

The Sokoro of Chad

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The Sokoro people live in the southern part of the Guéra province of Chad, west of Melfi. They number between 6 and 8,000 speakers, a small percentage of whom live in the capital city of N'Djaména.

The Sokoro are subsistence farmers, growing millet and peanuts for their own consumption and limited market sale. There is rarely sufficient harvest to see them through the whole year, thus the final months before the early harvest in December are often near famine conditions. This area is sub-sahelian thus receives rain only during the period between June and October.

The region has been increasingly influenced by Islam over the past few generations to the point where it is very difficult for individuals to convert to another religion. Each village has a mosque and the largest village of Gogmi has a small evangelical church pastored by a native missionary and his family. Some New Testament portions are now available in the language and a Sokoro Bible translation team continues to work towards having the New Testament in this language.

There is a small clinic in the area which serves all the sedentary and nomadic peoples of the region. Many people are accustomed to bringing their loved ones to the clinic only when all of their traditional healing has failed, so educational efforts have been made particularly targeting pregnant women. Schools function sporadically and often only the boys attend, although the past generation has had an increasing number of girls attending. Subsequently literacy rates are very low. A Chadian-overseen literacy program is now in place in the Sokoro language which should improve both adult and child literacy rates in the near future.

Primary Religion:

Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0%

Churches:

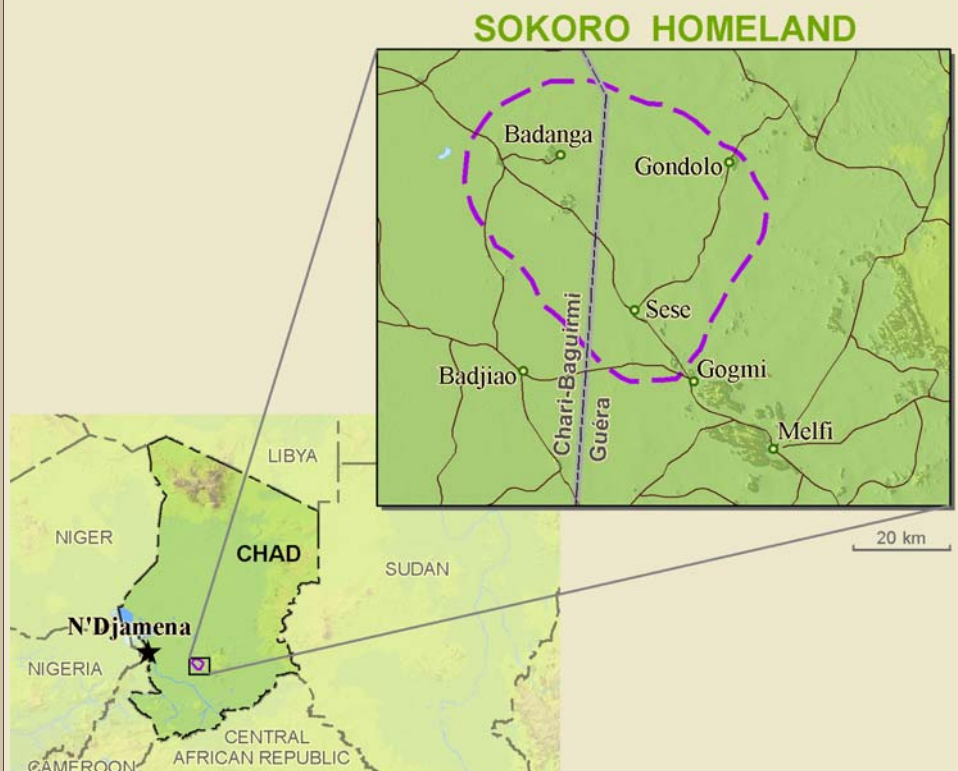
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions are available

Population (date):

7,000 (2005)



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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 (%)	50	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	20	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	30	
Number Of Pastors	0	
Number Of Missionaries Working	4	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	1 pastor/wife team and 1 nurse/wife team all from a neighboring language group	
Response To The Gospel	"It sounds good to them, but they are not willing to risk the change."	
Number Of Communities	30	
Comment (Number Communities)	"About 30, counting groups in major towns outside of the language area."	
Number Of Churches	1	
Comment (Churches)	"Assemblee Evangelique du Tchad has 1 church in Gogmi, the main village."	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	The Gospel of John is printed as well as several parables and the Christmas story. Further translation is in progress.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	"The literacy program is in its infancy in this language. The vast majority of people are illiterate in the mother tongue. Also, travel in rainy season (Summer months) is difficult."	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Only what is listed in part 4 above. Audio cassette is a distinct future possibility.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	"Yes. If other missionaries were to move to the area, they would be welcomed by the current missionaries and the indigenous translation team. Also, help for the struggling literacy program could be helpful. Medical missionaries are always welcome and needed."	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Chad	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Map Features	No GPS known. The main village of Gogmi is 25km NW of Melfi.	
Literacy		Group Description
Comment (Literacy)	First language literacy rate: 2% Second language literacy rate: 10%	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat Receptive	
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	"They recognize missionaries as ""good people"", but have had others who claimed to be Christians and did not live well."	
Attitude To Religious Change	Resistant	
Comment (Attitude Religious Change)	Social and Economic pressure to not change religions is high.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1963	
Comments (History of Christianity)	Walter Utermann with the Swiss Brethren was the first missionary known.	
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	