniel Gomis. This year also saw the establishment of the Nazarene district of Senegal.
- The Church of the Nazarene has grown, reaching Kolda in the southern part of the country, and Mbaad in proximity to the capital city, adding to the work of the Baobabs Church of the Nazarene in Dakar—mother church of the district in Senegal.
- October 2017: missionary couple Danilo and Maria Antonia de Carvalho, arrived in Senegal.



Church of the Nazarene in Goumel-Ziguinchor

- The work of the Church of the Nazarene in Senegal has now reached the Ziguinchor province, in the south of the country, and Bissau Guineans living close to the borders of Senegal and Guinea Bissau. Several not yet organized churches, along with numerous preaching points add to the work in the southern region of the country, where an already organized church is established in Castor.



Training of workers from Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and Gambia in church planting and mentoring

- In 2020 the local church in Dakar in collaboration with the field sent Bernard Mendes and wife as missionaries to the Saint Louis province in the north of Senegal.



Church of the Nazarene in Adéane, under construction



2022 District Assembly

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate? For more information, click [here](#).



17001 Prairie Star Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

