



The Kimré of Chad

The Gabri (Gabri-Kimré) live in the Tandjilé East District in the south of Chad. Of their 17 villages the most important ones are Kimré (administrative centre), Modé, Bordo, Massa, Mare and Déle. Some people have also moved to N'Djamena (the capital) and to other towns in Chad. There is a dispensary and a small airstrip in Kimré. The schools in Kimré, Modé and Bordo offer full primary education, whereas the other 13 mostly community schools just run some classes, depending on how much time they can get from teachers or teaching-assistants.

Most Gabri are farmers, cultivating millet, peanuts, beans, cotton and in some areas, rice. They raise small animals and wealthier people have cattle mainly for working their fields. Neighbouring people groups are the Sumray, Darbé, Gulay, Ndam, Ngam and Mutu with which they nowadays have good relationships. But there is no language in the area closely related enough for them to understand each other. Many people in the language area do not speak any other language, or speak only to a level needed for marketing. In church services the Bible is usually read in Ngambay or French. Sometimes the sermons are also preached in Ngambay, and translated into Kimré, since most people do not understand Ngambay well enough. Pastors are trained in French or Ngambay.

In the 1970's Kabam Andre, pastor of local churches in the Kimré area, started a language committee, which did the first translations of hymns into Kimré. A literacy project started in 1994, after a writing system had been established. Literacy teaching has continued through the years. Bible translation began in late 1994. The first draft of the NT was completed in February 2001. There are now preliminary editions of Mark's Gospel, Ephesians, Philippians, James, Titus, 1-2 Timothy and 1-2 Peter in circulation. The translation team hopes to have the whole New Testament printed by 2008.

Primary Religion:

Ethnic Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

1%

Churches:

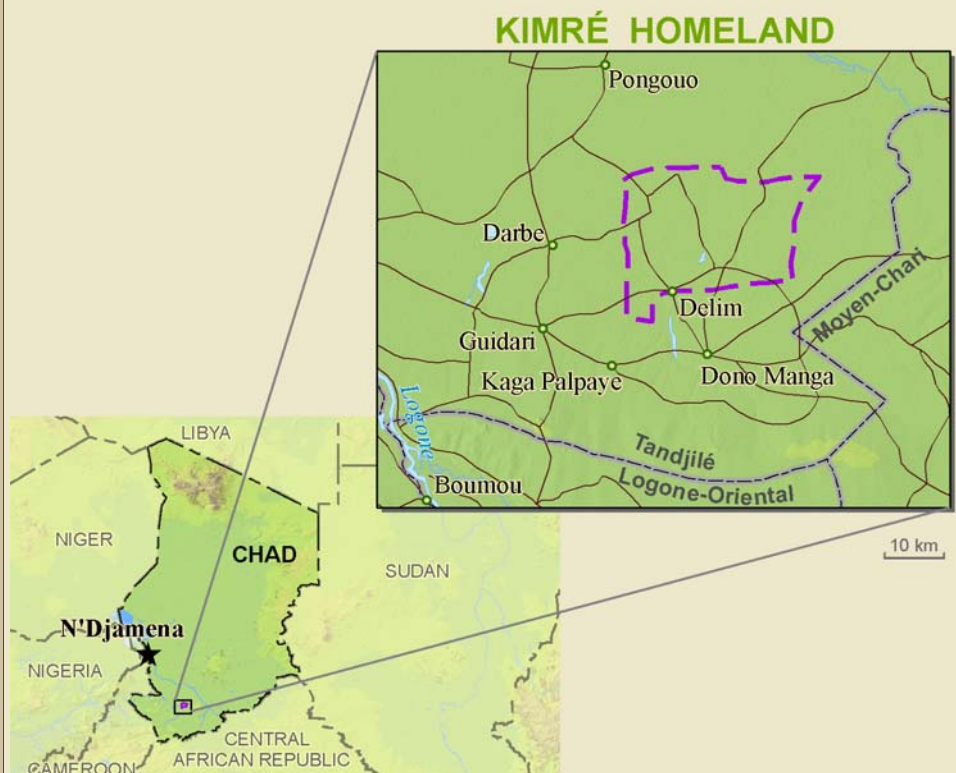
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions are available

Population (date):

20,000 (2005)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	10-15%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	1%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	0	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	90	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	50	
Number Of Pastors	"15 Evangelical, ? Catholic priests"	
Comment (Pastors)	"20 trained pastors, 7 pastors with little or no training."	
Number Of Missionaries Working	4	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	"2 in evangelism, 2 in translation"	
Response To The Gospel	"Some response, but many untouched"	
Number Of Communities	17	
Number Of Churches	36	
Comment (Churches)	"27 Evangelical (mostly EET, Eglise Evangelique au Tchad), 9 Catholic "	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	The first draft of the New Testament in Kimré was completed in February 2001. Portions are in circulation. Revision of the translation will be finished in July 2006. They hope to start the typesetting soon.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	No	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	"Evangelistic outreaches of the union of Young Christians, concerts by different Choirs, hymnbook in kimré."	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Bible school in Kimré is in need of a qualified teacher for training of new and current pastors and evangelists.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Chad	
Literacy		Group Description
Comment (Literacy)	First language literacy rate: 1% Second language literacy rate: 5-10%	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Indifferent	
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	The people might be open to talk about church and listen to the gospel but to become a believer is a hard decision to make.	
Attitude To Religious Change	Indifferent	
Comment (Attitude Religious Change)	It's easy to change from one denomination to another. But changes are not so easily made from one religion to the other .	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1949	
Comments (History of Christianity)	"In the 40's Mr. Bill Cameron, a missionary from Canada, reached out into the Kimré area from the nearby Goulay village Ter. Jaques Ngarnaldjim however, was the first Chadian missionary to arrive in Kimré. He became the father of the believers. Bible translation started in October 1994"	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	Yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	