

The Avatime of Ghana



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Primary Religion:

Christian, Traditional

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

70%

Churches:

60

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

Trial NT being checked

Population (date):

14,000 (2010)



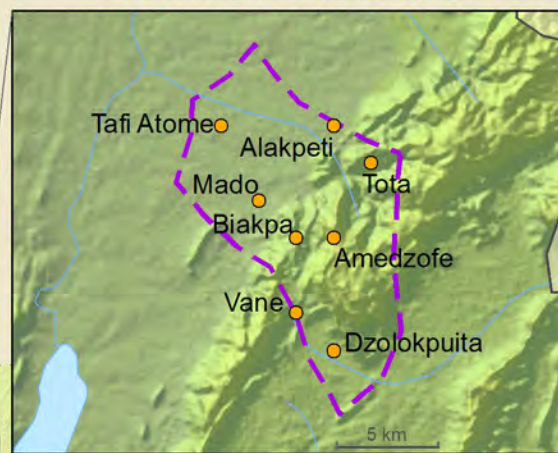
The Kedeane people (called Avatime by outsiders) are a hard working group who take great pride in their houses and gardens. Their neat gardens are enclosed by bamboo fences and their houses are rectangular in shape, built from clay bricks and covered with zinc roofs. The area is hilly and the towns are surrounded by lush rain-forests. Vegetation is abundant and annual rainfall high.

Despite the abundant greenness of the area, farming is not easy, especially in Amedzofe, where the soil is subject to erosion and the fields may be located at a great distance from town. The people grow a variety of crops and are always ready to experiment with new cultures. The main crops include cassava, yams, beans, cocoyams, rice and plantains. Tea, coffee and cocoa are also being cultivated. The gardens yield various fruits and vegetables, such as oca, tomatoes, avocados, bananas, papaya, palm nut and green leaves, which all contribute to a varied and healthy diet.

Amedzofe developed at the foot of Mt. Gemi (800m), a bald hill crowned by the metal cross, which was erected in 1939 in commemoration of the 50th jubilee of the Bremen Mission's involvement in the area. Amedzofe and the other eight Kedeane towns can look back on more than a century of missionary involvement. The labor of pioneer missionaries with the ready collaboration of the local population has yielded various educational institutions and a clinic, both of which the town is known for in the whole region and even internationally. Amedzofe and the Kedeane area have a rich cultural life in which Christian as well as traditional factors take their place.

In the 14th century, the Kedeane people lived in an area in today's Benin and later became part of the Ahanta ethnic group in today's Ghana, only to migrate back west again, to ultimately settle in their present location in the Volta Region. During these various migrations they shifted their subsistence from hunting to fishing and ultimately to agriculture.

AVATIME HOMELAND



The Avatime of Ghana

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	92%
Believe Jesus is a prophet, but not God's Son (%)	.05%
Believe in their traditional religion (%)	4.5%
Have not heard who Jesus is (%)	0.01%
Number of Pastors	35
Number of Missionaries Working	0
Number of Communities	8
Number of Churches	60
Comment (Churches)	There are numerous churches in the area
Response to the Gospel	70%
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Trials Sideme NT books are in circulation in the communities.
Any Hindrance to Scripture Distribution?	None
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None
Kind of Missionaries Needed?	Bible translators, literacy worker and scripture-in-use coordinator

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Group Description

Population

World Population For This People	14,000
World Population (Date)	2010
World Population (Urban Percent)	40%

Countries Where People Group Live

Country Name	Ghana
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Geography & Environment

Location	Volta Region in the eastern part of Ghana, between Ho and Hohoe. Outsiders refer to the traditional area in which they live as Avatime. But Kedeane speakers themselves say they live in Kedeame.
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest
Geological Type	Mountains slopes
Elevation	150 to 800 m or 500 to 2600 feet
Longitude	0 E
Latitude	6 N
Climate	Cool for Ghanaian standards and humid, with abundant rains.

Language & Linguistics

Primary Language	Avatime or Sideme
Comment	0 percent monolingual
Alternate Language Names	Afatime is the name used by outsiders, Sideme is the name that the people call their language.
Dialects	None known
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive
Second Languages	Ewe, English
Linguistically Related Languages	Tafi [tcd], Nyangbo [nyb]
Neighboring Languages	Éwé [ewe], Logba [lgq], Tafi [tcd], Nyangbo [nyb]
Language Use of this Group	Also use Éwé [ewe] and English [eng]
Language Stability	Stable

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Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	60% in second language
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Comment	85% literacy among youth
Publications in Vernacular	more than 15 titles including some NT books

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	unknown
Occupation	Farming produce (cassava), crafts
Income Sources	Proceeds from farming and crafts
Products / Crafts	Carpentry, blacksmith's work, baskets, some cloth weaving
Trade Partners	Éwé
Modernization / Utilities	Grinding mills

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Good. One clinic in Amedzofe (with two state registered nurses, one community nurse, three assistants, one lab technician), pre-natal clinic, one unit with permanent patients, transportation available to the Regional Hospital in Ho
Diet (Quality)	Good. Main staple: cassava, yam, plantain. Vegetables: oca, tomato, green leaves, avocado. Fruit: banana, lime, papaya, palm nut. Protein: beans and fish. In the valleys, they eat more rice and coconuts.
Water (Quality)	Good. Stream and rain water
Shelter Description	Clay brick structures with plaster, tin roofs
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair. Wood and kerosene
Clothing	Women: traditional cloth. Men: 2nd hand clothes, traditionally the men will wear the cloth made from narrow, hand woven strips.
Transportation	Four times a day there is a taxi from Amedzofe to Ho.
Infant Mortality Rate	1%
Life Expectancy	75
Leading Cause of Death	Old age

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Society & Culture

Family Structures	Generally monogamous. Wives go to stay with their mothers during pregnancy for up to two years. During that time the husband has to fend for himself (prostitution).
Neighbor Relations	Friendly
Authority / Rule	Paramouncy in Vane, village chiefs in the villages. The chief of Amedzofe is the next in status to the Paramount Chief.
Social Habits / Groupings	Sitting around and talking, various civic organizations.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	The chiefs judge the civil matters (traditional and customary matters). The court judges the criminal cases.
Media	Radio
Attitude to Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude to Change	Somewhat receptive
Comment (Culture)	There has been a long missionary presence and various missionaries have said that they feel there is a saturation of missionary work. The local authorities seem to be rather distanced towards the missionaries.

Youth

Labor and tasks (6-12 years)	Fetching water, carrying food and wood, farming on weekends
Youth Problems (Teens)	Lack of secondary education, financial problems, no future in the area.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Jobs, secondary education

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Education

Primary Schools	10
Primary School Enrollment	1800 (100% of eligible students)
Teacher to Pupil Ratio	1:30
Language of Instruction Early Yrs	Éwé
Language of Textbooks Early Yrs	English
Language of Instruction Later Yrs	English
Language of Textbooks Later Yrs	English
Number of Schools More Than 90% Homogenous	8

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Status of Christianity

Church Growth

Reached Status	Reached
Total Baptized	About 10,000
Lay Leaders	5
Bible Schools	1
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1
Comment (Church Growth)	About 2400 can be considered born-again Christians.

Religion and Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Easter, Christmas, traditional festivals
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive
Resistance / Receptivity	No hindrance to Christian work from traditional leaders. Many new denominations are coming to the area.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Annual sacrifices are said to purify from curses. Human sacrifices in the past up to 1900.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Very open to Christianity. There are certain expectations of material benefits to come out of Christian involvement.
Comment (Religion)	The split of the largest church of Ghana, the EP Church, started in Amedzofe.
Recommended Approaches	Evangelism, home cells, discipling
Current Needs	Electricity, good drinking water, more secondary schools, better roads. Counselors, Christian teaching. Jobs
Items For Prayer	See needs

History of Christianity in Group

Year Began	1886
Significant Events	1889: The work begins
Comment	Initial contact by Bremen Mission.

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Scripture

Translation Status	Definite
Available Scripture	None
Comment (Scripture)	Some preaching and praying in service done in Kedeane (EP of church et al.). Over the past 100 years a certain saturation with missionary work has happened in the minds of the Amedzofe people. They have very concrete and quite demanding expectations for material benefits coming out of missionary work.

Missions and Churches

Organization Name	Presbyterian
Main Ministry	Community Development
Year Started	1889
Number Of Adherents	8400
Number Of National Workers	3
Number Of Local Workers	2
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	2
Language Used By Workers	Kedeane
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church
Main Ministry	Other
Year Started	1940
Number Of Adherents	500
Number Of National Workers	2
Number Of Local Workers	2
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	2

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Organization Name	Apostolic
Main Ministry	Other
Year Started	1950
Number Of Adherents	200
Number Of National Workers	3
Number Of Local Workers	2
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	2
Language Used By Workers	Éwé

Christian Literature and Media Status

Literature Available	None
Audio Recordings Available	Yes. Gospel Recordings has audio Bible stories and lessons available in Kedeane. They explain salvation and give basic Christian teaching. Christian hymns and songs are also available.
Film/Videos Available?	The Jesus Film has been shown in Éwé and English
Radio Programs Available?	None
Videos Available?	None
Audio Visual Available	None