

The Roviana of Solomon Islands



The Roviana people — once well-known headhunters who raided neighboring islands — were the first to convert to Christianity when missionaries came to the region in 1902.

The church grew and spread from the roviana area as believers started new church fellowships in other regions. Today, the headquarters of one major church group in the Solomon Islands is located in Munda, among this Roviana community.

A majority of the Roviana speakers in the Solomon Islands' Western Province consider themselves Christian.

Major church groups here eagerly desire to complete their final translation steps for the already drafted Old Testament. The translation team will finish the remaining steps and are confident it will lay a good foundation for their New Testament, which has been sold out for many years. Completion of this project in three years will also provide a source translation to adapt for a number of other closely related languages in the region.

Roviana people love to sing; they have a large hymn book that contains 497 songs and choruses.

Fishing is the primary industry in this Roviana lagoon region on New Georgia Island and several smaller offshore islands in the Solomon Islands. Traditional villages here produce income from coconut plantations, gardening, and fishing. An increasing number of families have one or more women employed at the tuna cannery on the western end of the island. While some women work at primary and secondary schools, the hospital, and in government offices in the city of Munda, a few have jobs in the tourist industry at nearby resorts or as local transportation drivers. Some families also sell garden produce, craft items and carvings at area markets.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Yes

Churches:

Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

NT complete; OT in progress

Population (date):

9,870 (1999 SIL)



ROVIANA HOMELAND



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

History of Christianity

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Is the Word of God Translated?

Yes, the New Testament was printed and has been sold out for many years. The Old Testament has been drafted and needs only to be tested and typeset before it too, will be complete, laying a good foundation for the New Testament to be reprinted.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

Roviana people love to sing and have a large hymn book that contains 497 songs and choruses.

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Group Description

Population all countries

World Population For This People 9,870

World Population (Date) 1999

Comment This language is used as a second language primarily by people over 30 years old; it is being supplanted as lthe ingua franca by Pijin.

Geography & Environment

Location Western Province, north central New Georgia, Roviana and Vonavona lagoons of Solomon Islands in the Pacific.

Climate This ocean-equatorial climate is extremely humid throughout the year, with a mean temperature of 79.7°F.

Comments June – August are the cooler months. The northwesterly winds of November through April bring more frequent rainfall and occasional squalls or cyclones. Annual rainfall is about 120 inches.

Alternate Language Names

Robiana, Rubiana, Ruviana

Other Mother Tongues Pijin; also use English

Neighboring Languages

Kusaghe. Hoava, Marovo

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage 30% to 60%

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Economics

Subsistence Type

Agriculture

Occupation

Fishing, plantations, gardening

Income Sources

Coconut plantations, garden produce, craft items, carvings and fishing

Comment

An increasing number of families in this central region have one or more women employed at the tuna cannery on the western end of the island. While some women work at primary and secondary schools, the hospital and in government offices in the city of Munda, a few have jobs in the tourist industry at nearby resorts or as local transportation drivers.

Education

Education in Solomon Islands is not compulsory and only 60 percent of school-age children have access to primary education. Male educational attainment tends to be higher than female.

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Status of Christianity

Religion and Response

Translation status

New Testament was printed and sold out many years ago. The Old Testament has been drafted and needs only to be tested and typeset before it too, will be complete, laying a good foundation for the New Testament to be reprinted.

Comment

Five other surrounding languages use the Roviana New Testament as a reference for their own translation projects. Another four projects nearby could use this completed Bible as a source text to adapt Scripture into their own related languages.

Attitude toward Christianity

Most Roviana speakers consider themselves to be Christians.