



The Bukusu of Kenya

The Bukusu are a Bantu people who are a part of the larger Luhya ethnic group. Their main means of income source is subsistence farming, but also cattle and other domestic animals play an important role. Sugar cane and coffee are two of their most important agricultural crops. The area usually receives sufficient rain to sustain the population.

As is the case in most Kenyan communities, the traditional culture is under heavy pressure. Development and modernization have a strong impact on most parts of traditional life. However, quite a number of traditional customs have been maintained, some with adaptation. For instance, initiation rites still take place among virtually all sections of the population, but the timing has been adapted to coincide with school vacations, so that they do not interfere with the child's education.

Traditionally there was resistance against modern influence among the Bukusu. This was most vividly expressed in the Dini ya Msambwa movement, led by Elijah Masinde. This movement is a mixture of traditional religion with some Christian elements. It manifested itself clearly as a protesting movement against colonial authorities. Its leader was detained several times, mainly in relation to the attacks carried out on administrative institutions. A ban was reinstated even after independence, because of an anti-establishment attitude in word and deed. As for religion, sacrifice was the basic ritual for the movement, just as for the traditional religion. Ancestor worship also played an important role. Despite the fact that Masinde passed away several years ago, the movement still commands some following.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

20%

Churches:

>100

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

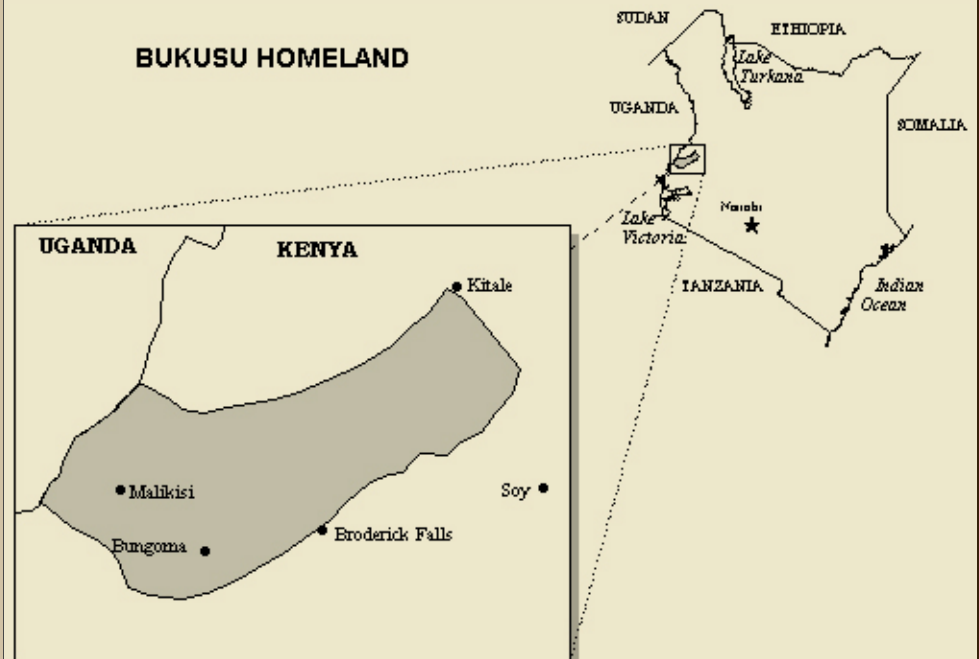
Entire NT; OT portions

Population (date):

678,000



BUKUSU HOMELAND



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	75%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	20%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	10%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	15%	
Number Of Pastors	113	
Comment (Pastors)	Based on pastor ratio of 1:5-7,000 and number of pastors between 89 and 133	
Number Of Missionaries Working	100	
Response To The Gospel	Very good response. The above figures are an indication of the response to the good news from God.	
Number Of Churches	>100	
Comment (Churches)	Very few communities without churches	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	The New Testament is available in LuBukusu (the Bukusu language). Work on the Old Testament continues.	
Translation Medium	Printed and Audio	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	More work is needed to create a good distribution system. The number of book shops is limited. More churches should be involved. Many literate people are not used to reading the Bukusu language.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	The New Testament is available on audio cassettes.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Additional outside missionaries are not necessary. It is generally agreed that the involvement of cross-cultural ministers is at an appropriate level.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	678,000	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Kenya	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Country	Kenya	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	50%	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Scripture	
Available Scripture	New Testament	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed and Audio	
Comment (Scripture)	New Testament complete; Old Testament is in progress. The New Testament is available on audio cassettes.	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	Yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	