

The Ntrubo of Ghana & Togo

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Delo is the language of the Ntrubo people. They are located in a group of villages in the south-east corner of Nkwanta district, Volta Region, east and north-east of Dambai and reaching over into Togo. The chief town of the area is Brewaniase, and the area covers about two-hundred square kilometers. The people farm crops of cassava, maize, cocoyam and plantain. They live in compounds that are built about twenty meters apart. They often migrate to towns such as Hohoe, Accra, and Kumasi in search of jobs and further education.

The Ntrubo are said to come from Atakpame in Togo, but they do not know the date of their migration. They have cultural as well as linguistic affinities with the Achode and the Adele.

Christianity was first introduced in the 1950's with the post war spread of mission schools. Most people with any elementary education would say that they are Roman Catholics or Evangelical Presbyterians. The Pentecostal and Charismatic churches entered the area in the 1960's and 70's respectively. Sadly many church members still continue to practice the traditional religion. Farmers find church going a waste of time, and many are also put off by the insistence on monogamy.

Primary Religion:

Tribal Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

30%

Churches:

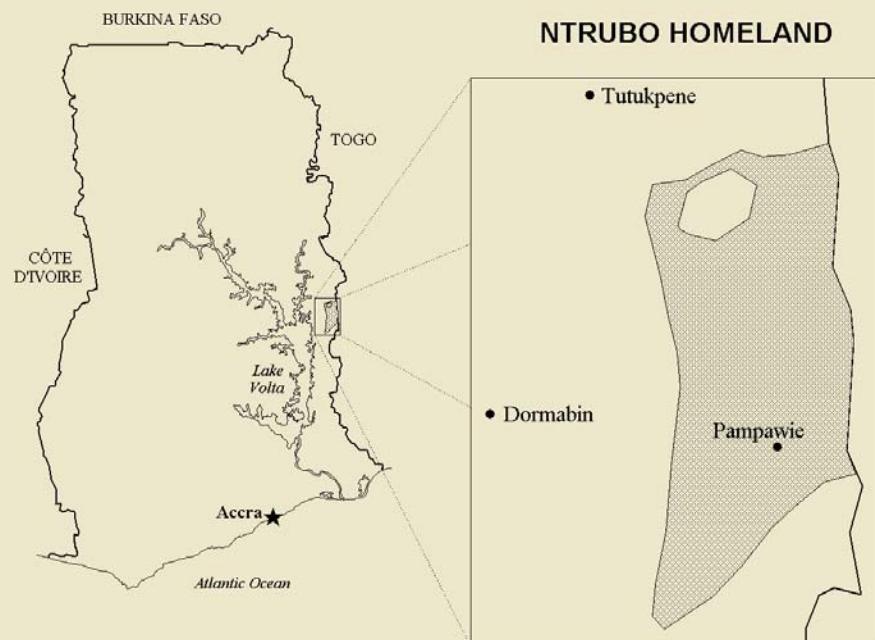
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions are available

Population (date):

10,100 (1995)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	30%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	30%	
Number Of Pastors	20	
Number Of Communities	There are 9 listed Ntrubo localities	
Number Of Churches	33	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes - Portions. Work on the New Testament is currently in progress.	
Translation Medium	Printed	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	No hindrances. Good communication between the Ntrubo villages. Target population is small.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel Recordings has made audio-cassettes.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Teachers, literacy workers, more medical staff. Most Ntrubo teachers are no longer in the area, so literacy programs are difficult to implement, though people are highly motivated about the program. A government hospital and Catholic clinic are near the area in Nkwanta.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	10,100	
World Population (Date)	1995	
Comment (World Population)	The urban percent is very small.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Ghana	
Country Name	Togo	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	South-east corner of Nkwanta district, Volta Region, east and north-east of Dambai and reaching over into Togo.	
Country	Ghana	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Mountain Slopes	
Elevation	200-500 meters	
Longitude	E30'	
Latitude	N8.1	
Climate	Hot and humid with seasonal rains	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	The Ntrubo people speak the language of Delo.	
Alternate Language Names	Ntrubo, Ntribu and Ntribou.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	0%	
Second Languages	25	
Second Languages	1	
Second Languages	100	
Second Languages	1	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ADELE	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ADELE	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	GIKYODE	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	EWE	

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Item Name	Item Note
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	AKAN
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	AKAN
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	GIKYODE
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	EWE
Linguistically Related Languages	ADELE
Linguistically Related Languages	GIKYODE
Linguistically Related Languages	CHALA
Linguistically Related Languages	CHALA
Linguistically Related Languages	GIKYODE
Linguistically Related Languages	ADELE
Neighboring Languages	AKAN
Neighboring Languages	ADELE
Neighboring Languages	GIKYODE
Neighboring Languages	CHUMBURUNG
Neighboring Languages	EWE

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	20
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	6
Comment (Literacy)	Male literacy: 36.0% Female literacy: 7.5%. Attitudes for vernacular literacy are high.

Group Description

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	\$200
Occupation	Farming, trading
Income Sources	Surplus cassava is processed into gari and sold as a cash crop. `Getting ahead` did not use to be a value, since any realized profits create jealousy and expectations from one's relatives. The demands of the fetish also effectively limit the accumulation of wealth. The Ntrubo were not interested in changing or adding crops and were content with minimal work and basic subsistence. Now their values are changing, and they have become more progress oriented.
Products / Crafts	Baskets, raffia bags, pottery, ropes
Trade Partners	Adele, Gikyode, Ewe, Akans
Modernization / Utilities	Grinding mills
Comment (Economy)	Migration to Hohoe, Ho, Accra, Kumasi in search of jobs and further education opportunities

Group Description

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	Government hospital at Dodi-Papase Catholic clinic at Nkwanta
Diet (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Diet)	Cassava is the staple food
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	Collected from streams in head pans, some boreholes

Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note
Shelter Description	Compounds of rectilinear huts, mostly with thatched roof. Some compounds are in the form of one large rectangular building with a central courtyard and rooms all around. Twenty people live in one compound on average. That number includes a man, his wives, his children, and the man's and wives' relatives, but never the wives' fathers. A son who gets married usually builds his own compound. The compounds are built about twenty meters apart.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Comment (Energy)	Firewood is collected in the bush. Kerosene is bought in the market.
Clothing	Western, second-hand clothing. Ghana-made cloth from textile factories. Women wear wrap around skirts with a blouse.
Transportation	Lorries run from most villages about twice a week.
Infant Mortality Rate	10%
Life Expectancy	50 years old
Leading Cause Of Death	Malnutrition. Lack of medical assistance.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	Polygamy is widely practiced. Betrothal of girls used to happen at or soon after birth, but this is rare in the present day. Currently, men tend to look for their own wives. The bride is usually courted by the groom's sister(s) on his behalf, and the sisters bring the bride price to the woman's aunts.
Neighbor Relations	People have clan relationships in all villages, which promotes interaction between villages.
Authority / Rule	One paramount chief, village chiefs, clan heads, family heads. The paramount chief handles external matters and such that go beyond the local matters. The others handle local matters.
Social Habits/Groupings	As in most African societies, funerals play an important role in the life of Ntrubos.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	Clan heads judge minor matters. Village chiefs handle major things (adultery, murder, land disputes).
Celebrations	Yam Festival in August. Funerals are very important.
Recreations	Games, radio, visiting, talking.
Art Forms	Pottery, dancing, drumming, story telling.
Media	Radio, verbal communication
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, watching siblings, cooking, sweeping
Youth Problems (Teens)	Lack recreation areas, lack of jobs
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Jobs, more educational facilities

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	12
Primary School Enrollment	2,000
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	70%
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	35
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Akan
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English

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Item Name	Item Note	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	4	
Comment (Education)	<p>All villages have primary schools. All major villages have junior secondary schools. There is a senior secondary school at Breweniasi. Secondary education is also available at Nkwanta, Kadjebi and Jasikan.</p> <p>The Ntrubo express a very positive attitude towards education. The majority of children attend school. They are proud of their academic standards. The greatest problem is the lack of materials. People feel that education will allow children more access to jobs. When facing reality, they see education as a problem if children want to leave the community. The Ntrubo strongly emphasize women's education.</p>	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Total Baptized	2,500	
Lay Leaders	18	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	2	
Comment (Church Growth)	GIL involvement in the area, but no literacy center.	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Funerals, Yam Festival, weddings, sacrifices, ancestor worship, idol worship,	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	<p>They are very open to Christianity. Many churches make clear distinctions between Christian and fetish practices.</p> <p>For the traditionalists, there are many superstitions and taboos that determine people's behavior. Traditionalists tend to distrust each other since anyone might be a witch and cause harm. People without resources such as widows or the poor are more likely to be identified as witches than those who are well off.</p>	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Ntrubo ceremony of cleansing is similar to redemption in the Christian context. Atonement is an Ntrubo concept as well.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	The Ntrubo are very open to Christianity. The churches grow and many of them make a clear distinction between Christian and fetish practices. For the traditionalists, there are many superstitions and taboos which determine people's behavior. In traditionalist circles people tend not to trust each other since anyone may be a witch and cause harm. People without resources, such as widows or the poor, are more likely to be identified as witches than those who are well off.	
Recommended Approaches	Literacy and Bible translation	
Current Needs	Church buildings, Christian teaching, organized evangelism, literacy	
Items For Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- firm standing of those women who converted from secret societies- financial and personnel (missionary) support for Bible translators- more interest in literacy- continued effectiveness of the local church (more Christians)- more openness to Christianity for the men (men are more tied up in the traditional religion than women)	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1950	
By Whom	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	
Significant Events	Many Presbyterians came as teachers.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	Portions	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed	
Scripture Use	4	
Scripture Use	Individuals & some churches	
Comment (Scripture)	Literature: Gospel of Mark Recordings: two tapes with Christian songs	

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Item Name

Item Note

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Church of Christ
Main Ministry	Medical
Year Started	1991
Number Of Adherents	200
Number Of National Workers	1
Number Of Local Workers	2
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	3
Language Used By Workers	Delo

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available	Gospel of Mark
Audio Recordings Available	Two tapes with Christian songs
Films Available	no entry
Radio Programs Available	no entry
Videos Available	no entry
Audio Visual Available	no entry