

## The Miship of Nigeria



photo by Irene Gaouda cropped CC

The Miship, are found in about 33 villages in Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State. The language they speak is also called Miship. Miship has two varieties: Longmaar and Jibam. Longmaar is said to be the central of the two. The Kong Ship, meaning River Ship, was named after the Miship. They have a paramount chief called Ndaalong Miship. He lives in Kwala, the most prestigious town for all the Miship. The speakers of Miship estimated their current population at 30,000.

The people trace their origin in Sudan, where their ancestors are said to have migrated along with the Ngas, Mupun (a dialect of Mwaghavul), Tal, Tarok, Goemai, Sura, and Pyem. It is believed that they migrated through Chad into North East Nigeria, then settled at several places before coming to their present locations in Pankshin Local Government Area. The Miship share geographical boundary with the Ngas, Mupun a dialect of Mwaghavul, Jipal a dialect of Kofyar, and Tal.

Vaiko, is an annual heritage celebration observed by the Miship. It features cultural dance displays and a wrestling competition in which young males display their fighting skills. During the celebrations, women are adorned in local fabric with leaves worn over as accessories. Men tie animal skins around their waist over local fabrics. A local delicacy called Ngup is served with Kunu (locally brewed non-alcoholic drink from sorghum or millet).

The Miship are predominantly farmers. They grow, guinea corn (sorghum), millet, beans, groundnut, rice and maize. Rice is their main crop.

An estimated 76% of the people are Christians; 12% are Muslims; and about 12% are African traditional religionist. The denominations working among them are: Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), Baptist, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Assemblies of God.

**Primary Religion:**

Christianity

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

50%

**Churches:**

More than 40

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

None

**Population (date):**

30,000 (2019)



### MISHIP HOMELAND



## The Miship of Nigeria

---

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

<b>Hindrances to Scripture Use</b>	Hausa and English Bibles are used in the churches. There is an ongoing translation of portions of Scriptures in the central variety. The work is facilitated by the Nigeria Bible translation trust (NBTT).
<b>Response to the Gospel</b>	The people have responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The increase in the number of people in the churches is influenced by the increasing number (90%) of children that are born in Christian homes.
<b>Bilingualism</b>	Hausa is widely spoken as a trade language in the area. English is used in the schools, as language for instruction. Mupun, Ngas, and Goemai speakers live among them. These languages are also common languages spoken in their communities, by the different age groups.
<b>Cross-Cultural Missionary Need</b>	Education and literacy is of high priority in the communities. Pastoral training is also needed in the various churches.
<b>Number of Christian Congregations</b>	There are over 40 congregations, established by the five denominations working among them. The ongoing Bible translation project has Christians from all the denominations represented in the committee.
<b>Churches using primarily vernacular</b>	None
<b>Language of Wider Communication</b>	Hausa [hau]