



The Bwaba of Burkina Faso

The Bwaba, a large ethnic group of western Burkina Faso, are made up of many distinct dialects. The largest is spoken in area surrounding the village of Ouarkoye. The Ouarkoye dialect numbers about 150,000 speakers. Like other Bwaba, the speakers of this dialect are known for their independent spirit. Villages are autonomous: within the traditional Bwaba culture, the highest political authority is a village land chief. The Bwaba are also known for their hard work and ethnic pride.

The Bwaba of the region are subsistence farmers. They grow millet, sorghum, and maize. Cotton has become an important cash crop, even though profits are often less than expected and that it depletes the soil.

In the spiritual realm, the Ouarkoye Bwaba, strongly follow the traditional religion. In this worldview, the spirits which surround man must be appeased through sacrifice in order to ensure survival and good fortune. The Bwaba have strongly resisted Islam, which has been in the region, for over a century. Christianity is making some inroads in the Bwaba region. An estimate of the religious breakdown has followers of traditional religion at 85% of the population. Christians at 13% and Muslims at 2%.

Primary Religion:

Tribal Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

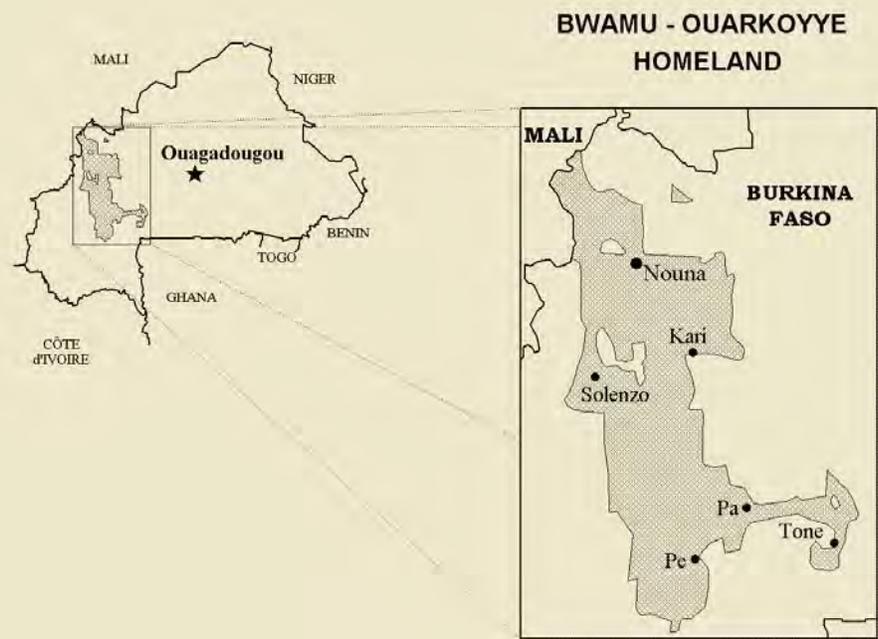
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

New Testament

Population (date):

150,000 (1998)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	150000	
World Population (Date)	1998	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	They live in Kossi, Mouhoun, Houet, Bougouriba, and Sourou provinces. The boundary runs north south through Solenzo and between Nouna and Djibasso.	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Linguistically Related Languages	BWATOO	
Linguistically Related Languages	BWA	
Literacy		Group Description
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Literacy)	The Ouarkoye dialect has been analyzed, and written materials are being published.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Occupation	They are subsistence farmers. They grow millet, sorghum, and maize.	
Income Sources	Cotton is an important cash crop for them.	
Community Development		Group Description
Diet (Quality)	Poor	
Water (Quality)	Poor	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Judicial / Punishment System		
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	In their world view, the spirits which surround man must be appeased through sacrifice in order to ensure survival and good fortune.	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	The Bwaba strongly resist Islam, which has been in the region for over a century. Christianity is making some inroads in the Bwaba region.	
Items For Prayer	Pray that the Bwaba make the effort to learn to read and write. Pray as well for the translation of the New Testament: the process is long and painstaking. Pray for the physical needs of the groups: poor rains, can result in food and water shortages. Pray for the Bwaba as they adapt to a new, modern world: if change comes too rapidly, a culture can quickly destabilize. Finally pray that the independent spirit of the Bwaba will not lead to divisions that hinder the spread of the Gospel or development.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	New Testament	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed	