

The Bena of Tanzania

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The Bena people of Tanzania are a large Bantu group living in southwestern Tanzania in Iringa Region, Njombe District. Some of their major towns are Ilembula where there is a large Lutheran hospital and Uwemba where there is a strong Roman Catholic church. The Bena are a patrilineal society with a heavy interest in traditional lay care. There is a strong cultural value on children as a link to the generations. The more the better. Some practice polygyny. As gifted farmers they have incorporated new skills with traditional values to produce Irish potatoes and maize (corn) their main crops. They also grow wheat, peas, beans, pyrethrum (for mosquito coils) and coffee and timber for cash crops. They had early contact with both German Lutherans and Roman Catholics. A New Testament was produced in 1920 and the early missionaries hoped it would be used for other near by groups. Old beliefs are still strong and there is a possible need for an updated New Testament.

Primary Religion:

Traditional, Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

New Testament 1920

Population (date):

568,000



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Item Name

Item Note

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Profile Summary

Is The Word Of God Translated?

Yes, 1920 by Rev. C. Schumann, Berlin Mission

Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)

Gospel Recordings: BENA: Tanzania # 1117 & BENA BENA: Tanzania #514 (Order free 1-888-444-7872), Traditional Bena songs and also Lutheran Bena choir by Alatanga Nyagawa recorded by David and Kelly Email:armstur@aol.com

What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?

Language assessment and possible revision of NT/Bible

Countries Where People Group Lives

Group Description

Country Name

Tanzania