The Gbagyi of Nigeria

The Gbagyi are widespread in Niger, Kaduna, and Plateau states and the Federal Capital Territory. Some live in Kogi state. In many places, particularly in FCT, Kogi and Kaduna states, they are interspersed with other people.

They are divided into two main groups. The eastern groups are called Gbagyi-Nenge or Gbagyi-Matai and they are more populous. The western groups are called Gbagyi-Nkwa or Gbagyi-Yamma. The western and eastern groups speak different languages, and within them, there are sub-groups and dialects. Not all Gbagyi agree on what the divisions are.

Whereas the Gbagyi people living in towns and cities are quite modernized, the vast population of rural dwellers are little affected by modern ways. Their attitude towards modern clothing and medical care is increasingly positive, but most rural Gbagyi, being farmers see education as a waste of time. The average literacy level is 27%. Primary schools and health facilities are not well distributed. In many places, roads are very poor or lacking. The most underdeveloped area of Gbagyi land is the northern part of Shiroro LGA, into southern Rafi LGA. The situation is only a little better in Chikun LGA or Kaduna State, especially around Gwagwada and Godani. In northern Shiroro LGA, there are no motorable roads in rainy season except the poor road from Padogari to Alawa town. Some parts of Gutara LGA are very backward too. A wide area of Gbagyi in the southern FCT is poor in terms of roads and other amenities.

The Gbagyi people attach absolute importance to farming. They grow yam and grain. Women take great pride in their large piles of firewood. Occupations like hunting and weaving are not common nowadays as they were in earlier days. The people are quite friendly with strangers but it

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**Primary Religion:**
Traditional Religion

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**
33%

**Churches:**
650

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

**Population (date):**
700,000 (1991)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call Themselves Christian (%)</td>
<td>60-65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe in Jesus As God And Only Savior</td>
<td>Perhaps 25-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe Jesus is a prophet, but not God’s Son (%)</td>
<td>33% Muslim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believe in their traditional religion (%)</td>
<td>5% (people still practice their primal religion called Knunu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have not heard who Jesus is (%)</td>
<td>Less than 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Churches</td>
<td>1,500 to 2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Missionaries Working</td>
<td>Number of cross-cultural missionaries is unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to the Gospel</td>
<td>Many people have given their lives to Christ as a result of the gospel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is The Word Of God Translated?</td>
<td>There is a New Testament in the Gbagyi East dialect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind of Missionaries Needed?</td>
<td>Missionaries who are mostly educators and educationist to help with educational needs in the Gbagyi nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**Group Description**

**Population**
- World Population For This People: 700,000
- World Population (Date): 1991

**Countries Where People Group Live**
- Country Name: Nigeria

**Geography & Environment**
- Location: Kaduna state: Kagarko, northwest Kachia, Kanuru, Igabi, Soba, Giwa, Birnin-Gwari, and Chikun LGAs, Kaduna City; Niger state: Rafi, Chanchaga, Shiororo, Suleija LGAs; Nassarawa state: Keffì, Nasarawa LGAs; Abuja Capital Territory, Bwari, Kwalie, Kuje, Abuja Municipal Area Council LGAs; Kogi state: Kogi LGA
- Elevation: 100 to 700 m
- Longitude: 6°–7° E
- Latitude: 8°–11° N

**Language & Linguistics**
- Primary Language: Gbagyi
- Alternate Language Names: East Gwari, Gbagye, Gwari, Gwari Matai, Ibargyi
- Dialects: Diko, Kaduna, Karu, Kuta, Louome, Ngenge (Genge, Gyange, Gyengyen), Tawari, Vwezhi
- Neighboring Languages: Esimibi [ags], Mesaka [iyo], Beba [bfp], Ngemba [nge], Ngoshie [nsh], Mbororo Fulfulde [fuv], Balo [bgo], Osatu [ost]
- Active Language Programs: No
- Language Stability: EGIDS 5 Developing
### Status of Christianity

#### Church Growth
- Reached Status: Reached

#### Scripture
- Translation Status: Definite
- Form of Scripture Available: Print

#### Christian Literature and Media Status
- Other Forms of Gospel Available:
  - Literature: Yes
  - Film/Videos: Yes
  - Audio Recordings Available: Yes. Gospel Recordings has audio Bible stories available in a related language, Matai [gby].