



The Mawa of Chad

Mawa people have low self-esteem. They do not feel that they are able to do any type of development on their own. But after accomplishing a few community development projects with the aid of an expatriate missionary living among them, they now know that they can make a difference with a little help from outside. The people have formed a language and literacy, village library, and millet distribution associations. The Mawa people are very receptive to outsiders and are eager to receive help for the associations to function.

There are not many good sources of water in the Mawa area. People have moved away from the villages to find better supplies. The installation of a pump in Mahoua village helped alleviate the problem by providing clean water throughout the year. But it did not resolve the water problem completely. Other Mawa villages need clean water.

The construction of a school building gave the Mahoua population something to be proud of. It highlighted the importance of education for the children as well as literacy awareness for the adult population. Interest in the adult literacy program is high.

Most Mawa people are Muslims and mosques exist in many villages. AET in Bitkine made an evangelism campaign in the Mawa area about 20 years ago, but did not really follow up until a missionary came to the area. A local church is meeting.

The seed was sown. The seed needs water and care to grow and bear fruit. Mawa people do not know how to grow by themselves. How can they know things they have not seen or experienced? How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? They are waiting to receive more help to develop physically and spiritually.

Primary Religion:

Islam, Muslim-Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

<1%

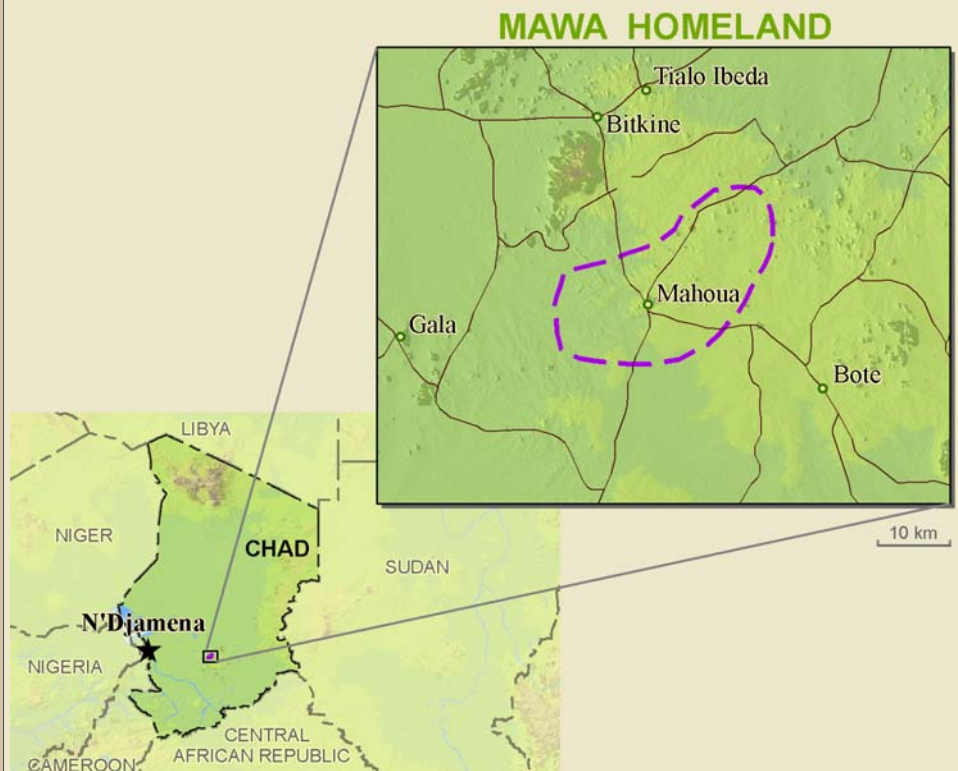
Churches:

1

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Population (date):

7,000 (2005 est.)



The Mawa of Chad

| Item Name | Item Note | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Have They Heard The Gospel? | | Profile Summary |
| Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%) | <1% | |
| Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%) | 50% | |
| Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%) | 25% | |
| Number Of Missionaries Working | 1 | |
| Response To The Gospel | An evangelist in Mawa wrote that he talked with his people and they seem open to accept a transcultural missionary with open arms. Most are receptive. They are open to talk, to listen and to ask questions. Some would like to become Christians but they are afraid of their families. Others want to keep their religion. They think that everybody has their own religion and that's just fine. | |
| Number Of Communities | 8 | |
| Number Of Churches | 1 | |
| Is The Word Of God Translated? | rough draft of some scripture and recordings | |
| Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution? | Illiteracy | |
| Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary) | Presence of a missionary | |
| What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed? | General literacy and Bible translation. | |
| Population All Countries | | Group Description |
| World Population For This People | 5,000 | |
| World Population (Date) | 1993 | |
| World Population (Urban Percent) | 40 | |
| Comment (World Population) | Population estimates from official 1993 Chad census. Urban population live in Mongo (Mawa quartier), Bitkine, and N'Djamena. | |
| Countries Where People Group Lives | | Group Description |
| Country Name | Chad | |
| Geography & Environment | | Group Description |
| Location | Guera prefecture, Bitkine subprefecture | |
| Ecosystem Type | Savannahs | |
| Geological Type | Plains | |
| Climate | Arid, hot | |
| Comments (Geography & Environment) | Sahel; villages located at the base of mountains. | |
| Language & Linguistics | | Group Description |
| Primary Language | Harari | |
| Comment (Language) | The Gura and Reupan dialects are only minimally different from the reference dialect of Mawa, contrary to the implication of Jungraithmayr's (1974) listing of the language which entertains the possibility that these dialects constitute a separate language. | |
| Comment (Alternate Names) | Mahwa, Mahoua | |
| Attitude Towards Mother Tongue | Very receptive | |
| Percent Monolingual (%) | 5% | |
| Comment (Second Language) | KENGA - 20% ARABIC, SHUWA - 95% | |
| Comments (Related Languages) | Mogum, Saba, Sokoro | |
| Comments (Neighbor Languages) | DAJU, DAR DADJU, JEGU, KENGA, MOKULU, SOKORO | |
| Literacy | | Group Description |
| Adult Literacy Percentage | 5-10% | |
| Literacy Attitude | Very receptive | |
| Active Literacy Program | No | |

The Mawa of Chad

Item Name

Comment (Literacy)

Item Note

To have them familiarized in literacy, a village library association has been formed to run the library in Mahoua. To date, there are over 150 books available in French, Arabic, and neighbouring languages.

Economics

Group Description

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalists

Trade Partners

Arabs who pass through the village frequently.

Modernization / Utilities

One powered mill since 2004

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)

None

Comment (Health Care)

The only health care available is from traditional sources. No dispensaries in the area. A dispensary was approved by the government, but not yet carried out; medicines not available in the area either.

Diet (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Diet)

Millet is the staple food, which is very nutritious. When the crops fail, there is danger of famine. Leaves provide material for sauces, with some meat from livestock.

Water (Quality)

Good

Comment (Water)

A hand pump installed in 2000, but only used by some. Request for a well was the people's first choice for Development, and was partially resolved by the installation of hand pump in 2000. The lack of water in the last 20 years has caused many people to move from Mahoua to found other villages in the outlying areas. The quality of water in Gurara and Rofono was noticeably poor (dirty), and the people said in some cases they had to go 7 km to fetch it.

Shelter Description

Mud brick dwellings with thatched roofs; compounds enclosed with woven straw (ronier). Hangars of grass and straw provide less durable shelters.

Electricity

None

Comment (Energy)

Wood for fuel

Clothing

Men wear long robes; women wear printed wrap-around cloth, which covers all of the body and often the head.

Transportation

Some own donkeys; otherwise by foot.

Comment (Community Development)

People are eager for community development. A Mawa community development association was formed by the population and collected funds for development of a reservoir, school classrooms, and a dispensary. To date, a school building with 4 rooms has been built with collaboration of outside funding and the association.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures

Families live together in compounds, which often include members of the extended family.

Neighbor Relations

No real problems at present; historically there have been tensions with the Mokulu people, partly because of land disputes; but now the situation is basically peaceful. The people also have amicable relations with the Arabs, who live nearby and pass through the village often; most of their contacts with outside groups are with Arabs.

Authority / Rule

There is a village chief for each village, and neighborhood chiefs for some of the larger villages. There is no one ruler for all of the Mawa people, and politically they are dominated by the Kenga, in whose canton they are administered. There are also other traditional authority figures: chiefs of the earth (who have authority over land ownership), and the chief of the margai (demigods in their traditional religion) whose authority is rapidly diminishing.

Cultural Change Pace

Static

Identification With National Culture

Similar

Self Image

Neutral

Judicial / Punishment System

Village chief decides in some disputes; perhaps the chief of the earth may be involved in some (land) issues too.

Celebrations

Some traditional celebrations and dances, traditional sacrifices performed and celebrated several times a year.

Local Language Broadcasting

None

Attitude To Outsiders

Very receptive

The Mawa of Chad

Item Name

Attitude To Change

Item Note

Very receptive

Youth

Youth Greatest Needs (teens)

Qualified school teacher

Group Description

Education

Primary Schools

4

Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled

< 50%

Teacher To Pupil Ratio

3/75

Language Of Instruction Early Years

Mawa (Chad)

Language Of Instruction Early Years

French

Language Of Textbooks Early Years

French

Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous

4

Group Description

Comment (Education)

Very low, the awareness has grown significantly with the construction of the school building. But the education provided in these schools is probably not sufficient to make people even passably literate. The village of Mahoua has three classes, the villages of Gurara has two classes with fairly high attendance and the population has built mud-brick classrooms on their own, the villages of Rofono, and Dorli each have one class in their schools. To get more education, people have to go to nearby towns (Bitkine, Mongo), and even that is not possible for most. There are very few men with high education in the villages. The ones with the highest degree of education in Mahoua have finished college in nearby town (Bitkine, Melfi), and they could speak and read/write French.

Church Growth

Reached Status

Reported

Total Baptized

1

Status of Christianity

Religion & Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

The people were observed to do the Muslim daily prayers and participated in the fast during the month of Ramadan. The practice of traditional religion is meagre but still vivid. According to the missionary 25-33% are still actively involved in practices of traditional religion; the traditional chiefs (of margai, of the earth) do not observe all Islamic practices, but do not reject them either.

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat receptive

Attitude To Religious Change

Somewhat receptive

Comment (Attitude Religious Change)

receptive for most

Resistance / Receptivity

They are open to talk, to listen and to ask questions. Some would like to become Christians but they are afraid of their families. Others want to keep their religion. They think that everybody has their own religion and that's just fine.

Spiritual Climate And Openness

Not much knowledge of spiritual things. There are no Muslim leaders among the Mawa, but a mud-brick thatched roof mosque was built in 2001 with the fund collected by Mawa muslims in N'Djamena and Mongo. There are 1-3 Koran schools in each village. Many of the people are somewhat open to Christianity.

Recommended Approaches

The population is eager to work together in community development projects. It would be very constructive to work with the Mawa development association in N'Djamena.

There is great awareness of the literacy need and local associations have been already formed. There needs to be strong guidance from the outside to actively involve them in the language work.

Items For Prayer

- pray for the missionary to be effective in his ministry
- pray for more trained Christian workers to work with the church
- pray that more Mawa people would get involved with language association
- pray that local associations (library, millet distribution) would work continuously and effectively on their own
- pray for more qualified school teachers for the Mahoua school
- pray that hand pump would work without any breakdowns to provide clean water to the village population

Status of Christianity

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

The Mawa of Chad

Item Name

Year Began

Item Note

2000

By Whom

Assemblees Evangelique au Tchad

Comments (History of Christianity)

Mawa people who moved out to bigger cities have received the Gospel. Many are open to receiving the Gospel, but not enough support and follow up is available to them.

Scripture

Translation Status

Definite

Available Scripture

None

Status of Christianity

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Assemblee Evangelique au Tchad

Number Of Expatriate Workers

1

Comment (Expatriate Workers)

present from 2000 - 2004

Number Of National Workers

1

Status of Christianity