

The Bassari of Togo

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The Bassari people are located in a group of villages reaching from the Togo border east of Zabzugu some 30 kilometers east to Basaar in Togo. The Bassari are farmers with their farms being located away from the towns that they live in. The larger the town the farther away their farms. The major crop is yam, but maize, guinea corn, millet, tigernuts and groundnuts are also cultivated. When a man gets married he must have his own quarters so he usually starts a new compound. Each wife has her own hut where she lives with her children; girls stay with their mother till they are married, but boys get rooms of their own when they grow up.

There are 30 Bassari clans, each linked by name and ancestry to the towns of Bassar, Kabou and Sara in Togo, and to heads of families which moved into that area perhaps 350 years ago. The clans are exogamous, and the various clan leaders have formed alliances sealed by marriage. Many Bassari have migrated and Kpandai, though not in the Bassari homeland, is the biggest urban Bassari community in Ghana.

Islam has made little headway among the Bassari although there has been a Muslim influence amongst them for over a century or more. Islam is attractive as it seems to be the religion of the rich, and because it makes available additional charms; it is an international religion, a man's religion, with an ideal of brotherhood.

Christianity brought medical and other help to the poor. The outstanding character of the first missionaries attracted people to their message: they were known for their love of people.

Primary Religion:

Tribal Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

10%

Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

New Testament (1992)

Population (date):

120,000 (1993)



Map Unavailable

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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	10	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	10%	
Number Of Communities	Undocumented	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes - NT dedicated in 1992	
Translation Medium	Printed	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Ghana/Togo border has split the Basaari people. Translation work currently being done in Togo.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel recordings have made Audio-cassettes.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Several villages have elementary schools but there are no clinics in the area. Basaar in Togo has the closest hospital.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	120000	
World Population (Date)	1993	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Ghana	
Country Name	Togo	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Country	Ghana	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Alternate Language Names	Nichimo, Bassari, Basari, Bassar, Basare and Tobote.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Reached	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	Conversions result from special meetings, from reading Scripture portions, and from friendship with Christians.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1946	
By Whom	WEC International	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	New Testament	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed	
Scripture Use	1	
Scripture Use	Unknown	
Comment (Scripture)	(Imported: Summary: Word of God translated: Yes - NT dedicated in 1992 Word of God form: Printed Other forms of gospel: Gospel recordings have made Audio-cassettes.)	