



## The Bwaba of Burkina Faso

The speakers of Twi, one of the Bwamu languages, are found in western Burkina Faso. It is an area with scattered trees and a lot of dust. They call themselves the "Bwaba" The climate in this area is hot and dry with the exception of the annual rainy season from May to September. The most typical occupation of the Bwaba is subsistence farming. Typical products are corn, millet, sorghum, and peanuts. They sell some surplus of their crops. Their food is mainly composed of these starches and nutrient and vitamin deficiencies are common. Malnutrition is a problem. Wells are the source for water, but many of them are contaminated and parasites and infections are very common.

The Bwaba live in mud huts with only the barest minimum of necessities, practically no furniture. Furniture is considered a luxury. Clothing is Spartan: men wear western style and the women wear a traditional skirt and a top.

Bicycles and walking are the most common forms of transportation. Recreation includes trips to the market and visiting relatives. Maintaining good relationships with relatives is a necessity for survival. If one is in need of money, food or child care, the relatives are obligated to meet their needs. The eldest male family member maintains authority within a large extended family structure. Families usually celebrate either traditional religious ceremonies or the Muslim festivals or both. The people remain open to Christianity, but individuals who have converted have experienced family pressures and even persecution. There is a need to learn the Twi-Bwamu language for effective cross cultural missionaries. They would need to share in their culture if they want to help them and share the Gospel with them. They need the Bible translated into their language.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

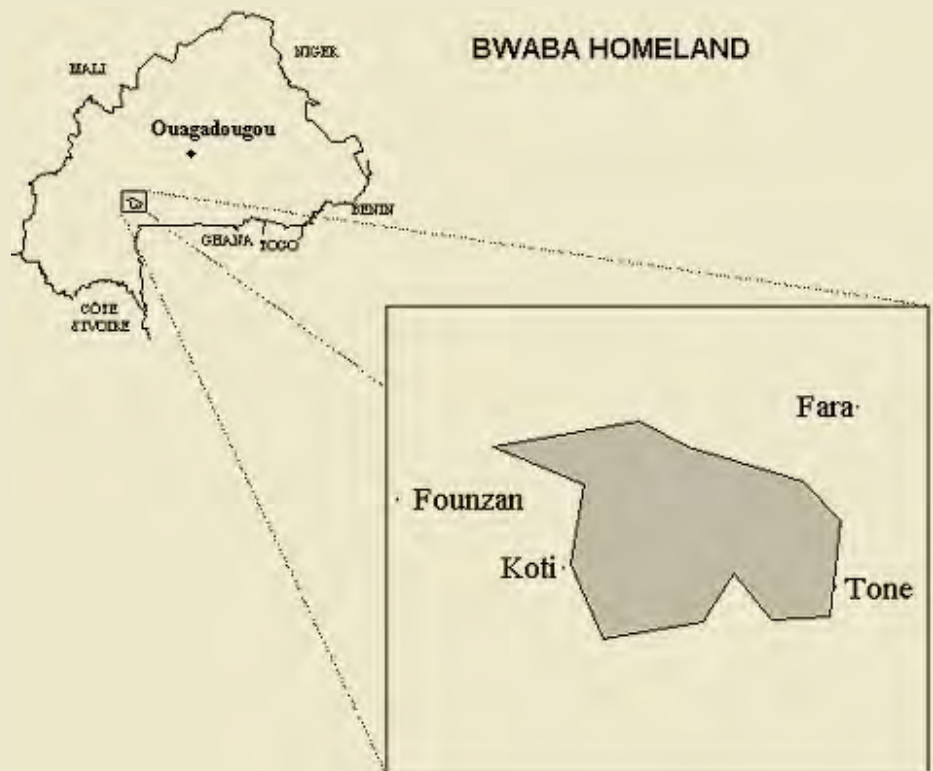
**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

18,000 (1996)



## The Bwaba of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	1	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	2	
Number Of Pastors	50	
Comment (Pastors)	based on pastor/evangelist ratio of 1:3,600 and population of 180,000	
Number Of Communities	15	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Translation Medium	None	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Bible translation not yet in progress.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	No	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes. Translation of the Scriptures and whatever other help possible.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	18000	
World Population (Date)	1996	
Comment (World Population)	The urban population is unknown	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	South of Boromo, in the corner of the provinces of Les Bale, Tui and Sissili in south central Burkina Faso.	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	250m above sea	
Longitude	11	
Latitude	4	
Climate	Hot and dry all year round. Somehow adequate rainy season from Mai through September.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Language)	Christians are interested in literacy for a better understanding of the Scriptures.	
Alternate Language Names	COMOX	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	The other Bwamu language	
Linguistically Related Languages	BWAMU, LAA LAA	
Linguistically Related Languages	BWAMU, LAA LAA	
Comments (Related Languages)	The other Bwamu language	
Neighboring Languages	BWAMU	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	4	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	

## The Bwaba of Burkina Faso

### Item Name

Comment (Literacy)

### Item Note

Christians have a high motivation for literacy; others are indifferent. Though people may like the idea, most lack the money and motivation to learn.

### Economics

### Group Description

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalists

Average Annual Income

\$ 140

Occupation

Subsistence farming, gardening, Building during dry season.

Income Sources

Sale of cotton and the surplus of crops.

Products / Crafts

Corn, sorghum, millet, peanuts, cotton are typical produce.

Trade Partners

Neighboring ethnic groups.

Modernization / Utilities

none.

Comment (Economy)

The figure for the average income does not reflect what is earned with bartering, which is the most common way of trading in the area.

### Community Development

### Group Description

Health Care (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Health Care)

Services and personal are limited. Problems which are usually minor often develop into major ones because of the lack of adequate care

Diet (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Diet)

Malnutrition remains a problem. The staple is a millet paste with a little sauce, very little vegetables and hardly any meat.

Water (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Water)

Wells are the water source, most are contaminated. Worms are a problem.

Shelter Description

Mud huts with thatched roof. Very little furniture.

Energy/Fuel (Quality)

None

Comment (Energy)

Wood is used for cooking. Very few have kerosene for lamps.

Clothing

Men wear western style clothing. Women wear African style skirts with tops.

Transportation

Mostly by foot, some with bicycles and a few with motorbikes. Some public transport is available for longer journeys.

Infant Mortality Rate

18%

Life Expectancy

52 years

Leading Cause Of Death

untreated illnesses

Comment (Community Development)

Children from ages two to five are at the greatest risk from malaria, after stopping breastfeeding.

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures

Patriarchal, Families are strongly intertwined and take care of one another.

Neighbor Relations

Peaceful, friendly, but not close.

Authority / Rule

Authority lies with the eldest male in the family. He is the most powerful, but also has the greatest responsibility.

Social Habits/Groupings

Talking, visiting relatives. It is important to maintain good relationships with relatives, because one never knows when the relationship means ones survival.

Cultural Change Pace

Slow

Identification With National Culture

Integrated

Self Image

Neutral

Judicial / Punishment System

A village chief is consulted for small matters. Large problems are addressed to government authorities. Mediators are used to make accusations.

Celebrations

Traditional Islamic and animistic ceremonies are celebrated.

Recreations

Talking and visiting relatives.

Media

None. But many listen to radio in French and Jula.

Local Language Broadcasting

None

## The Bwaba of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Indifferent
Comment (Culture)	According to a missionary, the Bwaba believe that they are powerless to change. They more worried with today than next week, he said.
Youth	Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Field work and herding cattle for the boys, girls carry water, pound grain and prepare food.
Youth Problems (Teens)	Desire for independence and choice in matters such as marriage creates family tensions. Lack of work and job opportunities especially for those who have been educated and do not want to go back to the fields.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Education, jobs and income opportunities.
Education	Group Description
Primary Schools	10
Primary School Enrollment	1100
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	29
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	60
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	4
Comment (Education)	Schooling is a heavy burden for the families of children that are allowed to attend. More boys than girls are able to go to school, because the Bwaba believe education can erode cultural values. It is claimed that this affects girls more than boys. The percentage figure stated here seems to reflect only the villages in which there is a school. There are a good number of primary schools in the general Bwamu speaking area. However for secondary education many are forced to go outside the area of their communities..
Church Growth	Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Evaluated
Comment (Church Growth)	There are at least 3 different denominations working in the area. There are 3 Catholic Fathers from France. Some of their parishes cover some Twi villages. There are a number of Churches established and some Twi believers, but the exact number is not known. There are no Christian Hospitals or clinics, no literacy center and no Bible schools serving the area.
Religion & Response	Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Funerals are important.
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant
Resistance / Receptivity	They seem to be willing to learn about Christianity and some admit that the old ways don't always work , but once a Christian, a Twi experiences pressure and sometimes persecution.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	They believe in a god, but they think he is not personal and caring for day to day needs.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	People are open to Christianity, they are willing to learn about Christ, but once a Christian people experience pressure and sometimes persecutions.
Comment (Religion)	Animist 85%, Muslim 2%, Christian by name 13%, active 1%. This is the statistic for the whole group of Bwaba people including all the other Bwamu languages. It also includes the Catholics. Only 1% are evangelical Protestants. The exact number of real Christians is unknown.
Recommended Approaches	The knowledge of their language and relevant presentation of the good news for them will help to reach this people. Also a social ministry that is meeting their physical needs, like medical help for example, might be an effective outreach.
Current Needs	Education and job opportunities.

## The Bwaba of Burkina Faso

### Item Name

Items For Prayer

### Item Note

Pray for a translation into the Bwamu Twi language. Pray for Christians to come and share the Gospel message in their mother tongue. Pray for adequate annual rainfalls which in the long term will improve the health of the people.

### History Of Christianity In Group

### Status of Christianity

Year Began

59

By Whom

Roman Catholic Church

Comments (History of Christianity)

1959 was the year the Roman Catholics started work in the wider Bwamu area, it is unknown when they started to include the Twi Bwaba. The Canadian Pentecostal Church has started work and are reaching the Twi Bwaba. The Assemblies of God work in Moore. The Christian and Missionary Alliance work in Jula and are present in the Twi area. However, neither are working directly with the Twi.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status

Definite

Available Scripture

None

Comment (Scripture)

Scripture translation is in progress in an other Bwamu language, but that language is sufficiently different from Twi that they would not be able to use that one. Most of the Twi Bwabu are not fluent enough in any other language that has Scriptures available.

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Pentecostal

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Number Of Expatriate Workers

1

Number Of Workers Using Local Language

1

Language Used By Workers

Bwamu, Cwi

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available

None.

Audio Recordings Available

None.

Films Available

None.

Radio Programs Available

None.

Videos Available

None.

Audio Visual Available

None.