

The Kabalay of Chad

The Kabalay people live in southern Chad around the town of Lai. Living along one of the major rivers in Chad, their living is made from fishing and agriculture. Missionaries first came to the region in the early 20th century, and as a result of the obedience of a few, the Bible has been translated in the neighboring Nancere language. Almost all Kabalay understand Nancere well, although it is not their own language. The churches in the Kabalay area use the Nancere Scriptures, but few can read it well.

Even though almost every Kabalay adheres to one church or another, many also hold on to their traditional religious beliefs. The gospel has yet to penetrate deeply in the hearts of the Kabalay so that they see that God does not accept following Him and appeasing the spirits at the same time.

Since not many Kabalay know how to read, pray for an organized literacy program to take place among the Kabalay community, so that many Kabalay can begin to read the Word of God daily and apply its truths to their lives.

*Image
Unavailable*

Primary Religion:

Christianity, Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

< 5%

Churches:

10

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in Kabalay

Population (date):

21,000



Map Unavailable

The Kabalay of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>50%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 5%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	<1%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	80%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	0%	
Antagonistic To Hearing About Jesus (%)	0%	
Know Of Jesus, But Reject Him (%)	<5%	
Number Of Pastors	5	
Number Of Missionaries Working	3	
Response To The Gospel	Rapid growth, but largely nominal or syncretistic	
Number Of Communities	6	
Number Of Churches	10	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Into MT: They have some portions informally translated in Kabalay, but not available in N'Djamena. Form: The Bible has been translated into Nancere which they understand fairly well but cannot read (literacy problem).	
Translation Medium	Printed	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Few people literate in Nancere, or French.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Jesus film in Ngambay and French. Gospel recording in Kabalay	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Chadians should be trained to effectively teach the Kabalay to read and write in Nancere (or use a Kabalay orthography based on Nancere).	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	21000	
World Population (Date)	2001	
World Population (Urban Percent)	58	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Chad	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	In the Tandjilé prefecture, Lai sub-prefecture.	
Country	Chad	
Ecosystem Type	Savannas	
Geological Type	Riverine	
Elevation	400 meters approximately	
Longitude	16.5 degrees E	
Latitude	9 degrees N	
Climate	Hot and dry, rainy season comes earlier than most of Chad and stays longer.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	KABALAI	
Alternate Language Names	KABALAYE	
Alternate Language Names	KABALAY	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	0	
Second Languages	Nancere, French, some Chadian Spoken Arabic	

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Item Name	Item Note
Comment (Second Language)	Nancere is by far the best second language among Kabalay. This language is related, and there is much intermarriage and contact with Nancere. All Kabalay say they speak Nancere at least some and many men speak it well.
Linguistically Related Languages	TOBANGA
Linguistically Related Languages	GABRI
Linguistically Related Languages	NANCERE
Comments (Related Languages)	Nancere is most intelligible to the Kabalay
Neighboring Languages	NGAMBAY
Neighboring Languages	GOUNDO
Neighboring Languages	BESME
Neighboring Languages	SOMRAI
Active Language Programs	No
Language Stability	Not a dying language

Literacy

Group Description

Adult Literacy Percentage	30%
Adult Literacy Percentage	30%
Percent Literate For Men	50%
Percent Literate For Women	10%
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	No
Publications In Vernacular	Church Songbook
Publications In Vernacular	Christian Songbook
Comment (Literacy)	There is an active literacy program in Nancere, but it is not including the Kabalay area in its scope.

Economics

Group Description

Subsistence Type	Fishers
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	<\$450
Occupation	fishing and growing rice in floodplains
Income Sources	fish, rice
Products / Crafts	fishing related materials
Trade Partners	Most trade locally in the town of Lai or other local markets
Modernization / Utilities	There are some cooperatives in the area, informal community banks.
Comment (Economy)	The average income referred to is the national average (1994).

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Health Care)	There are some dispensaries in their area and a hospital in Lai, but they are poorly stocked.
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	People of the area eat rice, and some meat, tomatoes, onions, green leafy vegetables, honey, and sweet tea.
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	Water is drawn from the Logone river
Shelter Description	Huts are made of mud bricks and have straw roofs. Some have zinc roofs.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Energy)	Most use wood to cook with.

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Item Name	Item Note
Clothing	Men wear western style clothes. Women wear wrap-around skirts (pagne) or dresses made from the same fabric.
Transportation	People may be able to catch a market truck or cotton truck to get to a larger center on market days, but it is uncertain and very precarious.
Infant Mortality Rate	12.3%
Life Expectancy	47 years
Leading Cause Of Death	Intestinal infections
Comment (Community Development)	Child Mortality, Life Expectancy, and Leading Cause of Death information is based on the national average (1994). Intestinal and other infections are due largely to lack of sanitation and clean water.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	Large extended family
Neighbor Relations	Apparently good relations with neighbors
Authority / Rule	Each village has its local chief who relates to a Canton chief, who in turn relates to the government appointed sub-prefect.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Neutral
Judicial / Punishment System	Technically they are under the governance of the local canton chief and the local sub-prefect.
Celebrations	Easter, Christmas. Traditional celebrations in decline.
Recreations	socializing, listening to the radio, drinking tea (men), telling stories of fishing and hunting.
Art Forms	song, dance
Media	Only short wave radio stations can be received.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive
History Of People Group	Kabalay trace origins to the Gabri to the east of Lai. They came to Lai and then spread to the north from there, along the river.

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	fetching water, sweeping courtyard, going fishing, helping to prepare food for cooking
Youth Problems (Teens)	lack of jobs

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	8
Primary School Enrollment	<70
Secondary Schools	0
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	50
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:100+
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	2
Comment (Education)	Children generally do not speak French before school -- they learn it at school, although it is not taught as a Foreign language.

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Verified
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Item Name	Item Note
Reached Classification	Unevangelized
Total Baptized	4000
Lay Leaders	10
Bible Schools	1
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0
Christian Literacy Centers	0
Comment (Church Growth)	There is a Bible school in Lai, which is conducted in the Nancere language, a closely related language. The three missionaries cater to all the people groups of the area (14).

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive
Resistance / Receptivity	receptive
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Most people are affiliated with one church or another. Could be many nominal Christians (or immature Christians).
Recommended Approaches	Evangelism and discipleship, using the Nancere Scripture available, literacy, training of Pastors and lay leaders.
Current Needs	literacy, orthography development
Items For Prayer	That Kabalay people would be trained in literacy for ongoing efforts in Kabalay so they may effectively use the Scripture available in the Nancere language that many understand.

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Year Began	1930
By Whom	Brethren
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church
Comments (History of Christianity)	Lai is the seat of a large Catholic center for the whole region.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status	Unlikely
Available Scripture	Bible
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed
Scripture Use	Nancere Bible used in all the protestant churches, and in the Bible school. French Bible is also used as well but to a much lesser extent. Apparently Catholics have some part of a lectionary that is translated into Kabalay (which includes Scripture)
Comment (Scripture)	Nancere Bible is used in all Protestant churches. See also text in "Use of Translation"

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Assemblées Chrétiennes du Tchad
Organization Name	Église Évangélique du Togo, Tchad
Organization Name	The Evangelical Alliance Mission
Mission Agency Type Of Organization?	Yes
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available	"Kabalay Lexique" (small bilingual dictionary) was produced by Waingué B. Martin following an SIL "Discover Your Language" course in Yaounde, Cameroon in 1995. There is also a Christian songbook and apparently some portion of a Catholic lectionary.
Audio Recordings Available	Gospel Recordings has a recording available. There is also someone who has recorded a church choir on cassette (low quality) for local evangelistic use.
Films Available	Jesus Film in French.
Radio Programs Available	None

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Item Name	Item Note
Videos Available	None
Audio Visual Available	None