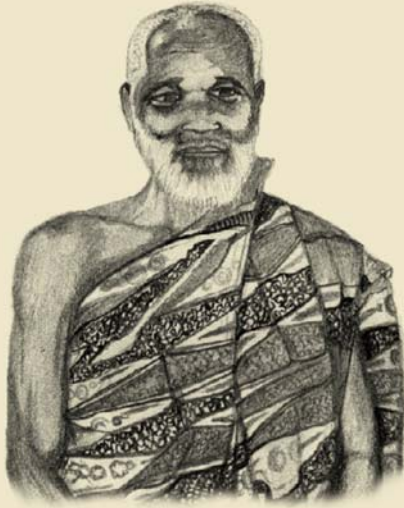


## The Nkonya of Ghana



The Nkonya people are located in the Upper Volta region in the district of Jasikan. The towns in the region with the most Nkonya people are Ntsumuru, Ntumada and Wurupong. Most Nkonya are located in or around these towns. The Nkonya are governed by 2 paramount chiefs, 1 in the north of the area and the other in the south. This has created a strong north-south divide linguistically, politically and socially between these 2 groups of Nkonya people. There are strongly positive attitudes towards culture and language. However language development is seen for cultural ethnic identification rather than for spiritual motivation. There is a very complex relationship between the traditional religious worldview and the understanding of Christian concepts.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

10%

**Churches:**

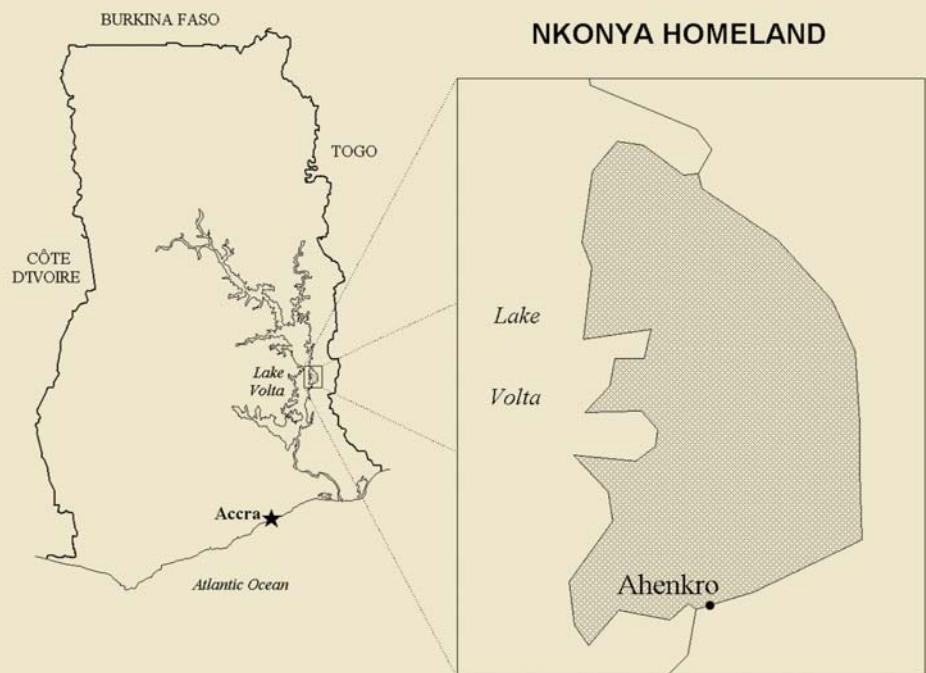
40

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

Portions are available

**Population (date):**

35,000 (1996)



# The Nkonya of Ghana

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	40	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	10%	
Number Of Pastors	6	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Number Of Communities	There are 13 Nkonya communities	
Number Of Churches	40	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Portions are available, more work is in progress	
Translation Medium	printed and audio	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	No hindrances: limited population size and geographical area with a good road linking them together.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Audio tapes	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The services in the area are relatively good and the Nkonya literacy and Bible translation program has only just started.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	35000	
World Population (Date)	1996	
World Population (Urban Percent)	10000	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Ghana	
Country Name	Ghana	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Central Volta Region in the Jasikan District; villages lie in a 25 km strip, north to south between the east side of the Volta Lake and a north-south mountain range.	
Country	Ghana	
Ecosystem Type	Deciduous Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain Slopes	
Elevation	200-500m	
Climate	Hot and humid with seasonal rains.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Language)	Older people are concerned that young people learn Nkonya properly. They feel Ewe is corrupting their language. Language is perceived as central to their cultural identity. Nkonya have actively participated in the Guan Conferences held since 1981. They are interested in developing written material and have begun work toward that end.	
Alternate Language Names	Nkunya, Nkogna, Nkonya	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Second Languages	15	
Second Languages	65	
Second Languages	65	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	AKAN	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	AKAN	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ENGLISH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ENGLISH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	EWE	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	EWE	

# The Nkonya of Ghana

## Item Name

## Item Note

Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Traditionally, Nkonya are closer to Akan/Twi but Ewe has become stronger since the 1960s as the Ewes have pushed their way into the area.
Linguistically Related Languages	AWUTU
Linguistically Related Languages	CHUMBURUNG
Linguistically Related Languages	NAWURI
Linguistically Related Languages	AWUTU
Linguistically Related Languages	NAWURI
Linguistically Related Languages	CHUMBURUNG
Linguistically Related Languages	SHIKI
Linguistically Related Languages	GUA
Comments (Related Languages)	Traditionally, Nkonya are closer to Akan/Twi but Ewe has become stronger since the 1960s as the Ewes have pushed their way into the area.
Neighboring Languages	AKAN
Neighboring Languages	EWE

## Literacy

## Group Description

Adult Literacy Percentage	25
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	4

## Economics

## Group Description

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	\$200
Occupation	farming
Income Sources	proceeds from farms
Products / Crafts	yams, maize, cassava, marijuana
Trade Partners	Ewes, Akans
Modernization / Utilities	grinding mills, saw mill, running water in three towns, electricity
Comment (Economy)	The creation of Lake Volta brought about massive changes in the Nkonya's economic situation. Their standard of living has dropped, farming land has become scarcer and disputed by the Ewe. Cocoa, which used to contribute to their income has dropped considerably in market value. In the last ten years the culture of marijuana has affected families greatly, more so in the south than in the north. A few young men have lots of money and no respect for their elders. Violence and crime have increased.

## Community Development

## Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	Government trained paramedics in villages Government clinic between Tapa and Wurupong, staffed by nurses, Government hospital at Kpandu and Hohoe.
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	maize, cassava, beans, ground nuts, tomatoes, onions, fish, eggplant, garden eggs, leaves
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	Good and ample water in the North, less so in the South
Shelter Description	Mud block houses with tin or grass roofs. Compounds are U shaped and may or may not be open. 8-20 people live in one compound.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Good
Comment (Energy)	wood and charcoal for cooking, kerosene or electric current for lighting
Clothing	Western second hand clothing, women wear wrap around skirts. For special occasions traditional wrap around cloths.

## The Nkonya of Ghana

Item Name	Item Note
Transportation	Constant taxis, trotros and buses, very few private vehicles. The roads are very bad.
Infant Mortality Rate	20%
Life Expectancy	60
Leading Cause Of Death	hypertension

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures	families are structured by the clan. The clan head has the authority. The elders are under him. Inheritance is patrilineal. (Women have a lot more power and money in the south of Ghana than in the north)
Neighbor Relations	Some land disputes with the Ewes have arisen in the more recent past.
Authority / Rule	Different clans provide different roles in society. The local non-Nkonya police's authority sometimes seems to infringe on matters traditionally handled by the chief.
Social Habits/Groupings	Betrothal ceremonies are more significant than marriage ceremonies. Polygamy and divorce are both present, although few have enough money to have more than one wife.
Cultural Change Pace	Rapid
Identification With National Culture	Distinct
Self Image	Threatened
Judicial / Punishment System	starts at clan level, then the chief, then the police.
Celebrations	yam festival in September or October.
Recreations	Funerals, drinking, football, visiting and talking, radio, TV, music
Art Forms	dancing, music, drumming,
Media	radio, TV, gong gong
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive

### Youth

### Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	farming, girls help around the house and farms
Youth Problems (Teens)	Poverty, drug-abuse
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	better schools, more farmland

### Education

### Group Description

Primary Schools	13
Primary School Enrollment	2000
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	60
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	30
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Nkonya
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	13
Comment (Education)	Enrolled percentage with a question mark. Languages of instruction: Twi and Ewe alongside with English. Most children attend primary school. Parents seem to want education for upward social mobility but recognize that middle school is a minimum for employment. Quality is poor due to lack of materials, poor English competence, lack of interest and cooperation between parents and teachers etc. People are highly interested in the use of vernacular in school, but probably see Nkonya more in terms of cultural identification than in improving the quality of education.

### Church Growth

### Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Engaged
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## The Nkonya of Ghana

Item Name	Item Note	
Total Baptized	12000	
Lay Leaders	20	
Christian Literacy Centers	1	
Comment (Church Growth)	Ongoing literacy program, but no building	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	ancestor and fetish worship through sacrifices and ceremonies.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	Most churches show little interest in the development of Nkonya for use in the church, evangelism or teaching. Several churches are active in translating their lectionary on a week by week basis.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	slaughter of sheep for atonement and placation.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Spiritual climate is very jumbled and confused. Christianity has been there for more than a hundred years, but its impact has declined.	
Comment (Religion)	There are strong taboo systems, particular to each town. For Akloba, wood cannot be carried into the village tied: plantain cannot be brought into the village bundled; no food, except fruit can be grown in town. Harmony between ancestor spirits and people is maintained at family, clan, and community levels with prescribed libations, offerings, and sacrifices offered to prevent harm. For health problems herbalists and fetish priests are consulted.	
Recommended Approaches	Bible translation and Scripture in Use, teaching	
Current Needs	clean water, development, improved education, Christian teaching	
Items For Prayer	Spiritual protection for Christian workers, against the principalities and powers, more workers for translation project, more church participation. Cooperation between north and south.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1870	
By Whom	Basel Mission	
Significant Events	Sent Jamaican man there to explain to people that black people can believe, too.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	Portions	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed and Audio	
Scripture Use	Individuals & some churches	
Scripture Use	4	
Comment (Scripture)	(Imported: Literature/Media: Literature: Genesis abridgement, two primers, one story book Recordings: two tapes) (Imported: Summary: Word of God translated: Portions are available, more work is in progress Word of God form: printed and audio Other forms of gospel: audio tapes)	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church	
Main Ministry	Other	
Year Started	1890	
Number Of Adherents	12000	
Number Of National Workers	1	
Number Of Local Workers	21	
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	21	

## The Nkonya of Ghana

Item Name	Item Note
Organization Name	Basel Mission
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Year Started	1890
Number Of Adherents	5000
Number Of National Workers	1
Number Of Local Workers	8
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	8
Language Used By Workers	Ewe

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available	Genesis abridgement, two primers, one story book
Audio Recordings Available	two tapes