

The Furu of Congo and Central African Rep.



representative photo

In the savanna along the Ubangi River, Furu speakers enjoy spacious land where they can spread out to raise chickens, goats and a few cattle. They plant gardens that include cassava and peanuts. Native grasses make an attractive roofing material for their houses, and keep them cool under the blazing African sun.

The Furu language originated farther north. It is of the Nilo-Saharan language family; early Furu settlers likely immigrated here from around Darfur, Sudan.

The Furu people call the creator god “Nzapa.” This deity works through intermediary spirits. One inhabits people, requiring offerings to a certain kind of tree (Kwara tree). They believe appeasing another, “Nafe,” ensures health, good luck, and good harvests, and that “Zuga” controls the outcome of the hunt. Both living and dead ancestors also wield influence. Furu life is steeped in fear and bound by rituals to assure good outcomes. They need the Savior who will bring them freedom, peace and abundant life. Understandable Scripture is needed to introduce them to Him and a translation project has begun.

A project has begun to create MP3 audio Scripture so believers will have access and be able to share with neighbors and friends. The project team expects pastors to use the translated Scripture for teaching and preaching. They also hope choirs will create songs from the translations, publicizing God’s Word and memorizing and broadcasting it through music.

Primary Religion:

Traditional religions

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Unknown

Churches:

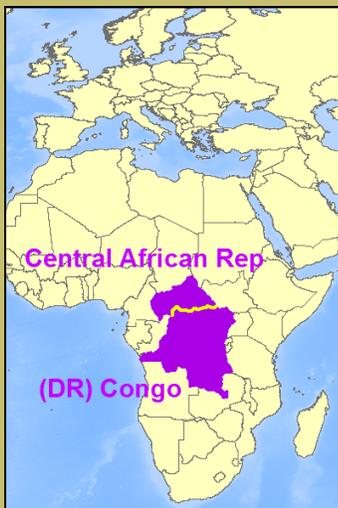
Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

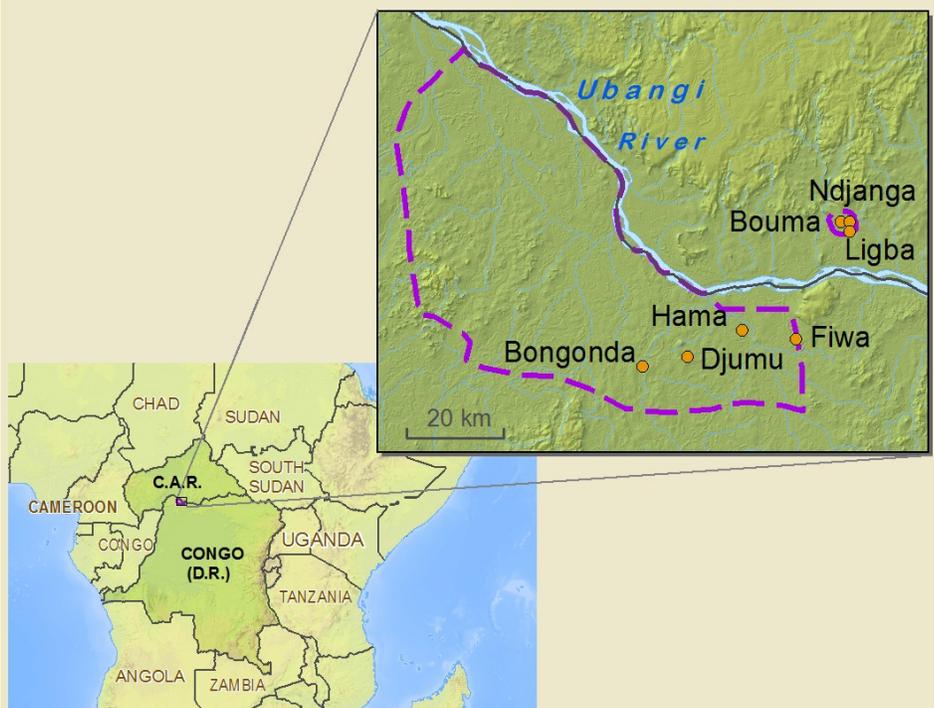
None

Population (date):

16,000 (1984/1996)



FURU HOMELAND



The Furu of Democratic Republic of Congo

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Is the Word of God Translated?

This project includes three other teams along with the Furu translators. First, the teams will receive much-needed translation training that will bolster their confidence and hone their skills to match their burgeoning enthusiasm.

They will start with four Old Testament portions — Ruth, Esther, Jonah and Daniel 1-6 — that offer good practice in translating narrative genre and provide meaty biblical material for church leaders to use in teaching. They also hope local church choirs will promote the Scriptures through songs taken from the newly translated portions.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

The team intends to make these portions available by audio to listening groups and in digital format for SD cards and Bluetooth cell phone applications. They also plan to translate transition materials to help those who read in other languages to be able to read their own. In addition to the four short beginning portions, they will complete Genesis, Mark, Luke and John as well. Further project phases will be considered later for finishing the New Testament and translating more Old Testament portions.

The Furu of Democratic Republic of Congo

Status of Christianity

Religion and Response

Number of Churches

Though churches have long been established among the Furu people, this will be the first Scripture ever translated into the Furu language. The team will first produce and distribute Ruth, Esther, Jonah and Daniel 1-6. These portions directly address God's power and sovereignty, challenging the widely held assumption that spirits and ancestors wield control in people's lives. The team will also produce audio materials and Scripture songs, making God's Word more easily accessible to the Furu people.

Need for Translation

Furu believers have noted the impact of God's Word among their neighbors. They want to see those kinds of changes in their own communities, so they have urgently requested help with translating Scripture.