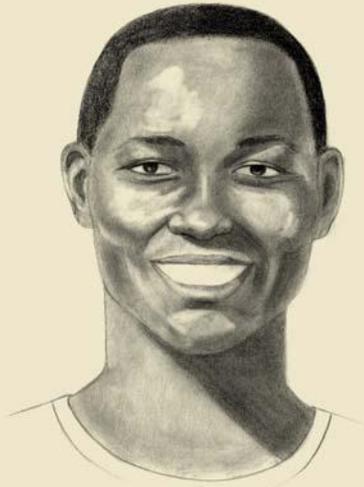


The Dangaleat of Chad



In a Dangaleat village, a small hut, four to five feet (one and a half meters) high, stands in a prominent place. Under the roof is a clay pot. This is a symbol of the `Margay', who are believed to dwell in these clay pots. The pots are found in each village and clan, a reminder of the belief system passed on by their ancestors.

Dangaleat tradition tells that "Bung" (the name for the Supreme Creator God - which is also the same word used for 'sky') used to be closer to humankind, and there was frequent communication between God and man. One day a woman was pounding millet, and while pounding she hit "Bung" several times. Bung, offended by this, went far away and has not come back again. As a result it is no longer possible to communicate directly with God. Today any communication with God takes place via the Margay spirits. The Margay spirits are believed to be the intercessors between God and human beings. Since ancient times, a hierarchy of Margay priests have represented the 'Margay' - who often prescribe the use of sacrifices to please or appease the margai, who is feared and respected as the intermediary between the Supreme God and humans. The Dangaleat people inhabit part of the mountainous region in central Chad, known as the 'Guera'. Today the vast majority are mostly professing Muslims. A good percentage, however, are Muslim in name only. They continue to practice their traditional religion. Many have accepted Islam in recent years. Islam does not require as many sacrifices as their traditional `margai' religion. Sacrifices are costly in a harsh physical terrain and volatile environment. Human survival depends on good rains and crops.

Some of the Dangaleat people have heard the Gospel, and having the Bible translated into their own language would greatly help strengthen these believers. However there are still many who have yet to hear in their own heart language of the all-sufficient sacrifice of Jesus for them - once for all.

Primary Religion:

Muslim

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

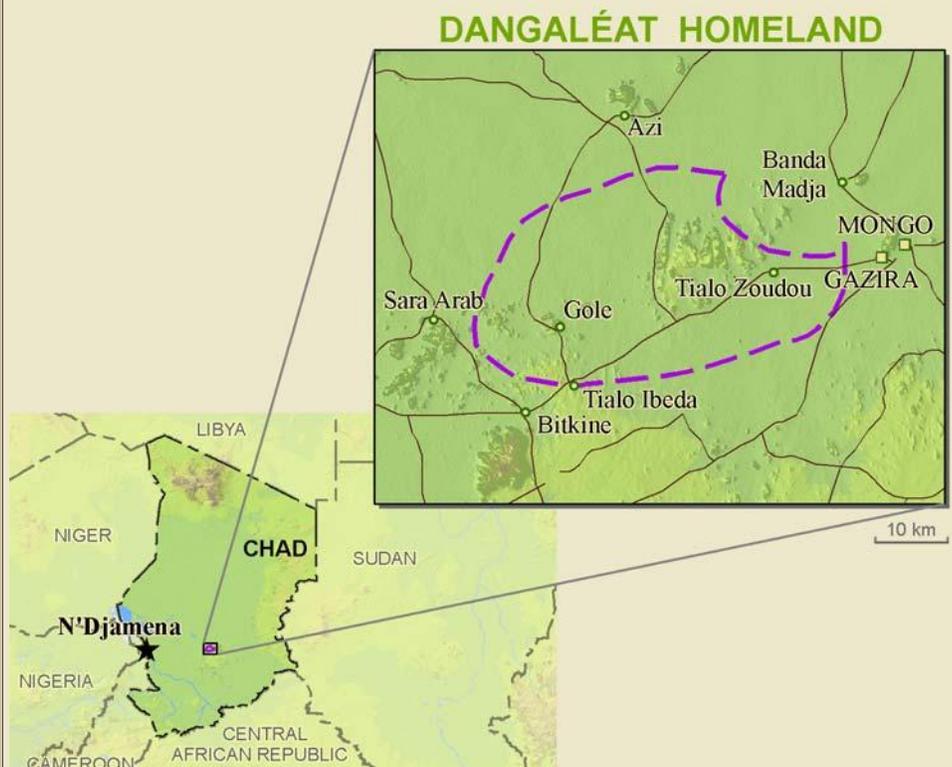
2

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Only portions available

Population (date):

45,000 (1993)



The Dangaleat of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	<1	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	25	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	?	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	?	
Number Of Pastors	1	
Number Of Missionaries Working	3	
Number Of Communities	14 villages	
Number Of Churches	2	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Some portions have been translated by the Catholic Church.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Lack of personnel. For translation to be effective, literacy projects would be needed.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Personal witness.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes. Work and witness that are sensitive to the needs in the area would be helpful.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	45000	
World Population (Date)	1993	
World Population (Urban Percent)	15000	
Comment (World Population)	Statistics are an estimate for 1996. Living outside Chad: Sudan, Nigeria, Libya (not numerous).	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Chad	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Central, Guera prefecture (region), Bitkine sub-prefectures, between Bitkine and west of Mongo. Western dialect around Korbo, central dialect around Barlo, Kubo Adougoul, Eastern Dialect around Korlongo. 500 km east of Ndjamen. 14 officially recognized villages	
Country	Chad	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Longitude	18.5	
Latitude	12	
Climate	Dry season - Oct-May, Painy season - July- September	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	The majority speak Chadian Arabic to some degree, mainly for communicating at the market.	
Alternate Language Names	Damgla, Korbo	
Dialects	West, Central and Eastern Dangaleat, Eastern Dangaleat is a separate language.	
Percent Monolingual (%)	5	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Neighboring Languages	KENGA	
Neighboring Languages	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Neighboring Languages	MIGAAMA	
Neighboring Languages	MOKULU	
Neighboring Languages	DAJU, DAR DAJU	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	6.9	

The Dangaleat of Chad

Item Name	Item Note
Percent Literate For Men	12.9%
Percent Literate For Women	1.9%
Active Literacy Program	No
Publications In Vernacular	7
Comment (Literacy)	<p>Publications in Mother Tongue: Two primers, Two books of stories, 1 book of animals, 2 dictionaries, etc.</p> <p>The vast majority of the Dangaleat have never seen any of these books.</p> <p>The literacy percentage is based on the Guera regional average (1996) and is expected to be lower in the villages.</p>

Economics

Group Description

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	Less than \$450 US per year
Occupation	Agriculture, livestock, small business in towns, merchants, government employees, manufacturing (making bricks and rope mats), common labor (working in someone's field)
Income Sources	They sell products from agriculture and livestock.
Products / Crafts	Millet, sorghum, mangoes, okra, pois de terre, sesame, peanuts, cucumbers, mats, sweet potato, tomato, basket work, rope, straw hats
Trade Partners	Arabs and other neighboring peoples
Modernization / Utilities	No electricity in the area. There are a number of mechanical pumps, but none is in operational order at present.

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	<p>Infant Mortality Rate: 13.7% Child Mortality Rate: 23.1% Life Expectancy Rate: 62.3 years 102,084 patients/per Medical doctor</p> <p>Mortality, Life Expectancy, information is based on the regional average (1993).</p> <p>For health care, there are 3 kinds of sources for healing commonly practiced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Traditional religion - margai priests are consulted, and they usually prescribe that a sacrifice is required to please the margai spirit, or a herbal remedy prescribed.2) Muslims, will visit the marabout, who will write a Koran verse down and immerse this in a glass of water, or some beverage, which is to be drunk. This is believed to help the sick person get well.3) Western Medicine - sometimes associated with Christianity. <p>These 3 modes of seeking health care are often mixed - though seeking help of medicine may be latter in the list of options.</p>
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	Adults have more or less an adequate diet while the children's diet is less adequate. Their foods include millet, sorghum, sweet potato, okra, peanuts, sesame, lemons, mangoes, and guava.
Water (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Water)	There is no irrigation, but some wells exist for gardens. They are open wells, and some are lined with cement. Some water is taken from river beds.
Shelter Description	Dwellings are round or rectangular. Huts are made of mud brick, with straw or mud roofs.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Energy)	Wood is the main source of fuel. There is no electricity. Kerosene lamps are used for lighting - but are rare.
Clothing	<p>Traditional clothing / Men: have a mixture of western and 'Arab' style clothing (long robes called jalabiyas, and occasionally a white turban or skull cap). Around concessions and farms, they may wear shorts, but those are not normally worn in public places.</p> <p>Women: wear cullotes, & 'pagñe' material wrapped around lower part of the body. Those who can afford one wear a "lafai" for market and other occasions. A "lafai" is a long piece of lightly woven material wrapped around the body and over the head.</p>
Transportation	Roads are largely impassable during rainy season. Roads are unsealed.

The Dangaleat of Chad

Item Name	Item Note
Infant Mortality Rate	I 13.7% C 23.1%
Life Expectancy	62.3 years
Leading Cause Of Death	102,084 patients per doctor
Comment (Community Development)	There are needs because of water shortages - more wells are needed, as are schools and dispensaries. The Dangaleat area in the Guera suffers occasionally from lack of rain, which results in food shortages. Birds and insects are also notorious for destroying valued crops.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	Extended family, patriarchal: Each man has one wife normally, though it is acceptable to have 2-3 wives. Nuclear household - they live with the clan, but each family has their own concession, shared occasionally with other family members. Men of the same clan eat their evening meal together. On clan/family level: The man is dominant in the household, and there is respect for age.
Neighbor Relations	There is some animosity toward Arabs - a love/hate relationship. The relationships that they have with neighboring Moukoulu and Kenga are very good.
Authority / Rule	Two levels: 'Chef de montagne' (Chief of the mountains) and 'Chef de terre' (Chief of the earth) are the traditional authorities for each area. They are hereditary positions. Since colonization, 'Chef de canton' (French for district chief), village heads, and 'chef de quartier' (neighborhood chief) have authority. These are appointed positions. Traditional authorities may struggle for continued recognition and authority in the face of change in political authority. On clan/family level: The man is dominant in the household, and there is respect for age.
Social Habits/Groupings	They have communal work days at harvest time. They thresh sorghum and millet, with music (drums and flutes) and dancing. The person being helped arranges food for the occasion.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Neutral
Judicial / Punishment System	The village leader (in French 'Chef de village') helps to resolve problems. The political structure is used when necessary for judges and the judicial system. Hierarchy: family, clan, village, canton, subprefecture, prefecture, national. Crisis/Conflicts - History/Status: People from the Ouaddai invaded the area to take slaves, and there are still some undercurrents from these times. Some villages made alliances with the Ouaddaians, were protected, and took on Islam. There is a feeling of betrayal by others outside these villages from the same ethnic group.
Celebrations	There are some unique Dangaleat celebrations associated with the Traditional Religion - the feasts of Bung-Bara, New Year, Festival of the Dead. Yearly, there is an Animist/Traditional Religious festival remembering those who have died - (momti) - in the month of May. Sacrifices are made by the families where there have been deaths during the year. A grain pot is broken for each person who has died. There is provision of millet beer, food and dancing as part of this three day event. Muslim feasts are widely celebrated by the Muslim majority.
Recreations	Sitting in the shade, basket weaving, making rope, shelling peanuts, hair styling, playing rock games, dancing
Art Forms	Pottery. (Huge granaries are made of pottery, water pots.) Hair-braiding, Colorful mats.
Media	None
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant
Comment (Culture)	Problems exist relating to high consumption of alcohol in some areas.

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	They help parents in their household tasks and other occupations.
Youth Problems (Teens)	High drop out rate from education
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Schooling in Dangaleat language

The Dangaleat of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Education		Group Description
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	40	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Comment (Education)	<p>Average 6.9% Guera prefecture. (Chadian average 31%)</p> <p>Koran schools in the villages, run by the local marabout, instruction is in 'Foess'ha' Koran Arabic, with explanation in Chadian Arabic. Attended by about 30-50% of the children.</p> <p>There is a huge drop out rate from education, because French is an unknown language that must be learned to progress in the education system.</p>	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Lay Leaders	5	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1	
Christian Literacy Centers	1	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	<p>The Dangaleat have a traditional religious system built on belief in the 'Margai.' It is an intermediary between a Supreme, Creator God named Bung, and humans on the earth. The 'Margai' is represented corporately by priests. Individual families and clans also have altars where sacrifices are made to please and appease the 'margai'. These sacrifices are given an important role in seeking protection from famine and sickness.</p> <p>Islam has been present since independence in the 1960's, and many decided to turn from the Margai religion to Islam, even destroying clan and family altars. This was not well accepted by others. With the onset of famine and sickness, once again, some have begun sacrificing to the Margay.</p> <p>"Gris gris" is the name given to Muslim amulets. The local marabout makes an amulet, with a cover made of an animal leather and a Koranic verse written on paper and put inside, and this is worn under clothing. When someone is sick, that person drinks a beverage in which a paper with a Koranic verse written on it has been immersed. This is considered a remedy for sickness, and protection from evil, including evil spirits.</p> <p>The Christian message has been introduced and accepted by some Dangaleat, but sometimes that message is mixed with the Margay practices or Islam.</p>	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	There are many sacrifices to appease God - blood to be shed. Jesus' death on the cross fulfills the analogy.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	It varies, but many are open.	
Current Needs	<p>Bible Translation (In process)</p> <p>Evangelism (with care) Training - Bible Training, Church growth, Discipleship, Leadership;</p> <p>Church planting</p> <p>Development - water resources, health/dispensaries, agricultural</p>	
Items For Prayer	<p>>>>Pray for leadership to develop in the church. Gifted men are often drawn to civil service employment because of attractive salaries, and often, they are moved to other areas.</p> <p>>>> Eleven official villages are without ongoing Christian witness.</p> <p>>>>They need wisdom in order for effective Christian witness to take place.</p> <p>>>> Pray for the development of a team for Bible Translation, where some can be leaders in the church and also encourage Scripture use in Protestant and Catholic churches.</p>	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1940	
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church	
Significant Events	A Catholic mission was set up in the 1940's, and a Protestant mission was begun in the late 1950's.	

The Dangaleat of Chad

Item Name

Comments (History of Christianity)

Item Note

Translation commenced work in 1992. A Roman Catholic mission set up schools which have had a considerable impact.

Scripture

Translation Status	In Progress
Available Scripture	Portions
Form Of Scripture Available	Audio-visual
Scripture Use	Hardly at all

Status of Christianity

Missions and Churches

Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church
Main Ministry	Medical
Number Of Adherents	500

Status of Christianity

Christian Literature And Media Status

Literature Available	Literacy primer, stories, Songs - Protestant and RC
Audio Recordings Available	One was made, but is not used/not available.
Films Available	A Dangaleat version of the Jesus film might be considered 'fake'.
Radio Programs Available	10 radios per 2,000 people. No Dangaleat language radio.
Videos Available	none
Audio Visual Available	none

Status of Christianity