

The Nawuri of Ghana

The Nawuri live in a dozen villages around the chief town of Kpandai, at the eastern end of Salaga district; on the west bank of the Volta Lake/Oti River, some 70 kilometers north of Kete Krachi.

Farming is their main occupation.

The mothers cut tribal marks on their children when they are 6 months old; names are given by the elders at 6 to 8 months; children are often named after their grandfathers and grandmothers. An initiation ceremony is conducted for both boys and girls when they are aged 15. They wear special clothing and are questioned to test their maturity.

Traditional belief means in sickness it is usual to go to the soothsayer to find out whether one has offended an ancestor. If so the soothsayer will identify the ancestor concerned and prescribe the necessary sacrifices, which are performed on the ancestor's grave.

Christianity was first introduced to the people in 1944 by the WEC Mission and several denominations now work in the area. The Nawuri are favorable towards Christianity. There are relatively few Muslims in the area at the moment.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

17%

Churches:

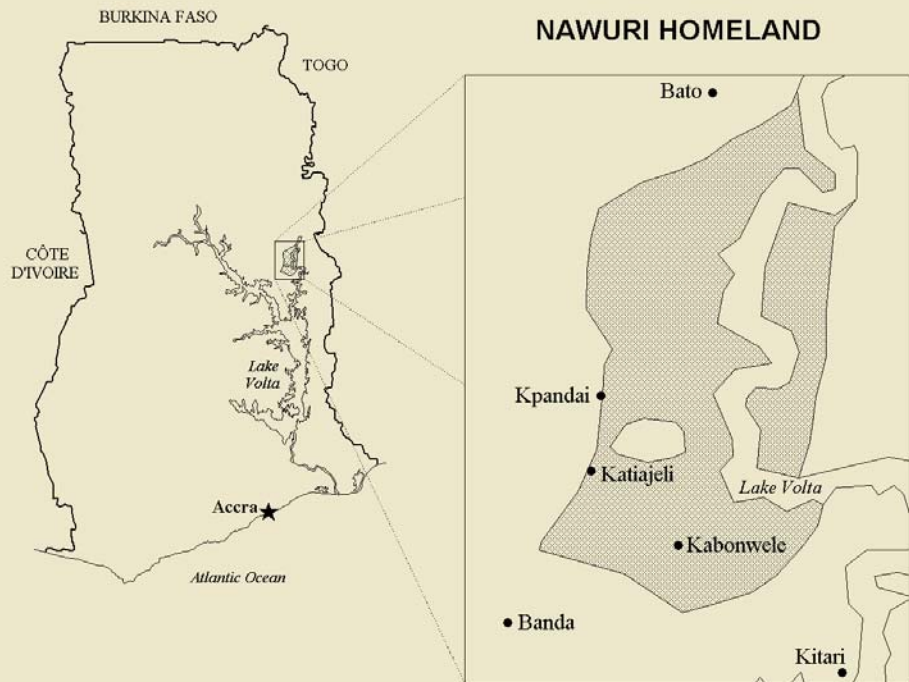
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None; work has started

Population (date):

14,000 (1991)



The Nawuri of Ghana

Item Name

Item Note

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Profile Summary

Call Themselves Christian (%)	52%
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	17%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	1%
Number Of Pastors	5
Number Of Missionaries Working	2
Number Of Communities	There are fifteen listed Nawuri localities.
Number Of Churches	25
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Not at present. Genesis and Mark are both being drafted.
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Accessibility is good. Twenty-five miles is the greatest distance between Nawuri villages.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel Recordings has made audio-cassettes.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Most educated Nawuri do not see how Nawuri literacy will benefit them; therefore, they are not willing to put time and effort into the literacy program. Illiterates are willing to put in the time and effort, but they really need Nawuri the literate to teach them.

Population All Countries

Group Description

World Population For This People	14,000
World Population (Date)	1991

Countries Where People Group Lives

Group Description

Country Name	Ghana
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Geography & Environment

Group Description

Location	A dozen villages around Kpandai, at the eastern end of Salaga district; on the west bank of the Volta Lake/Oti River, some seventy kilometers north of Kete Krachi.
Country	Ghana
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs
Geological Type	Interfluvial
Elevation	0-200 meters
Latitude	N8.5
Climate	Hot and humid with seasonal rains
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Geological type: hills

Language & Linguistics

Group Description

Comment (Language)	0% monolingual
Alternate Language Names	Nawiri
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive
Percent Monolingual (%)	0%
Second Languages	20
Second Languages	80
Second Languages	100
Second Languages	60
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	GIKYODE
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	AKAN
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	GONJA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	AKAN
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	CHUMBURUNG

The Nawuri of Ghana

Item Name	Item Note
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	GIKYODE
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	CHUMBURUNG
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	GONJA
Linguistically Related Languages	GONJA
Linguistically Related Languages	GIKYODE
Linguistically Related Languages	GONJA
Linguistically Related Languages	GIKYODE
Comments (Related Languages)	72% lexical similarity with Buipe dialect of Gonja
Neighboring Languages	CHUMBURUNG
Neighboring Languages	GONJA
Neighboring Languages	DAGBANI

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	5
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	13
Comment (Literacy)	The literacy program functions sporadically. The war destroyed it.

Group Description

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	\$200
Occupation	Farming, hunting
Income Sources	Yams, cassava, guinea corn, maize, rice, pito (millet beer), shea nuts
Products / Crafts	Baskets, carving hoes and tools, drums, pottery
Trade Partners	All neighbors, except Gonjas, Akans, Ewe, Frafra
Modernization / Utilities	Grinding mills for maize
Comment (Economy)	Traditionally the Nawuri were hunters, but more recently they have become subsistence farmers.

Group Description

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	One government clinic and a WEC mission clinic in Kpandai. Government clinic in Kitare. Some go to the Catholic clinic in Nkwanta.
Diet (Quality)	Good
Comment (Diet)	Fufu,, rice, beans, vegetables, fruit, fish. Rarely meat
Water (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Water)	Two villages get their water from the lake. Boreholes are too few. During rainy season they get their water from streams.
Shelter Description	Mud brick compounds with thatched roofs. The husband's immediate and extended family live in the compound.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Comment (Energy)	Kerosene for lamps, wood for cooking
Clothing	Traditionally, wrap around cloth for men and women. Now they also wear western, second-hand clothes.
Transportation	Adequate roads throughout the area provide easy access to most places by bicycle or market truck. Many places are within walking distance of each other.
Infant Mortality Rate	10% under 5 years of age
Life Expectancy	65 years old
Leading Cause Of Death	Malaria, TB, snake bites

Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Households are organized around a father, his sons, their wives and children, and they are stable as long as accommodations are adequate for the family. If the household is too crowded, then the senior or junior son may set up his own independent household. About 90% of the men over thirty years old have more than one wife (in 1989).	
Neighbor Relations	Neighbor relations are good, particularly between the Nawuri of Bladjai and Kitare and the Gichode. The only exception are the Gonja, with whom relations are strained. (The Gonja control the political resources of the district.) Some would like to see the formation of an independent Nawuri-Chumburung District with Headquarters at Kpandai.	
Authority / Rule	The Nawuri are subject to the Gonjas; however, a Nawuri paramount chief does exist. Under him stand the "controllers of the land", and below them, the village chiefs. The eldest clan head usually has the chieftancy, and in this way, he represents both the traditional and introduced authority structure. He has more authority in his position as priest, however, than he does as chief.	
Social Habits/Groupings	There is a women's sacred society to which 90% of the women belonged in 1989. In recent years, initiation ceremonies have not been held as regularly as in the past, but the society continues to be a strong force in the community. The Catholic Youth organization and the Christian Youth Brigade are also active. In some communities, the CDR (committee for the Defense of the Revolution) and the Civil Defense Organization have made some impact.	
Cultural Change Pace	Rapid	
Identification With National Culture	Distinct	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Judicial / Punishment System	Traditional matters are judged by the chiefs, criminal cases by the courts.	
Celebrations	Guinea corn festival in January/February, Yam festival in August, moonlight festivals, funerals, Christian festivals	
Recreations	Festivals, visiting, talking etc.	
Art Forms	Baskets, carving, pottery, drumming, dancing	
Media	Grapevine, radio	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive	
Attitude To Change	Very receptive	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Farming, cooking, carrying, brewing pito, girls: watching siblings	
Youth Problems (Teens)	No funds for investments in farming. No jobs. Depleted soils.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Teachers, jobs, places to live. They cannot return after having migrated to the city.	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	13	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	100%	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	50	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	6	
Comment (Education)	All villages have primary schools, JSS in five villages. Since the war, however, they have not had teachers.	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Lay Leaders	22	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1	

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Comment (Church Growth)	80% of population has been indicated (by GIL project committee) as baptized.	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Mentioned above	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	They are positive about the development of literacy, and they also seem favorable towards Christianity.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Life after death. If someone has lived a good life, then s/he may meet his/her ancestors after death.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Each denomination tends to have its own standards concerning what it means to be a Christian. People have a much clearer picture of what the denomination teaches or emphasizes about being a Christian than they do of what the Bible teaches about being a Christian. In their eyes, every child grows up as a Christian.	
Comment (Religion)	Some other figures given for religious breakdown: Christian: 17%, ATR: 80%	
Recommended Approaches	Those approaching the Nawuri with the truth should know their religious beliefs, especially their gods. One of these beliefs is that the highest God created the lower gods.	
Current Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- health care. There is only a clinic. The nearest hospital is fifty miles away.- clean water- farming improvements- jobs- women's coops for independence	
Items For Prayer	Pray for unity among the chiefs. Also pray for the ongoing translation and literacy work, as well as for the above mentioned needs.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1944	
By Whom	WEC International	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	None	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Seventh Day Adventists	
Main Ministry	Community Development	
Main Ministry	Community Development	
Year Started	1953	
Number Of National Workers	1	
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	1	
Organization Name	WEC International	
Main Ministry	Medical	
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church	
Main Ministry	Community Development	
Number Of National Workers	6	
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	5	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Literature Available	3 primers, 3 story books	