

The C'lela of Nigeria



photo by The Seed Co.

Most C'lela (pronounced che-lay-la) people live in rural settlements in western Nigeria. They struggle to provide sufficient food for their families from their small farms. Hausa, Fulani and Fakawa people occupy the same area; the groups coexist in tenuous toleration.

C'lela farmers eke out a living for their families from the hard ground in the western states of Nigeria. About 35 percent of the people claim Christianity; many profess Islam. But the majority in both camps still practice African traditional religion alongside their formal, modern affiliation. Although only a third of the population is Christian, all C'lela are eager to promote their language and culture. This has motivated even those who profess to be Muslim to be involved in the project.

The C'lela people first heard about Jesus in 1925. But the Gospel they heard was veiled in another language, and has made little impact. Today, audio recordings in the Dakkarkari dialect and The Jesus Film are available. A translation team has completed Matthew, Mark, John and several other books of the New Testament. Every Tuesday night they broadcast half-hour television episodes with local ministers, choirs and reading of God's Word in the C'lela language.

The translation that is underway is already having an impact. The Nigerian Education Research and Development Council is providing support for the development of a C'lela language curriculum. The materials will be taught in primary and secondary schools.

Primary Religion:

Ethnic Religion

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Perhaps 15%

Churches:

Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

Portions

Population (date):

90,000 (1993)



C'LELA HOMELAND

