

The Gadang of Chad

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As the sun begins to lower itself in the sky, silence falls over a small gathering of people in the village. The man they are watching is seated on a grass mat surrounded by stones. Small, black stones are arranged in a spiral, winding around the man who sits still with his ear bent to the voice of nature. He is listening for the spirits to give him an answer. Perhaps the answer he searches for is in regards to the famine, a sick family member, or something else of importance to the needy people around him.

Along the Chari River in the dry grasslands of Chad, live the Gadang people. They are a people group characterized by their numerous needs. Education is minimal, clean water is scarce, medical help is inconsistent, and Gadang hands never seem to rest from their labor; the people are often weary and hungry.

Above all, Gadang people have been starved of the True Nourishment they need, because the Gospel of Christ has never been shown to them. Jesus made it a habit to meet the physical needs of people in order to meet the spiritual needs, and this is the way the Gospel must be shared with the Gadang. Pray earnestly that the Lord will raise up people to live among the Gadang and help meet their physical needs, as well as introduce them to the One who can satisfy their spiritual hunger.

Primary Religion:

Islam, Muslim-Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0%

Churches:

0

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Population (date):

2,000 (1991)



The Gadang of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	0%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100%	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	0	
Number Of Missionaries Working	0	
Response To The Gospel	The Gadang people have never had the Gospel clearly shown to them, nor have there been Christians living among them.	
Number Of Communities	18	
Number Of Churches	0	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	For translation to be effective and beneficial, literacy projects would also be necessary.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel Recordings has a cassette in the Gadang language.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	There is a need for development work such as building wells and designing irrigation projects, medical missions, teachers, and literacy work.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	2,000	
World Population (Date)	1991	
World Population (Urban Percent)	10%	
Comment (World Population)	Those who live in an urban area live in Bousso.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Chad	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Southwest Chad, in the Chari-Beguirmi Prefecture along the N'Djaména-Sarh road south of Bousso.	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Riverine	
Elevation	300-700m above sea level	
Longitude	17 degrees east	
Latitude	10 degrees north	
Climate	hot and dry	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Comment (Second Language)	BAGIRMI	
Comments (Related Languages)	SARUA	
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	MILTU	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	5.3%	
Percent Literate For Men	8.5%	
Percent Literate For Women	2.0%	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	The literacy rate is based on the regional average (1993) and may be lower in the villages.	

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Item Name	Item Note	Group Description
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Fishers	
Average Annual Income	\$447 per year	
Occupation	fishing, hunting, farming	
Income Sources	Selling what is brought in from the fishing, hunting, and farming.	
Products / Crafts	millet, fish	
Trade Partners	Arabs sell milk and meat to the Gadang.	
Modernization / Utilities	Organization Nationale de Development Rurale (ONDR) runs cooperatives in the region.	
Comment (Economy)	The average income is based on the national average (1994).	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	The villages of Mbarle and Miltu have dispensaries, but these are poorly stocked and lack a sufficient number of medical workers. The nearest city with a hospital is Sarh, which is approximately 250 miles away.	
Diet (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Diet)	Diet includes a variety of meats and vegetables.	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	Because they live along the river, water is available to them, however, it is not clean and potable water.	
Shelter Description	They live in huts made of woven straw.	
Electricity	None	
Comment (Energy)	The nearest city with electricity is Sarh (250 miles away).	
Clothing	The men wear long robes called jalabiyas and the women wear wrap-around skirts called pagnes.	
Transportation	Transportation to the city is relatively easy, considering they are beside the N'Djaména-Sarh road. Travel to local villages is done by walking, riding donkeys, or riding bicycles.	
Infant Mortality Rate	10.3%	
Life Expectancy	59.2 years	
Leading Cause Of Death	Intestinal infections	
Comment (Community Development)	Child Mortality Rate: 17%; Information on child mortality and life expectancy is based on the regional average (1993). Intestinal and other infections are due largely to lack of sanitation and clean water.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Extended family	
Neighbor Relations	The Gadang have good relationships with neighboring villages due to trading practices and intermarriages.	
Authority / Rule	Each village has a chief; there is no Gadang supreme chief to whom the others are subservient.	
Social Habits/Groupings	No clan or caste system	
Cultural Change Pace	Rapid	
Identification With National Culture	Similar	
Self Image	Neutral	
Judicial / Punishment System	Elders make appeals to the village chief.	
Celebrations	Harvest celebrations, initiations for men, appeasements to the gods of nature, and also some Islamic festivals.	
Recreations	Dances, listening to the radio	
Art Forms	Straw weaving, making pottery	

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Item Name	Item Note
Media	Radio Nationale de Tchad broadcasts from N'Djaména in Chadian Arabic and French.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Very receptive

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	The youth help with fishing, farming, and other chores, and the girls also help with housework and childcare.
Youth Problems (Teens)	pre-marital sex
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	A youth program that provided group social activities would be beneficial.

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	5
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	4 (more than 90% homogeneous)

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Evaluated
Comment (Church Growth)	There are no Gadang believers, churches, or missionaries working among the Gadang.

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Divination, or the consulting of spirits, and Islamic practices
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive
Resistance / Receptivity	The Gadang people have never had the Gospel clearly shown to them, nor have there been Christians living among them.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	God is the ruler of gods of nature, and it is possible to relate to God in a personal way.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Adhesion to Islam is minimal, as the majority of them converted to Islam as protection from neighbors. Because they have never been introduced to Christianity, there are no indicators as to their attitude and openness towards the Gospel.
Recommended Approaches	Living with the people and assisting them with community development projects would create a friendship with the people, and as a result, opportunities to reach them would increase.
Current Needs	Assistance is needed in various areas, such as education, healthcare, agriculture, and literacy.
Items For Prayer	Pray that God would raise up individuals willing to live with the Gadang and help meet their needs, in order to eventually build a group of believers. Also pray that the Lord would prepare the hearts of the people so that they are receptive to outsiders and open to Christianity.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status	Definite
Available Scripture	None
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	Nothing available in Gadang
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Nothing available in Gadang
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	Nothing available in Gadang
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	Nothing available in Gadang