



The Akyode of Ghana

Gikyode is the language of the Akyode people. The Akyode are located in an area of about 190 square kilometers covering a crescent-shaped chain of villages in Nkwanta district, Volta Region, near the Togo border.

Their main occupation is farming for crops of yams, cassava, plantain, groundnuts, tomatoes, pepper and okra. Some Akyode migrate in search of salaried jobs and education, especially to Accra, Kumasi and the larger towns of the Volta region.

A man occupies a compound together with his wives and children, unmarried sisters and other relatives if necessary. Compounds usually house some 30 people and may consist of several separate buildings with square rooms and a central courtyard.

The Roman Catholic Church has attracted the most Akyode members. There are also a number of Protestant churches, which are attracting a growing number of adherents in some of the Akyode towns. Traditional African religion has a strong influence in the area. The shrine in Siare is sought out by pilgrims from near and far.

Primary Religion:

Tribal Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

6%

Churches:

22

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

NT; OT work in progress

Population (date):

15,000 (2003)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	6-10%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	6%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	0 (They would believe every man is God's son.)	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	60	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	0	
Number Of Pastors	20	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Number Of Communities	There are 9 listed Akyode communities	
Number Of Churches	22	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes - N.T. - 12/2001 - Working on O.T.	
Translation Medium	Printed, Parts in Audio and Visual	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	None. The roads are reasonable and there are regular lorry runs from Nkwanta to all but two Akyode towns.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Tapes, drama, visual	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Educational opportunities are a definite need	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	15,000	
World Population (Date)	2003	
World Population (Urban Percent)	28 people	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Ghana	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Northeastern part of the Volta Region, in the east of Ghana.	
Country	Ghana	
Ecosystem Type	Deciduous Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain Slope and valley	
Elevation	200-400m	
Longitude	1 degree E	
Latitude	8 degree N	
Climate	Hot with seasonal rains	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	There are no alternate names for the language, but alternate spellings of the same name.	
Alternate Language Names	Gikyode, Gichode, Achode, Akyode and Atyoti.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	30%	
Second Languages	Ginyanga 35%	
Second Languages	Akan 20%	
Second Languages	Konkomba 5%	
Second Languages	English 15%	
Comments (Related Languages)	GUAN: Ginyanga, Nawuri, Gonja, Krachi, Nchimburun	
Neighboring Languages	KONKOMBA	
Neighboring Languages	TEM	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Neighboring Languages	DELO	
Neighboring Languages	AKAN	
Neighboring Languages	EWE	
Neighboring Languages	ADELE	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	10	
Percent Literate For Men	8	
Percent Literate For Women	02	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat resistant	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Publications In Vernacular	27	
Comment (Literacy)	Shrine priests have taboo against literacy in any language.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	\$75 per yr.	
Occupation	farming, trading	
Income Sources	proceeds from farms	
Products / Crafts	mats, stools, hoes, baskets, bags	
Trade Partners	Tems, Gas, Akans	
Modernization / Utilities	electricity in some towns, and machines for making gari, grinding mills.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	There are traditional herbalists. Two clinics staffed with a doctor in Nkwanta, occasional immunization campaigns by the government.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	main food is yam fufu, accompanied by fish or bush meat and vegetables	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	good water near mountains, problematic in lowlands, wells in some towns & access to river.	
Shelter Description	mud bricks with thatched roofs. About 30 people in one compound. Some people have tin roofs, and some have cemented their homes.	
Electricity	Three towns have electricity	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Energy)	wood for cooking, kerosene for lighting. Electricity is in three towns	
Clothing	Western and traditional styles	
Transportation	Taxis, vans and buses between Nkwanta and about five other villages, buses or lorries to other cities in Ghana.	
Infant Mortality Rate	unknown	
Life Expectancy	60	
Leading Cause Of Death	disease	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	structured by clans.	
Neighbor Relations	land disputes with neighboring peoples, especially with the Chalas.	
Authority / Rule	Paramount chief in Nkwanta, village chiefs, shrine priests	
Social Habits/Groupings	Clans, towns, family, culture groupings.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	both traditional and governmental
Celebrations	yam festival, Christian holidays
Recreations	dancing, singing, drumming, story telling
Art Forms	dancing, singing, drumming, story telling, carving stools
Media	Radio, newspaper, TV in NKwanta.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant

Youth

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	farming, fetching water, helping around the house.
Youth Problems (Teens)	early marriage, lack of jobs
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Know the Lord, education, and medical help.

Group Description

Education

Primary Schools	9
Primary School Enrollment	1000
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	50
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	30
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Akan
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	9

Group Description

Church Growth

Reached Status	Reached
Reached Classification	Evangelized
Total Baptized	1000
Lay Leaders	40
Bible Schools	0
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1 clinic
Christian Literacy Centers	3
Comment (Church Growth)	The churches are growing.

Status of Christianity

Religion & Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	consulting shrines, sacrifices, praying to ancestors, use of traditional spiritual powers, divination.
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant
Resistance / Receptivity	The traditional religious system is very strong and regulates every aspect of life. Openness to Christianity is increasing.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	sacrifices
Spiritual Climate And Openness	A lot of fear of the spirits. There is a conflict between traditional religion and Christianity.

Status of Christianity

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Item Name	Item Note
Comment (Religion)	The local religion is very strong and pilgrims travel from other parts of Ghana and even from neighboring countries to seek spiritual help at the Siare shrine.
Recommended Approaches	Preaching, translating the Bible, literacy, non print media
Current Needs	Knowing Christ, training and equipping of church leaders, literacy days, encouraging use of the Scripture in churches, workshops for pastors, widespread testing of Scripture that is being translated, special programs for Christmas and Easter, true conversions.
Items For Prayer	The Association of Churches is working to get more freedom of religion from traditional religious practices. Pray that traditional religious leaders would embrace Christianity.

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Year Began	1940
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church
Significant Events	establishment of schools and preaching

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status	Scripture
Available Scripture	New Testament
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed and Audio
Scripture Published When	2001
Scripture Use	Individuals & some churches
Scripture Use	Individuals & some churches
Comment (Scripture)	N.T. is complete, O.T. is in progress
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	YES
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	YES
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	YES

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church
Year Started	1940
Number Of Adherents	2000
Number Of Expatriate Workers	2
Number Of National Workers	3
Number Of Local Workers	9
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	9
Language Used By Workers	Akan
Organization Name	Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation
Year Started	1979
Number Of Adherents	?
Number Of Expatriate Workers	3
Number Of National Workers	0
Number Of Local Workers	4
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	7

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available	New Testament, other Scripture booklets, evangelism and follow-up booklets
Audio Recordings Available	Several Scripture tapes with songs and Bible verses and Gospel of Mark
Videos Available	Jesus film