



The Kagulu of Tanzania

The Kagulu live in a relatively small geographical area of central Tanzania, but they reside at various levels of elevation. Some live in the lowlands, others on plateaus, and still others in the cold and rainy Kaguru and Nguru Mountains. Although some Kagulu are found in urban centers, many live in villages without electricity or running water. They live in rectangular houses which are framed with branches and plastered with earth, although houses of clay bricks or cement blocks with tin roofs are becoming increasingly common.

Like many other groups in Tanzania, most Kagulu are farmers, growing crops such as sweet potatoes, beans, maize, and rice. Many Kagulu also raise animals, including chickens, ducks, sheep, and goats. They are also known for making wooden bicycles, which they sell to people from other tribes. Men often wear Western-style clothing, but women usually wear the colorfully printed cloths known as 'kanga' that are common throughout the country.

Anglican missionaries brought Christianity in the late 1800s, and now several denominations have churches throughout the Kagulu territory. The vast majority of Kagulu would call themselves Christians, but in reality this could mean anything from being a true follower of Jesus to merely a name. Traditional religion still has a strong hold on the people, and many who profess Christianity continue to struggle with the tension of trusting in God or relying on traditional attempts to appease spirits, including those of their ancestors. Christian leaders among the Kagulu are eager to disciple their own people and many receive training at Bible schools. They are also hopeful that the Kagulu translation of the Scriptures, which is currently underway, will be a great blessing to their tribe.

Primary Religion:

Tribal Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

< 50%

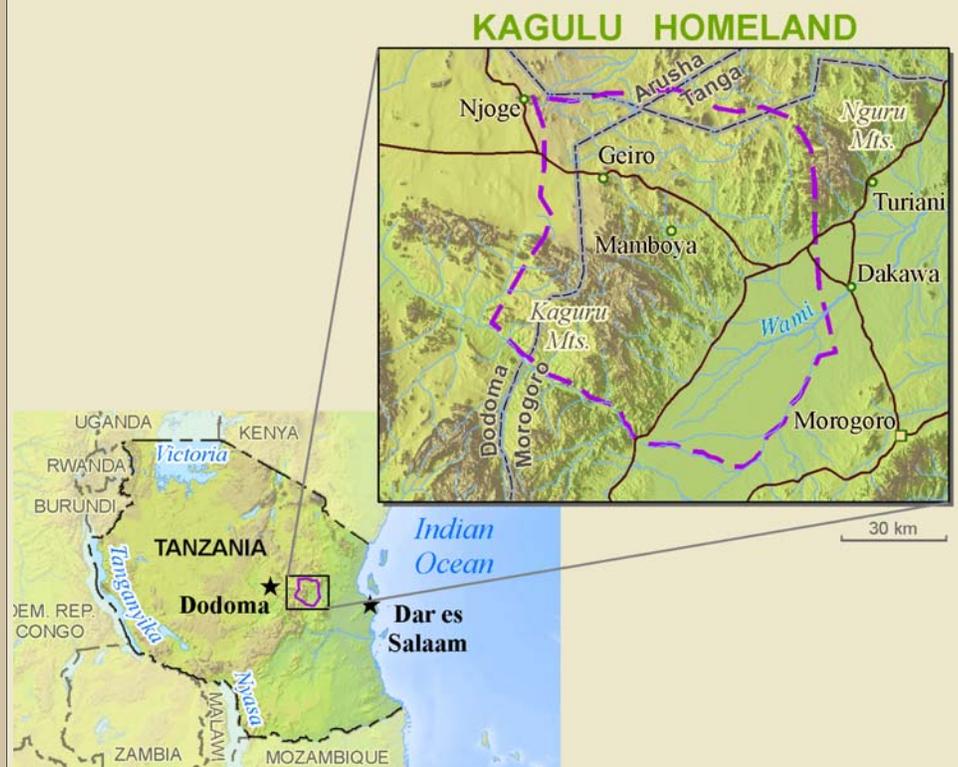
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Work in progress

Population (date):

217,000 (1987)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>95%	
Comment (Call Themselves Christian)	Although most Kagulu would consider themselves Christians, this is sometimes a religious veneer over actual beliefs about the tribal religion. Many Kagulu are Christians by name only and still resort to the traditional religion for medicine, rituals, etc. Animism and drunkenness continue to be problems even for those who claim to follow Christ.	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 50%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	Traditional religion still has a strong hold on the people, and many who profess Christianity continue to struggle with the tension of trusting in God or relying on traditional attempts to appease spirits, including those of their ancestors.	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	<5%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	50%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Missionaries Working	10	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	It is reported there are 10-12 expatriate missionaries.	
Response To The Gospel	There has been slow, steady growth of Christianity, but syncretism is still pervasive, and knowledge about the Bible is limited for most people.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	A missionary translated the gospel of John in the 1890s. However, its usage and distribution at that time are unknown. In the 1990s, Anglican pastors translated about half of the gospel of John and submitted their translation to church officials. They were subsequently relocated to different areas, and their work of translation was discouraged. Around the year 2000 the Bible Society of Tanzania commenced a translation project. Other Bible translation organizations are collaborating on the project. Steady progress is being made in the New Testament. The goal is to have the first book of the Bible published in 2004.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Hosanna Ministries has the Bible available in Swahili but many people do not have money to buy a Swahili Bible, and distribution is somewhat limited to cities. A majority of the people living in pure Kagulu villages are not sufficiently bilingual in Swahili to use the Swahili Scriptures.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	The Faith Comes by Hearing program of Hosanna Ministries has the Bible available in Swahili. Christian literature, such as songbooks and devotionals, are available in Swahili. The Jesus Film is available in Swahili. There are some Christian radio programs in Swahili. None of these are available in the Kagulu language.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Missionaries are still needed to offer technical assistance and advice. This is particularly true for Bible translation. Currently missionaries are involved with an orphanage, a hospital, a Bible School, and church building projects among the Kagulu.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	217,000	
World Population (Date)	1987	
World Population (Urban Percent)	20%	
Comment (World Population)	Although we have no exact figure for urban dwellers, it would certainly be a minority of Kagulu, perhaps around 20%.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Tanzania	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	The Kagulu are found in east central Tanzania, east of Dodoma, on both sides of the road from Dodoma to Morogoro.	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Hilly	
Elevation	2,000 - 6,000 ft.	
Longitude	36°30' - 37°30' East	
Latitude	5°30' - 6°30' South	

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Item Name

Climate

Item Note

There are rains in November/December, but the heaviest rains come in January – April. The dry season is between June and October. The mountains are significantly colder and wetter than the plateau and lowlands.

Comments (Geography & Environment)

The plateau elevation is from 2,000 to 4,500 ft. Some dwell on the Itumba Mountains where the elevation ranges from 4,500 to 6,000 ft. The plateau receives approximately 30 inches of rain per year, and the mountains receive several times that amount. Besides savannahs, there are also scrub and deciduous forests. The geological type is described as rolling hills and river valleys in plateau (about half of territory), and the lowland (the southeast 1/5th of territory) are mountains containing iron deposits.

Language & Linguistics

Group Description

Comment (Language)

The profile for this people group reports Kikagulu as the primary language, and that in Swahili, the ki- prefix designates a language of a certain ethnic group. Generally speaking, church services among the Kagulu are conducted in Swahili, but most people understand best when church messages are translated into Kikagulu; and many songs are sung in Kikagulu.

Comment (Second Language)

Many people bilingual to some extent in Swahili, and those living on the borders of other people groups are often bilingual in the neighboring languages (Luguru, Sagala, Gogo, Ngulu, and Zigua).

Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)

Kagulu who grow up in the cities sometimes have Swahili as their mother tongue. This is particularly true if only one parent is Kagulu.

Comments (Neighbor Languages)

The neighboring languages are Gogo to the west, Sagala to the south, and Luguru, Ngulu, and Zigua to the north and east.

Literacy

Group Description

Active Literacy Program

No

Publications In Vernacular

Gospel of John (from 1890s); There is a Kagulu songbook (now three or four decades old) but not many copies have been circulated.

Comment (Literacy)

The Ethnologue lists Sagala and Gogo as linguistically related, but the people themselves said that Luguru, Sagala, and Ngulu were more closely related to their language than Gogo. The Ethnologue has 'Megi' as the name of a dialect, but in recent surveys, no Kagulu person interviewed knew of a dialect called Megi (it is the Kagulu word for water).

Economics

Group Description

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalists

Comment (Subsistence Type)

Animal husbandry is also listed as a subsistence type.

Average Annual Income

Average annual income is reported to be \$200-300 US in rural areas.

Occupation

Most Kagulu are farmers, but a few are nurses, teachers, tailors, merchants, and businessmen.

Income Sources

Sweet potatoes, beans, maize, rice, and shallow baskets for winnowing rice.

Products / Crafts

Wooden bicycles, three-legged stools, sweet potatoes, beans, maize, rice, cassava, sugarcane, timber, peanuts, banana, mango, papaya, limes, cotton, potatoes, plantains, tobacco, coffee, citrus, pumpkins, castor, and sunflowers.

Trade Partners

Neighboring peoples.

Modernization / Utilities

Many Kagulu have cell phones, and a few wealthier people have telephones (land lines) in their homes. The vast majority of Kagulu do not have piped water systems to their homes. Access to electricity is also very limited.

Comment (Economy)

Livestock include chickens, ducks, sheep, goats, and cattle. On higher ground, slash-and-burn cultivation is used. In Turiani (in the northeast) there is a sugar plantation.

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Health Care)

In general, health care is poor because there are so few facilities. However, there are dispensaries within walking distance of most people, and there are about three or four hospitals.

Diet (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Diet)

The diet is reported to be 'adequate, but not very good', because so much of the food is starchy and not very nutritious. Ugali (thick maize porridge) and rice are main staples. In a typical meal, ugali or rice is topped with a vegetable or meat stew.

Water (Quality)

Good

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Item Name	Item Note
Comment (Water)	Some wells and natural springs are available. Access to clean water does not seem to be a problem.
Shelter Description	Most Kagulu live in rectangular houses, which are framed with branches and plastered with earth. Increasingly, people are using sun-dried clay bricks, baked clay bricks, or cement blocks to build their homes, and tin roofs are becoming more common as well.
Electricity	Villages on main roads have electricity.
Comment (Energy)	Wood and charcoal are primarily used for cooking and heating. There are a small number of kerosene lamps.
Clothing	Western-style clothing is worn, particularly by men. Women often wear shirts or blouses with multiple layers of 'kanga' around their waists. A kanga is a colorfully decorated rectangular piece of cloth measuring 1 x 1.5 meters.
Transportation	Foot, bicycle, and daladala (public service minibus).
Leading Cause Of Death	Malaria and diseases resulting in diarrhea/dehydration claim the lives of many infants. Increasingly AIDS is a huge killer of young adults. Sanitation/food handling is also a big problem.
Comment (Community Development)	The community would be helped with the improvement of literacy, health/sanitation, AIDS awareness/Christian values teaching, prenatal and postnatal care, agricultural development, and vocational training for both men and women (eg. carpentry, sewing, typing, driving).

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	Matrilineal
Neighbor Relations	The Kagulu have good relations with neighbors on all sides, including pastoral groups, such as the Kamba and the Maasai.
Authority / Rule	The traditional system has broken down; government system has replaced it.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Neutral
Judicial / Punishment System	They answer to the local government, but since there are not enough police, there is a local patrol unit who sometimes captures criminals and turns them over to government officials.
Celebrations	The rites of passage for boys (circumcision) and girls are very important.
Recreations	Visiting people at night; dancing and drumming.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Carrying water and firewood, hauling produce, and watching over younger children. Girls would be cooking and doing housework.
Youth Problems (Teens)	AIDS, breakdown of traditional moral values in urban areas, lack of social activities. Very few pass their exams and qualify for secondary school, and those who pass exams still may not be able to attend due to lack of money and lack of availability in the schools.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	AIDS awareness, teaching of Christian morals, skills training, and social activities.

Education

Group Description

Comment (Education)	Swahili is reported to be the language of instruction and also the language of textbooks. Most Kagulu villages that are not on main roads have unmixed schools.
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Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Engaged
Comment (Reached Status)	Some would consider them to be reached; lack MT translation, but have limited access to the Bible in Swahili; capable of evangelizing their own people.
Reached Classification	Evangelized
Bible Schools	2

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Item Name	Item Note
Comment (Bible Schools)	There is a lay training center in Berega, and a Bible school in Morogoro for pastors and evangelists.
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	5-10
Religion & Response	Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	<p>In the traditional religion, the Kagulu worship a god called Mateke, Mulungu, or Se Masuja. They believed that God was good to all people, but that whenever he was angry, rather than bringing suffering on any one person or any family, he would cause drought to an entire land. The worship of God was done after the time of harvest, or at propitiation ceremonies after times of catastrophes. They used to build a small round cone-shaped hut. A bed made of pieces of poles was erected, on which two smoking pipes were laid. On the day of the ceremony, an old man and an old woman entered the hut, sat on the bed, and lit their pipes. They would sit there smoking, representing God and his supposed wife. If it were the time of thanksgiving, these two would receive the people's offering. If people had come to ask God for blessings which they did not have, they would listen to the people's confessions and needs. The traditional Kagulu beliefs included the idea that spirits of dead people are closest to God, which put them in the position to intervene in the affairs of living people and to rule over the spirits of the living. They are believed to be capable of bringing harm, such as illness or ill luck, as well as blessings and solutions to difficulties. Problems that came to people were caused by ghost-like spirits that were defined under two categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.Spirits of the dead family members like grandparents, parents, uncles, etc.2.Spirits of members of a clan long dead. These clan spirits were the most feared as capable of bringing great suffering like diseases and deaths. People afflicted by family spirits could be healed, whereas those afflicted by clan spirits would have little chance of being healed.
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Because the Kagulu are matrilineal, blood relations are of primary importance. In fact, blood itself is pregnant with meaning. Kagulu men may make a pact to become 'blood brothers'; perhaps this would serve as a suitable analogy for relationships between Christian brothers and sisters.
Recommended Approaches	Scripture-in-use programs, Faith Comes By Hearing (Scripture on audio tapes), and chronological Bible storying.
Items For Prayer	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pray especially for spiritual revival among the churches, in all the age groups.2. Pray that the gospel would make an impact in their daily lives.3. Pray that the Lord will call more of the theological education-by-extension students to be involved in work among the Kaguru.4. Pray that the Lord will begin a church-planting movement among the Kaguru.5. Pray for the Lord's guidance on the Bible translation, and that the Kagulu Scriptures will be distributed and have a great impact on the people.
History Of Christianity In Group	Status of Christianity
Year Began	1880's
By Whom	Christian Missionary Society of England
Significant Events	In the early 1880s the first school was built in Mamboya. Around 1965 the Anglican Church appointed the first Tanzanian bishop in the diocese of Morogoro; he is a Kagulu man.
Scripture	Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress
Available Scripture	None
Form Of Scripture Available	None
Comment (Form of Scripture Available)	Hosanna Ministries has the Bible available in Swahili but many people do not have money to buy a Swahili Bible, and distribution is somewhat limited to cities. A majority of the people living in pure Kagulu villages are not sufficiently bilingual in Swahili to use the Swahili Scriptures.
Comment (Scripture Use)	A majority of the people living in pure Kagulu villages are not sufficiently bilingual in Swahili to use the Swahili Scriptures. Also, poverty may make it difficult for people to purchase Scriptures, once translation is printed and made available in their Mother Tongue.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No

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Item Name

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos

Item Note

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio

No

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Anglican

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Comment (Main Ministry)

Besides church planting, the other ministries reported are: hospital, youth, choir, orphanage, Bible school, and a lay training center.

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

Seventh-day Adventists

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

New Apostolic Church

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

Baptist

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

Pentecostal

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

Multiple translation organizations

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available

The Faith Comes by Hearing program of Hosanna Ministries has the Bible available in Swahili. Christian literature, such as songbooks and devotionals, are available in Swahili.

Films Available

The Jesus Film is available in Swahili.

Radio Programs Available

There are some Christian radio programs in Swahili.