



## The Kanembu of Chad

Between the sands of the Sahara and the shores of Lake Chad live the Kanembu.

For over a thousand years the Kanem-Bornu Empire exerted its influence over central North Africa. Its influence covered eastern Nigeria and Niger, the northern half of Chad and Libya. It traded with Egypt and sponsored Islamic schools as far away as Alexandria. Its camel caravans reached the Muslim holy cities in the Arabian Peninsula. Until the beginning of the 1900's and the French conquest of this area, this empire was the major power in the heart of the north central Africa.

Today the Kanembu people are one group of the descendants of this great empire, and their sultans and traditional rules are still more influential than government authorities. They are Chad's merchant tribe, with 75-80% of all merchants in Chad coming from this group, making them one of Chad's wealthiest groups. Along with the related language group, the Kanuri they live in an area between the shores of Lake Chad and the Sahara desert. Living in mud brick houses, their culture and clothing resembling that of Bible times, they still await being reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Their practice of Islam is mixed with African traditional beliefs. They have outward conformity to Islam but depend on a form of spiritism to meet daily problems. Marabouts as spiritual leaders are often sought for their healing power or for their ability to communicate with spirits.

The style of living has changed little in the last thousand years, although modern conveniences: vehicles, water pumps, sewing machines, have been added alongside their traditional lifestyle. Today as Chad's main merchant group, Kanembu can be found in all major towns and villages. The current "high school" generation (ages 15 - 30) seeks to escape the village and find a more fulfilling life and job in the outside world. The pull to urban centers, especially the capital is very strong.

**Primary Religion:**

Muslim

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

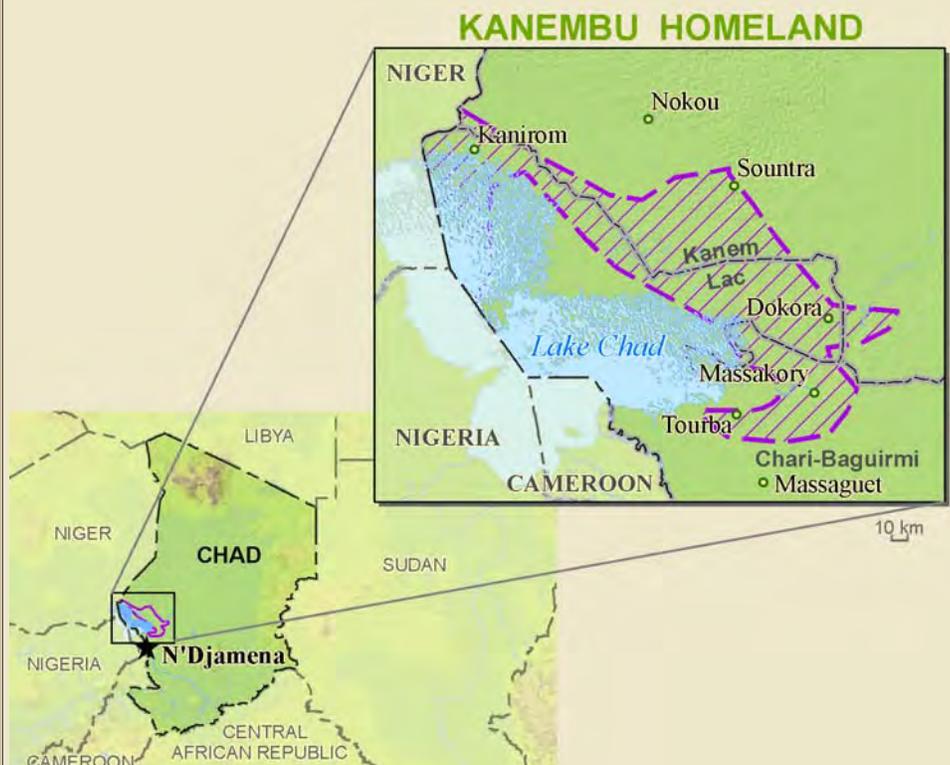
**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

Only portions available

**Population (date):**

390,000 (1993)



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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	<1	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	Muslim/Local Traditional	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	?	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	?	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Portions	
Translation Medium	Tape as so few people can read at this point	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Literature, Recordings, Radio	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	?	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	390000	
World Population (Date)	1993	
World Population (Urban Percent)	58500	
Comment (World Population)	Some live in Niger.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Chad	
Country Name	Chad	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	The Kanembu are located in a belt between the Sahara Desert and Lake Chad in the Sahel region of Africa. In Chad this band wraps around Lake Chad from the Niger border to the town of Massakory. Few trees, mainly doum palms, date palms, and sparse vegetation.	
Country	Chad	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Longitude	14 S	
Latitude	14 N	
Climate	Sandy desert, less than 5 inches of rain annually which comes July to September. Daytime temperatures usually reach 100°F all year long. Winter nights may fall to 50°F.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Dialects	Karkawu, Mando, Nguri	
Percent Monolingual (%)	40	
Second Languages	40	
Second Languages	60	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	DAZA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	DAZA	
Linguistically Related Languages	KANURI, YERWA	
Linguistically Related Languages	KANURI, YERWA	
Neighboring Languages	ARABIC, SHUWA	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	6	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	

## The Kanembu of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Publications In Vernacular	2	
Comment (Literacy)	They have some Bible portions. Figures are only estimates.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	Less than \$450 per Yr.	
Occupation	Merchants (Clothing, Household items, Grain, Food items), farmers, raising livestock, some work in government positions and for development agencies, a few in the military. Development agencies have helped develop the dry parts of the fertile lake bed for agriculture. This has helped restore the cultivation of wheat in the area.	
Income Sources	Sales of grain and produce, sales of livestock.	
Products / Crafts	Woven baskets and mats, Mud bricks for houses, limited leather goods, blacksmith - metal goods: knives, spear heads, hoes, axes. Hand-stitched embroidery on clothing or caps. Some of the women make jars for water and storage.	
Trade Partners	Kanuri (Nigeria and Niger, Daza, Arabs)	
Modernization / Utilities	Development agencies have installed a large number of hand pumps in a number of villages. The four largest towns in the region have water towers with water pumped to locations throughout the town. There are no public sources for electricity. but many of the merchants have small generators to provide electricity for lights and televisions.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Health Care)	Infant Mortality Rate: 10.8 % Child Mortality Rate: 18.2 % Life Expectancy Rate: 53.4 years 93,309 patients/per Medical doctor in Kanem province. Mortality, Life Expectancy, information is based on the Kanem regional average (1993).	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Usually a thick grain porridge made of corn or millet, eaten with the fingers and dipped into a meat or vegetable sauce. Kisar, a type of millet pancake, is also eaten, especially at special occasions. The main meat is goat although some beef is available. During the winter months a large number of vegetables are grown in small gardens.	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	Development agencies have installed a large number of hand pumps in a number of villages. The four largest towns in the region have water towers with water pumped to locations throughout the town. Smaller villages often obtain water from shallow hand dug wells. Water purity from these is marginal. Since the water table is relatively shallow, water is easily obtainable for agriculture, although the means to obtain it may limit its use. Near Lake Chad, development agencies have dammed off arms of the lake and irrigate the fertile lake bed with water from the lake. In the area around Bol, cement irrigation canals provide water for several thousand acres. On a smaller scale, individual gardens are often watered from shallow wells by small motor pumps, or by hand, using a 'shaduf', a counter-weighted lever with a bucket on one end. Various self-funding, self-sustaining pump projects have been tried by development agencies, but thus far none have succeeded long-term.	
Shelter Description	Most of the Kanembu live in square, one room mud-brick houses. These usually have a mud roof and dirt floor, although some merchants have tin roofs and cement floors. In villages land is divided into lots, and one extended family will generally live on one lot, each nuclear family living in it's own one room building. Those not able to afford the construction of a mud brick building construct huts of woven grasses.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Energy)	The predominant fuel for cooking is wood. Charcoal is also made for some cooking needs, especially making tea. Kerosene is imported for lamps and some merchant refrigerators, but is overall too expensive for general cooking use. A larger portion of the firewood is imported from Nigeria, coming into Chad by boat, via Lake Chad. All oil-based fuel products are imported.	

# The Kanembu of Chad

## Item Name

## Item Note

Clothing

Women wear the long traditional veil or 'lafai' over their dresses made of African design cloth. Younger women and girls wear a scarf head-covering. Today many students choose to wear western style clothing to school. The men wear the long 'djelabia', a long shirt with long loose fitting trousers worn underneath. Those who can afford them wear the grand 'bubu'. A sort of 'djelabia' which has a third piece, a cape or mantle which covers the shirt and trousers. The mantle is intricately embroidered and is their equivalent for a 3-piece business suit.

Transportation

No public transportation. Some market trucks and vehicles. Roads outside Ndjamena are impassable in the rainy season.

Infant Mortality Rate

I 10.8% C 18.2%

Life Expectancy

53.4 years

Leading Cause Of Death

93,309 patients/per Dr

## Society & Culture

## Group Description

Family Structures

Families are usually extended with the elderly parents living in the same housing lot as their married children and grand-children. Additional rooms may be built to house additional family members. The family is considered the main unit, although relations between husband and wife are negligible. Men spend time with men. Women with women. Men eat only with men, women and children eat separately. Fathers spend relatively little time with children. Husbands work to provide the general needs of the family, with the wife staying around the house doing the cooking, shopping and child care. Work in the fields is usually done by the men, although older women, usually widows, will cultivate their own fields if necessary.

Marriage is often within the extended family, often a cousin. The husband pays a bride-price to the girl's family after discussing the amount with the parents. After marriage the children belong to the father. If the wife leaves or is divorced the children remain with the father. Divorced women usually become prostitutes.

Neighbor Relations

In the villages and smaller towns there is a great sense of community. Children are raised in the community, with the entire neighborhood responsible for discipline and training of the children. Boundaries between years are clearly marked out and usually each lot has a wall around it, either of mud brick or straw mats. Arguments are not uncommon, especially among women, over water rights, children, etc.

Authority / Rule

Traditionally the Kanembu have been ruled by sultans. Today the region is divided into 'cantons'. These do not correspond with any governmental boundaries or divisions. Each canton is led by a sultan or "mai" (pronounced "my"). He holds the primary allegiance of the people.

Government officials will come and go, and be changed at the whim of the President, but the regional sultan is constant. His house and property are sacrosanct and even invading rebels respect him. He and his appointees decide traditional rights especially over land. They portion out farm lands and fields, and decide civil disputes. He appoints a representative over each neighborhood in his town. They are responsible for certain functions in their neighborhood.

The sultan is selected by the elders of the royal family. Usually this is transferred from father to first-born son, but the council of elders has the final word, especially when the son of the former sultan is too young to rule.

Social Habits/Groupings

The Kanembu have very close relations with the Daza, another tribe which was part of the Kanem-Bornu Empire. The Daza are camel herders and live predominantly in the desert along the northern edge of the Kanembu region. They live side-by-side with each other and often intermarry.

Cultural Change Pace

Slow

Identification With National Culture

Integrated

Self Image

Prestigious

Judicial / Punishment System

For civil matters the sultan and his appointees carry out all judgements. For any criminal actions, especially for those who are not Kanembu, the governmental authorities carry out judgements.

Crisis/Conflicts - History/Status: The fragmentation of Chad by recent civil wars leaves an unstable prospect of sustained peace. A deep antipathy divided the Kanembu and the northern tribes from southern Chadians who come to work in the rich Lake region. The roots of this lie in the slave trade when the southern tribes were victimized by the peoples further north. Tensions can continue as often better educated southerners work under the supervision of untrained northerners. All of the recent rules of Chad have come from the northern Muslim tribes.

## The Kanembu of Chad

### Item Name

Art Forms

### Item Note

Their only real art form is their music and dances. Usually slow and stately, almost along the lines of a waltz, they enjoy holding any occasion to hold a dance. Traditional music is always a part of any ceremony, and dances usually finish off any celebration.

Media

There are only a few Kanembu who have recorded their music onto cassette for commercial distribution. Those who do are greatly enjoyed by the Kanembu community. The national radio service has a Kanembu language edition each day, but television is only transmitted in French and Arabic.

Local Language Broadcasting

20 minutes to 1 hour daily

Attitude To Outsiders

Somewhat receptive

Attitude To Change

Very resistant

Comment (Culture)

Problems relating to high consumption of alcohol in some areas.

### Youth

### Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)

While young boys may occasionally help in the fields, or do odd jobs, young girls begin early to take an important role in the family. The young girls are responsible for the care of younger children, often carrying babies around on their backs. They are also responsible for carrying water from the well for the family jars, and helping out with the cooking and cleaning up after meals.

Boys will begin working in the fields when they have the strength to do a good days work. For those involved in trading, young boys often will be seen with a small table of gum, sweets/candy, and matches for sale outside of their houses, learning to trade. They also may serve an older brother or relative in his shop by running errands.

Youth Problems (Teens)

The greatest problem facing the Kanembu youth is that of frustration. They view education as a means of escape from village life and gain the world beyond that they have learned about. Unfortunately jobs are rare, even for the well educated. They view wealth as the rights of an educated person, not as something to be worked for. In this sense, those who forego higher education to work as an apprentice for a merchant often are better rewarded.

Youth Greatest Needs (teens)

An education which meets the needs of the Chadian people and their real future. The current model follows a French system geared for a different culture and economic reality. They need to be trained in the vocational trades which will build Chad for the present and future. They also need something to hope in. They have seen the results of the religion of their parents and are not satisfied. They have seen the old superstitions and beliefs rebuked by modern science and technology, but don't have anything to replace it with. Currently they are trying materialism to fill this emptiness.

Comment (Youth)

This seems to be the generation that is capable of making the greatest changes. They are the most open to the world around them and the most eager to learn about it.

### Education

### Group Description

Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled

10

Language Of Instruction Early Years

French

Language Of Textbooks Early Years

French

Comment (Education)

Most young children attend primary school for at least several years. In the Chadian system those who do not pass on to the next level often drop out. This is especially true of young girls, for whom education is not deemed important. Often girls after the age of 12 are pulled out of public school to begin learning the skills necessary to be a good wife. Girls are usually married by age 15 to 17. In addition to public school, children are usually sent to Koranic school in the afternoons to learn portions of the Koran. Those who do well are encouraged to continue and develop the reading and writing skills to learn more of the Koran. Boys and young men who do well in school are encouraged to continue and attempt to pass the 'Baccalaureate' exam. This equivalent to High School exam is highly prized in Chad as it can open doors to further education and possibly even training abroad.

### Church Growth

### Status of Christianity

Reached Status

Engaged

Total Baptized

3

Lay Leaders

1

## The Kanembu of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Comment (Church Growth)	All blanks are 0.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	All common Muslim practices: 5 prayers daily, the fast of Ramadan, circumcision. In addition the wearing of amulets or "gris-gris" is common to ward of sickness, injury etc.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	Somewhat Receptive.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	<p>As Muslims hold many of the Old Testament prophets in honor and would say they follow the same God and believe the same message that the prophets proclaimed, a chronological approach to evangelism is being used. The Old Testament passages which provide the foundation to the message of the Messiah are being translated, put onto cassette and given to the Chadian church to be distributed among the Kanembu people.</p> <p>The Chadian church, made up of displaced Christians from the south has a good testimony among the Kanembu people.</p> <p>There are many sacrifices to appease God - blood to be shed. Analogies of that fulfilled by Jesus on the cross.</p>	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	<p>At this time there are no barriers to sharing the Gospel. The Kanembu people are open and eager to "discuss" religion and spiritual issues. Although any debates usually end with each side believing to have won. Simple teaching through the Old Testament to the New could easily be done with no opposition.</p> <p>Varies, but many are open.</p>	
Comment (Religion)	Religion practiced is Islam with tenets of sorcery mixed in. A form of "folk-Islam"	
Recommended Approaches	<p>Living among them, allowing them to see you and befriend you. Sharing with them God's Word and what He has done for you in a non-confrontational manner. Using a chronological approach of teaching through the Bible, starting with the Old Testament.</p> <p>Workers amongst this group should be willing to 'rough it' - living a simple lifestyle in a hot climate isolated from others of similar culture. People are needed who will take the time to incarnate Jesus amongst the Kanembu.</p>	
Current Needs	Literacy workers, Evangelists.	
Items For Prayer	<p>Pray for the evangelical churches located among the Kanembu, that they might have a testimony bringing glory to Jesus Christ. May they be faithful witnesses in a hostile environment. 2 Thessalonians. 3: 1,2</p> <p>Pray for Bible cassettes to be well received and the message taken to heart. Pray for the team engaged in translation, that God would give them wisdom and guide them through this process.</p> <p>Isaiah 55:11</p> <p>Pray for the Kanembu young people, who are unsatisfied with traditional ways, that they may find their answers in Jesus Christ. Matt 11:28</p> <p>Pray that Chad will have a long season of peace that the Gospel may go out unhindered. 1 Tim 2:1-4</p>	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1996	
Significant Events	<p>There was a large dispensary work on Lake Chad before the war in the late '70's and early '80's. Through this the church gained a respect and credibility that have lasted until now.</p> <p>Recently a demonized Kanembu woman who had exhausted all other means of deliverance, was prayed for by members of the church and was healed by the Lord. She is now attending the church.</p>	
Comments (History of Christianity)	Started by Swiss and National Chadian Missionaries.	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	Portions	
Form Of Scripture Available	Audio	
Scripture Use	1	
Scripture Use	Unknown	

## The Kanembu of Chad

### Item Name

Comment (Scripture)

### Item Note

A translation team from TEAM has begun to translate the Bible. The first 25 chapters of Genesis and the first 10 chapters of Exodus have thus far been translated. Due to illiteracy, these have been put onto cassette rather than published in printed form.

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name	The Evangelical Alliance Mission
Country Of Origin	United States
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Number Of Expatriate Workers	4
Number Of National Workers	3

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available	None, the orthography / alphabet for Kanembu is just now being standardised.
Audio Recordings Available	Gospel Recordings made 2 cassettes with Bible stories and messages on them. These need to be revised and updated. Currently the church is distributing these as well as the Genesis tapes to the Kanembu, and they have been eagerly received.
Films Available	None
Radio Programs Available	there is the possibility that Trans-World Radio will begin broadcasting the Kanembu recording alongside with Kanuri and Hausa. This is being co-ordinated with the church in Nigeria and the Kanuri outreach.
Videos Available	None
Audio Visual Available	None