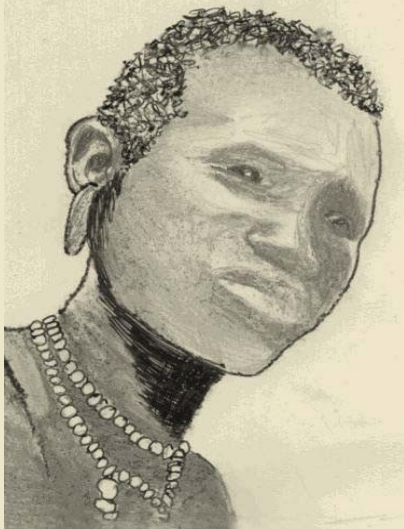


The Majang of Ethiopia



The Majangir live in scattered communities in the forests of Southwestern Ethiopia. They are often interspersed with other ethnic groups. They are located on an escarpment between the highlands and the lowlands. In the past, the group was raided for slaves by highlanders, but they were able to survive by hiding in the dense forest.

The Majangir meet their needs through slash and burn farming, hunting, fishing, and bee keeping. They prepare a special drink made by boiling coffee leaves with a mixture of spices. Some men have several wives and siblings are considered to have a closer relationship than husband and wife. While the Majangir traditionally shifted residence often, they have recently developed permanent villages. They have also recently adopted the practice of wearing clothing.

During the 1960s and 1970s, some of the Majangir became Christians. While there was initially a rapid spread of the gospel, the church there has suffered from a lack of Christian maturity and discipleship. Other Ethiopian Christians have made great strides in reaching out to the Majangir, but major cultural differences have challenged the effectiveness of their outreach.

The Majang do not need church planters, however missionaries with skills in discipleship, biblical training, medicine, or agricultural development may be able to serve the Majang.

Primary Religion:

Tribal Religion/Christian

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

4%

Churches:

Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

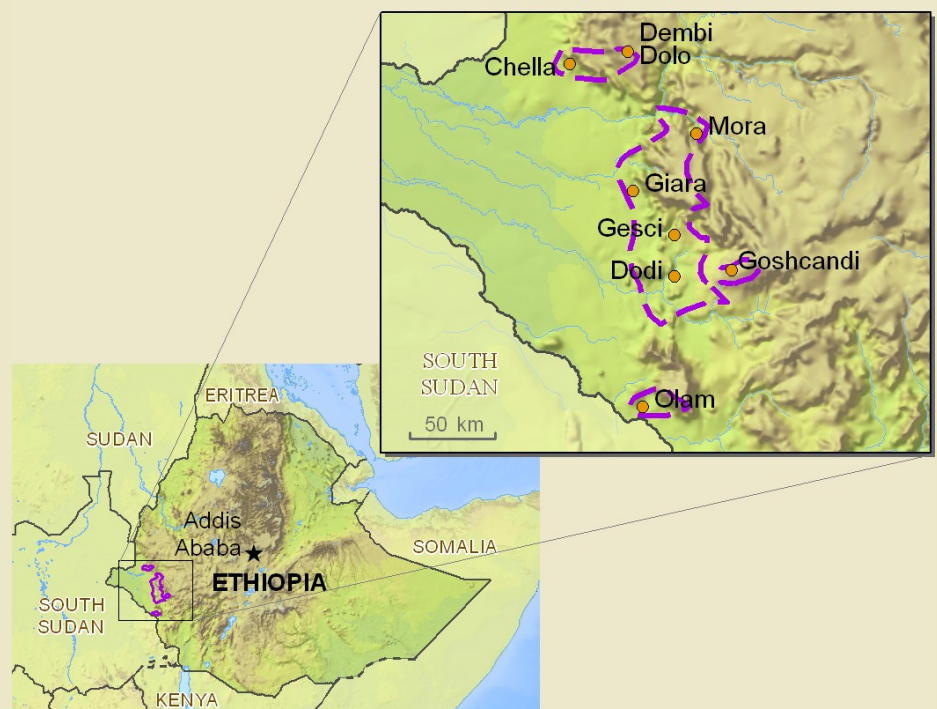
Portions

Population (date):

30,000 (2003)



MAJANG HOMELAND



The Majang of Ethiopia

Item Name	Item Note	Profile Summary
Have They Heard The Gospel?		
Call Themselves Christian (%)	5-10%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	3 - 5%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	75%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	50%	
Antagonistic To Hearing About Jesus (%)	10%	
Comment (Pastors)	fewer than 5 and fewer than 5 evangelists	
Number Of Missionaries Working	6	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	based on knowledge of 2 expatriates and fewer than 5 nationals	
Response To The Gospel	The Gospel was first introduced to the Majangir by missionaries during the 1960-70's and a church was started. In 1974, all missionaries had to leave due to the political shift in power. The church was left with fewer than 20 Christians who had been taught little. The Christians had some audio cassettes of sermons in Majang. The Christians were able to travel up and down the trails spreading the word by playing the tapes. Hundreds of people walked as long as 2 days to hear. Without the help of outsiders, many people came to the Lord. Unfortunately, no teaching was available. As a result, the church that had such an exciting beginning was very limited in its spiritual growth and maturity. In later years, one week Bible school sessions were held in Mettu. Although the church is still in need of sound Christian teaching, they have begun to show signs of spiritual vitality by writing praise music.	
Comment (Churches)	1 church per 1,000 people - Not evenly distributed	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	They have portions of the Bible translated into Majang, but no full books. The portions are not currently available. New Testament translation work is in progress in Teppi. - None of the books have copies currently available.	
Any Hindrance To Scripture Distribution?	The Majang are not easily accessible by road. Outsiders would have to hike in. Also, the Majang do not all live together but are scattered.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings; at one time there were some Scripture/Sermon recordings but they are no longer in circulation	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Missionaries are needed, though not church planters, as there is already an established church. The Majangir could benefit from mature Christians who are willing to disciple them, although it may be difficult for them to accept spiritual counsel from outsiders. Those who could help develop leadership in the established churches would be beneficial. Biblical training is also a key need. Medical workers could help with the growing STD problem. Culturally sensitive agricultural development work could also be of use. Much change may be coming to the Majangir community soon as there are plans for a major road to come through the area. The Christians may need help transitioning their belief system into the new context. The community as a whole may need advocacy to prevent them being taken advantage of by the incoming outsiders.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Ethiopia	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Western Ethiopia	
Country	Ethiopia	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain, Slope	
Elevation	2000' - 4200'	
Longitude	35 E	
Latitude	6 1/2 N	
Climate	Very wet and warm	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	MAJANG	
Alternate Language Names	MESENKO	
Alternate Language Names	MAJANJIRO	

The Majang of Ethiopia

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The Majang of Ethiopia

Item Name

Attitude To Outsiders
Attitude To Change

Item Note

Somewhat resistant
Somewhat receptive

Youth

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)
Youth Problems (Teens)
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)

Garden watchers, get firewood, babysit
Casual sex, sexual diseases, very shallow Christianity, facing cultural vacuum.
Solid teaching from teachers who have consistent lives

Group Description

Education

Primary Schools
Primary School Enrollment
Secondary Schools
Secondary School Enrollment
Language Of Instruction Early Years
Comment (Education)

20
1000
2
20
Amharic
High drop out rate due to language barriers.

Group Description

Church Growth

Reached Status
Reached Classification
Bible Schools
Comment (Church Growth)

Reached
Evangelized
1

Status of Christianity

Religion & Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies
Attitude To Christianity
Attitude To Religious Change
Resistance / Receptivity
Spiritual Climate And Openness
Recommended Approaches
Items For Prayer

Sacrifices
Somewhat receptive
Somewhat receptive
Receptivity
Generally receptive
Develop local church leaders, sensitive leadership from other Ethiopian Christians
Appropriate involvement of Majan in ethnic political power. Reinvigoration of translation & literacy projects.

Status of Christianity

History Of Christianity In Group

Year Began
Significant Events

Mekane Yesus
After missionaries left, church exploded about 1977.

Status of Christianity

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Mekane Yesus

Status of Christianity