

The Bon Gula of Chad

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The Bon Goula of Chad live in the far southeastern end of the Guera region in Chad. This area is extremely isolated, the next paved road being about 650 km away. The climate is arid and very hot. The region is flat, with rocky outcrops and rich in wildlife. The Bon Gula live in 4 or 5 small villages consisting of round mudbrick huts. There are no medical services. Ibir has a school, which chronically lacks both teachers and materials. The Bon Goula live by subsistence farming, mainly millet, peanuts and sesame seed. They raise chickens and goats. The Bon Goula society is close-knit and very traditional. In spite of being Muslim by name, the vast majority of the people are fierce adherents of the traditional animist Marghai religion. They are the only ethnic group of the region that wasn't relocated after the establishment of the Zakouma Nature Reserve, because of their strong religious bonds to certain mountains where they revere sacred snakes. Even the few Bon Goula people who live in urban areas are extremely traditional and not very open to outsiders. Their culture is strongly hierarchical and male-dominated. The literacy rate is extremely low, there is one school in Ibir. The situation of the Bon Goula villages near or in Zakouma Wildlife Park has led to a settlement of wildlife wardens in Ibir, and employment for some Bon Goula at the park administration in Zakouma. In spite of this contact with other cultures, little deviation from their own ways can be observed. The Bon Gula consider themselves to be of the same ethnic group as the Zan Goula people (5,000) who speak a different, but related language. There is frequent intermarriage between these groups.

Primary Religion:

Animism, Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0%

Churches:

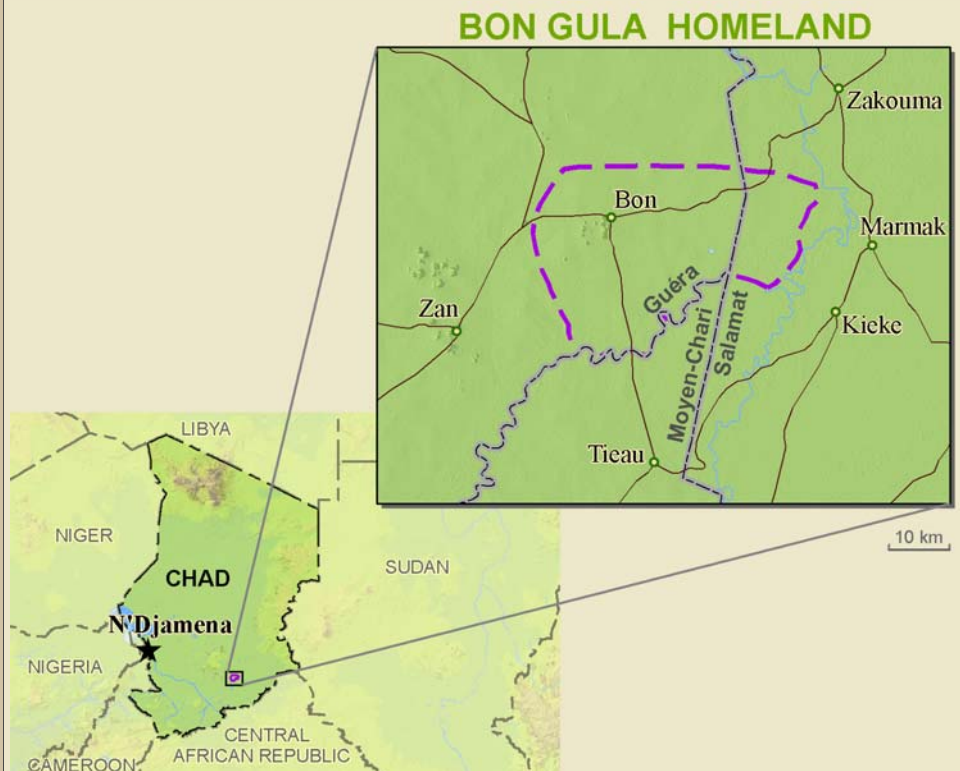
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None

Population (date):

1,200 (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 (%)	unknown	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	80-90	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	100	
Number Of Pastors	0	
Number Of Missionaries Working	0	
Response To The Gospel	no	
Number Of Communities	0	
Number Of Churches	0	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	see description	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	It would be very difficult for cross-cultural missionaries to live and work in that area and more difficult even to be accepted by the people group. However there is a Zan Gula team that tries to include the Bon Gula people in their project.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Chad	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Map Features	"Villages: Ibir, Amourou, Karanda, Mourai, Hagalou outside the south entrance of the Zakuma National Reserve; villages Bon I, Bon II in the reserve."	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	10%	
Comment (Literacy)	First language literacy rate: 0% Second language literacy rate: 10%	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Resistant	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	still unreached	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	