



Wanib (Heyo) of Papua New Guinea

The Wanib people live in one of the lesser developed areas of Papua New Guinea. They can reach a few medical posts, two schools, and Nuku Station, which has an airstrip and trade stores within one day's walking distance. They want the Bible in their own language, and they want 'good food', like rice and tinned fish. Some villages have left their old church denomination for a new cargo cult church, led by a man who claims to be the black savior for the PNG people and promises to be the road to prosperity. Some people do not see the difference between the Christian church and the cargo cult group. Yet, others know the Truth and serve God in the name of Jesus in their villages.

The Wanib people are in a cultural transition and their traditions – musical, spiritual, social, agricultural, and linguistic – may not survive. The most evident things they are grasping for in this transition are what they perceive the developed, outside world to have—wealth, education, health, ease of living, and the favor of God. Pray that in this transition the Wanib people would embrace a genuine Christian faith. Pray that the Wanib would look to God rather than to false religions and come to know that God hears their desires and meets their needs. Pray that God would make his children among the Wanib fruitful, and that the Wanib people would come to know the Truth and be set free from deception.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

20%

Churches:

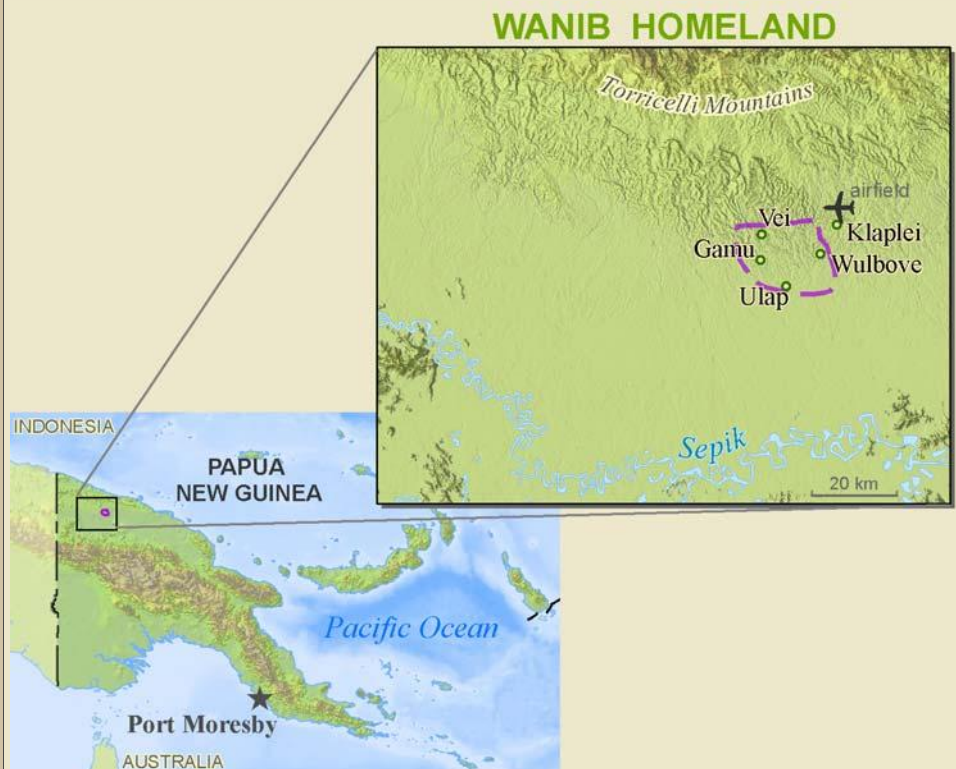
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in Wanib

Population (date):

2,825 (2001)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Comment (Call Themselves Christian)	99%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	20%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	1	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	80	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	1	
Number Of Pastors	20	
Comment (Pastors)	about 20 pastors, catechists, priests, evangelists	
Number Of Missionaries Working	3	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	3, based on missionary ratio of 1: 940 and population of 2,825. Two or three Catholic priests make rounds from Nuku, outside of the Wanib area.	
Response To The Gospel	Rapid growth but largely nominal or syncretistic	
Number Of Communities	70	
Comment (Number Communities)	~70 villages and hamlets	
Number Of Churches	20	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No vernacular scripture, Tok Pisin Bible	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	2,825 (2001)	
World Population (Urban Percent)	0	
Comment (World Population)	Total 2001 population based on 1980 census report and the average growth rate based on the growth of two villages since the 1980 census.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Papua New Guinea	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Sandaun (West Sepik) Province, south of Nuku	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain Slopes	
Elevation	50-100 meters	
Longitude	E 142 degrees25.327-E 142 degrees 31.311	
Latitude	S 3 degrees 46.973- S 3 degrees 52.443	
Climate	Tropical	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Forest with numerous patches of grass; rising from Sepik flood plain in the south to the Tortecilli Mountains in the north	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Geological Type: hills	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	Primary Language is Heyo	
Alternate Language Names	ARINUA	
Alternate Language Names	ARIMA	
Alternate Language Names	ARINWA	
Alternate Language Names	RURUHIP	
Alternate Language Names	LOLOPANI	
Dialects	NONE	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	10	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Second Languages	Nambe, less than 5%	
Second Languages	Maimai, less than 5%	
Second Languages	Kafle, less than 5%	
Second Languages	Perei, less than 5%	
Second Languages	Wilwilyet, less than 5%	
Second Languages	Mehek, less than 10%	
Second Languages	English, 5%	
Second Languages	Tok Pisin 90%	
Second Languages	Yahang, less than 5%	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Most everyone can understand both Heyo and Tok Pisin, though some elderly people may not understand Tok Pisin, and some young people may not understand Heyo. A few older men, as well as women who have married in to the tribe speak or understand other vernaculars.	
Linguistically Related Languages	TORRICELLI	
Linguistically Related Languages	YAHANG	
Comments (Related Languages)	Most closely related language is Yahang	
Comments (Related Languages)	Other unlisted linguistically related languages: Non-Austronesian, Maimai, Maimai Proper.	
Neighboring Languages	MEHEK	
Neighboring Languages	AYI	
Neighboring Languages	YAHANG	
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Perei is a neighboring language not listed in the Ethnologue with that exact spelling	
Active Language Programs	Planned vernacular education for grades 1-3	
Language Stability	Sometimes people mix Tok Pisin with the mother-tongue. Some children do not know the mother-tongue well, making language vitality an issue.	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	low	
Publications In Vernacular	none	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers	
Occupation	Cash cropping, selling at market	
Income Sources	Selling surplus produce and game at market, some livestock, small scale cash cropping (coffee, copra, cacao, vanilla)	
Products / Crafts	none	
Trade Partners	neighboring people groups	
Modernization / Utilities	no electricity, no water, no telephone, etc.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Shelter Description	good, bush materials	
Comment (Energy)	Wood is used, sometimes purchased kerosene, some gasoline	
Clothing	Second hand clothing is acquired and passed around	
Transportation	walking	
Infant Mortality Rate	10%	
Life Expectancy	age 40	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Families often live in hamlets together. For example, three brothers will build their houses in a place together.	
Neighbor Relations	Generally good, but there are some on-going land disputes.	
Authority / Rule	There are elected councilors for government wards, magistrates, and traditional leadership roles.	
Social Habits/Groupings	many small hamlets, now moving toward larger villages.	
Cultural Change Pace	Rapid	
Identification With National Culture	Similar	
Self Image	Neutral	
Judicial / Punishment System	Sometimes people demand financial compensation for alleged wrongdoing against them. Councilors and magistrates can levy fines and resolve these disputes.	
Celebrations	church occasions, such as Jubilee 2000, construction of a new church, or ordination of a priest; weddings, funerals, harvest, pig exchanges, Christmas, Easter, New Year	
Recreations	telling stories, chewing betel nut, swimming, soccer, volleyball, dancing	
Art Forms	traditional dancing/singing.	
Media	none local--they use newspaper mostly to roll cigarettes	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Girls help mother cook and work in garden and work sago. Boys might trap small animals and birds. Probably everyone helps harvest cash crops if there are any.	
Youth Problems (Teens)	Generally a lack of education. Lack of money to pay for school fees and no jobs even if they have been educated. Most have left school by grade 6.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	education	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	2	
Primary School Enrollment	334	
Secondary Schools	0	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1/42	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Tok Pisin	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Tok Pisin	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English	
Comment (Education)	Heyo is also a language of instruction (not in Ethnologue)	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Lay Leaders	a few per congregation	
Bible Schools	none	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	none	
Christian Literacy Centers	none	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Resistance / Receptivity	No opposition to Christianity or religious change though receptivity may be superficial.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Open, though cult members profess only Christianity.	
Current Needs	Road repair, economic development, better medical care, a team to translate the Bible, or training to help locals translate the Bible themselves.	

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Item Name

Items For Prayer

Item Note

1. That they would embrace a genuine Christian faith; 2. That they would look to God rather than to false religions; 3. That they would come to know that God hears their desires and meets their needs; 4. That God would make his children among the Wanib fruitful; 5. That they would come to know the Truth and be set free from deception; 6. For a Bible translation ministry to respond to the Wanib people's desire for their own translation according to God's plan; 7. For Christian Wanib leaders to commit to whatever God calls them to as far as translation work.

History Of Christianity In Group

Year Began

1949

By Whom

Roman Catholic Church

Significant Events

Roman Catholics worked with the Wanib people from outside the Wanib area until 1964. Christian Missions in Many Lands (CMML) worked with them from outside in 1959. A South Seas Evangelical Church was established in the Wanib area in 1977. The Niu Laif Bilong Ol (NLBO) cult came in the early 1980's.

Status of Christianity

Scripture

Translation Status

Postponed

Available Scripture

None

Form Of Scripture Available

Printed

Scripture Use

Churches and some individuals use the Tok Pisin Bible

Comment (Scripture)

No scripture in the mother tongue. Language has been surveyed, but is not high priority for allocation because of questionable language vitality. Wanib people may form their own translation committee and request help from others.

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature

not in mother tongue

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings

no

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos

no

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio

no

Status of Christianity

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Four Square Church

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Organization Name

United Pentecostal Assemblies of God

Organization Name

South Seas Evangelical Church

Status of Christianity