

The Ambo of Equatorial Guinea

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The island of Annobon was discovered uninhabited by Portuguese explorers on January 1, 1471. Hence its name, Annobon or Ambo (Goodyear). It was subsequently populated by Gabonese and others, who speak a Portuguese-based Creole also used on the islands of Sao Tome and Principe. The people of Ambo live as one with the ocean, with fish being their primary source of protein. The women give birth in the ocean. The annual whale migration to Annobon sparks a festive hunt, with men harpooning whales from canoes, and then "skiing" behind the whale using huge, homemade ropes. The Annobonese are hardy, quick learners, Jacks-of-all-trades, quite resistant to cultural change, but quite receptive to technological change.

The 2500 Annobonese, and the 100'000 speakers in Sao Tome and Principe, have never had any Scriptures translated into their language. While there have been Catholic and Adventist mission stations there for some time, there has never been an evangelical mission outreach to the people of Annobon. There are about 12 known evangelical believers among this group (0.5%), all of whom came to Christ through church contacts in Malabo or the mainland. Two thousand years after Christ, it would seem that the time has come for the Church of Jesus Christ to care enough to make the investment of reaching these precious and isolated islanders.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0%

Churches:

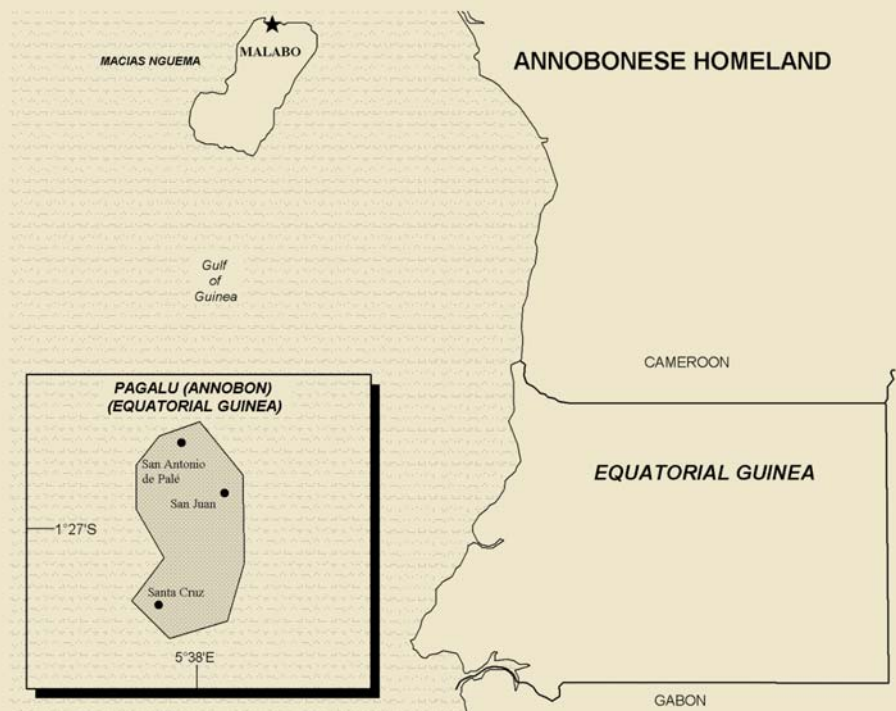
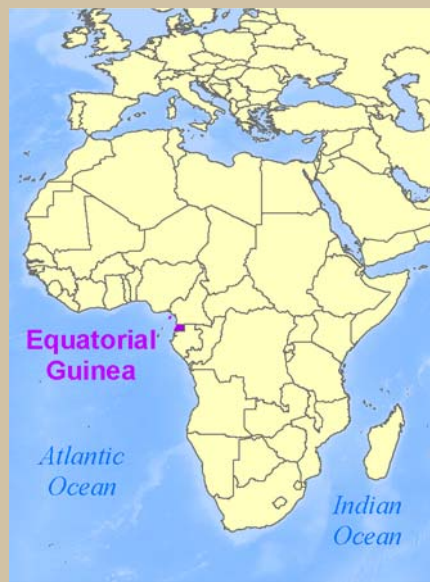
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in their language

Population (date):

2,500 (1997)



The Ambo of Equatorial Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	90	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	unreached	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	9.5	
Number Of Pastors	2	
Number Of Communities	4	
Number Of Churches	1	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	no	
Translation Medium	none	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	none in existence.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None except a Roman Catholic catechism.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Definite need for assistance.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	2500	
World Population (Date)	1997	
World Population (Urban Percent)	2000	
Comment (World Population)	During the two dry seasons (June to August and Nov. to February.)many will leave Pale to go to their farms around the 3 villages of Mabana, Angani and Awala. On Pale there are also 3 nuns,1 priest, 1 Jesuit, half a dozen government and military people and a few people from other tribes (1996).	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Equatorial Guinea	
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Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Annobon is an island in the Atlantic,360km west of Gabon, 230km south of Sao Tome.	
Country	Equatorial Guinea	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Volcanic islands	
Elevation	Sea level to 598 meters	
Longitude	5 38	
Latitude	1 26	
Climate	Tropical forest, hot in daytime, quite cold at night, some Savanna in the north of the island.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	The island is 4km wide and 7km long. The Pico Quioveo is the highest point. The people are loving the ocean and their beach. One of their canoes traveled even 360 km to Port Gentil.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Alternate Language Names	Annobones (Spanish),Pagalu, given to them by Macias, but never accepted or appreciated by the people.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	20	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	KRIO	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SPANISH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	KRIO	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SPANISH	

The Ambo of Equatorial Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
Linguistically Related Languages	CRIOULO, UPPER GUINEA	
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Comments (Related Languages)	Ethnologue could perhaps consider changing primary name to Fa d'Ambo.	
Neighboring Languages	CRIOULO, GULF OF GUINEA	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	80	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Publications In Vernacular	3	
Comment (Literacy)	Zamora's Catecismo, Villa's Compendio, Pueyo's Cuentos. Literacy is done in Castillian Spanish. None is done in a local language.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Fishers	
Average Annual Income	40 to 80 \$ per month	
Occupation	agriculture, fishing and whaling, carpentry, native art,	
Income Sources	Tourism, government jobs, military, whaling.	
Products / Crafts	drums (tambali), rope, harpoons, canoes, belts, traditional clothing.	
Trade Partners	Fishing boats and yachts all over the world: France, China, Spain, Japan.	
Modernization / Utilities	Electricity in Pale, when there is fuel, fresh water running by gravity.	
Comment (Economy)	One hotel in construction	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Health Care)	There is very little malaria because there are no swamps or stagnant water. One doctor (1996), 4 nurses and a lab analyst.	
Diet (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Diet)	fish, bananas, cassavas, malanga, sweet potatoes, chicken, pigs, goats, Guinea hens from the jungle.	
Water (Quality)	Very good	
Comment (Water)	No typhoid, Lago Pot is pristine and pure, many houses have piped spring water 24 hours a day.	
Shelter Description	Wooden African huts covered with straw roofs. Some in Pale are cement houses.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	Pale has a generator, but lacks fuel. They have wood and kerosene, and some solar panels.	
Clothing	Women are heavily covered, especially 3 month after giving birth. Men wear a wrap around cloth tied at the neck.	
Transportation	Footpath on the island, canoes at sea. It is 5 to 11 hours to Sao Tome (depending on the boat) Planes can be chartered from Malabo (700\$ in 1997)	
Infant Mortality Rate	10%	
Life Expectancy	50 men,60 women	
Leading Cause Of Death	malnourishment, no medicine	
Comment (Community Development)	There are no poisonous snakes on Annobon. It has a healthier ambience than the continent, but it is very isolated and lacks access to emergency facilities.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Nuclear family in single family dwellings, patriarchal society. Polygamy is accepted and legal. Traditionally marriage was arranged, but that is changing. Parental blessing is important to insure inheritance. Sons and daughters divide the inheritance. Those living in Pale are neither patricentric nor matricentric. They go to their "fincas" in dry season.	

The Ambo of Equatorial Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Neighbor Relations	Exceptionally good. Traditionally excess food was always divided, first to family, then to neighbors. Now it is sold or given to neighbors.
Authority / Rule	In the home it is the father. In criminal matters the government and in societal matters the "vidgiles".
Social Habits/Groupings	Pale is divided into 4 or 5 zones with a "vidgil" (community council) of 10 to 50 persons. They are chosen by age, neighborhood and by where they keep their canoes. All live in Pale, but in dry season they go to the other 3 villages to their "fincas" where they farm, slash and burn agriculture. They are quick to learn all sorts of things.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	At home the father, legal matters the government, social: the "vidgil" would reprimand a person who would refuse to help to launch a canoe.
Celebrations	weddings, funeral masses, Catholic fiestas, patron Saints day on June 13, whale hunting. In fall rainy season is the annual whale migration where whales circle the island for weeks. Also at that time Lake Opot overflows and people are catching lots of fish with nets in the fast flowing river.
Recreations	Men: sea, jokes legends, food, practical jokes, sports, soccer, boxing, swimming and canoe races, women can not enter their fun without invitation. Women focus on house and farm, helping each other in chores, hair braiding.
Art Forms	canoes, baskets, fishnets, huge ropes for whaling, house construction, tambale drums, fiber belts.
Media	all verbal. They communicate by whistling many things over and across kilometers of water from one canoe to another.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Indifferent
Attitude To Change	Very resistant
Comment (Culture)	very resistant to cultural change, but very receptive of progress in technology.

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Boys: construction, clear gardens, fishing, basket weaving, transport, boating, cut date palms, clean fish. Girls: housework, gardening, help in construction and transport.
Youth Problems (Teens)	sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancies, alcohol, lack of jobs.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Spiritual ministries, training jobs, marital stability, healthy morals.
Comment (Youth)	The Annobonese demonstrate a tremendous ability to endure hardship and to adapt to new situations and skills. The biggest challenge to society is their isolation geographically, economically and spiritually. Men want a hard working wife who won't beat him. Women are perceived as to be stronger.

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	2
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	100
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	55
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Spanish
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Spanish
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	2
Comment (Education)	They use Castillian Spanish. 100 % enroll in primary school, most boys in secondary school but many girls don't. Schools have a high academic level, but linguistic barriers impede learning. Superior grades, 2 years optional, available only in Malabo and Bata.

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Evaluated
Total Baptized	12

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Item Name	Item Note	
Comment (Church Growth)	There is a Seventh Day Adventist pastor and one evangelical pastor in Malabo. This group is unreached and very needy. Most all of the believers are away from the home island (i.e., in Malabo)	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Catholic fiestas, Patron Saint day 13 of June San Antonio de Padua (Pale) weddings, Funeral masses, a veneration to the mythical king Alidapot (of lake Opot), celebrated with food offerings, gifts, utensils.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	People are very catholic, yet even Catholicism has not been able to change certain animistic practices.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	They might relate to the old Jewish culture of the fishermen.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Open to talk about spiritual things.	
Comment (Religion)	Many feel they have been defrauded by the Roman Catholic church and the Adventist church has little appeal to most.	
Recommended Approaches	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Send missionaries to live like the people, identify, eat like them, win their confidence.2 A church planting team could begin an evangelical outreach.3 Bible translation and literacy workers, education workers.4 Occupational training, community-development initiatives (ideas: process whale blubber for fuel, make cement from sea shells.	
Current Needs	Biggest need is spiritual, freedom from the occult and from slavery to animistic practices. Need for Bible translation and literacy in Annobonese. There is a real need for occupational training, job opportunities, economic development.	
Items For Prayer	For missionaries who can begin a church planting ministry in Annobon. Ask God to call Bible translators and literacy workers. Pray for spiritual liberation from the bondage and fear of the occult. Pray for an infrastructure which might bring development, education and work opportunities.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1965	
By Whom	Seventh Day Adventists	
Significant Events	They have built a church, but very few attend.	
Comments (History of Christianity)	There has never been a missionary effort on the island of Annobon, so there is no real history of evangelical Christianity there.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Definite	
Available Scripture	None	
Comment (Scripture)	Listed as a definite need in the Ethnologue. This should be confirmed soon by the West African Lusophone Creole study. Levels of biligualism in Spanish may be relevant.	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Seventh Day Adventists	
Main Ministry	Church Planting	
Year Started	1965	
Number Of Adherents	20	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	2	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Literature Available	Catholic catechism, dictionary, grammar description.	
Audio Recordings Available	none	

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Item Name	Item Note
Films Available	none
Radio Programs Available	none
Videos Available	none
Audio Visual Available	none