



## The Omi of the Dem. Rep. of Congo

The Omi people live in northeastern Congo (DRC), near the Sudan and Uganda borders. Their homeland is filled with economic potential: fertile land, timber forests, grazing, and gold. However, people from outside the region benefit from these resources most, not the Omi themselves. Most Omi make their living from subsistence farming or raising livestock. Some earn a little cash through other trades, primarily raising tobacco as a cash crop.

The Omi people do not hide their anger. This is manifested in bitter quarrels and insults; physical combat is rare. But they also know how to forgive. Sincere reconciliation takes place by sharing a common meal. There is great respect for the extended family and for traditional customs. Sickness, death and setbacks in life are attributed to wrong conduct towards parents, sisters or uncles.

The Omi are open and welcoming, and many people from neighboring groups live among them, notably Lugbara and Kakwa. They are keenly interested in modern medical care and schooling; sadly, these are lacking in the Omi area. For leisure activities, there is traditional dance, hunting, and fishing. Unfortunately, alcohol consumption is impacting the youth negatively, especially those who are uneducated or unemployed.

The Omi have been less affected economically by the recent civil war than many other peoples in eastern DRC because they live near the border with Uganda and have access to imported goods. But the fighting has created instability and a lack of security in the Omi region. As ethnic conflict continues to the south, they may be increasingly called upon to host refugees. No doubt their hopes for development have been deferred by the war's disruption. Christianity is widespread, and Catholics constitute a large majority. The Protestant church sections serving the area are based outside the Omi homeland. Bible translation in the Omi language began in 2003, with the participation of both Catholic and Protestant churches.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

20%

**Churches:**

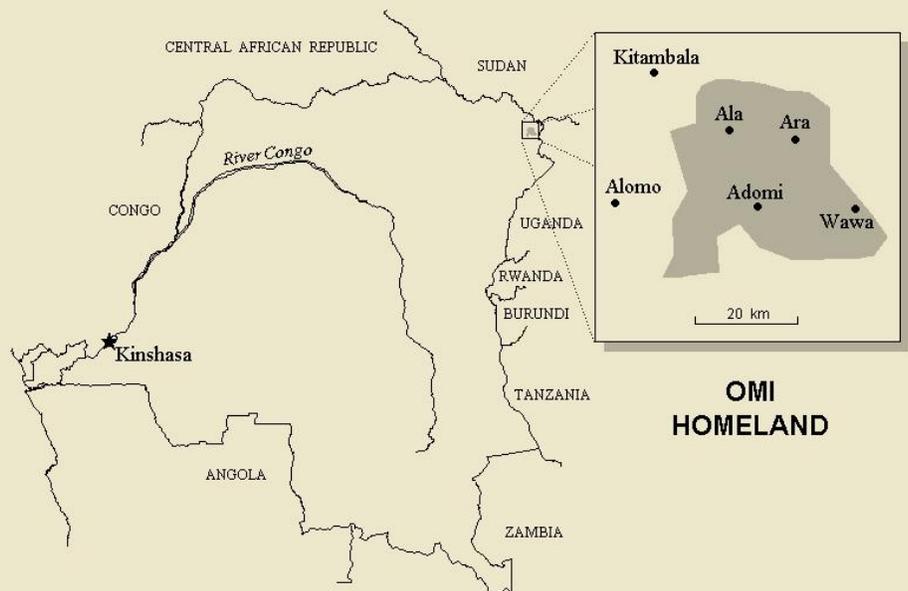
120

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

Work is in progress

**Population (date):**

91,000 (2000)



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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	70%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	20%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	(most practice traditional religion as well)	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	1	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	80 (Only committed Christians have completely abandoned traditional religion.)	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0	
Number Of Pastors	30	
Number Of Missionaries Working	around 3	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	There are Catholic missionaries based in the Omi region. Other missions are working in the area but do not have missionaries living there.	
Response To The Gospel	The Gospel is well received, but change is slow due to indifference and syncretism.	
Number Of Communities	100	
Comment (Number Communities)	8 centers, around 100 villages	
Number Of Churches	120	
Comment (Churches)	Catholic and Protestant	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	The Gospel of Luke is consultant-approved and soon to be published. Translation of Genesis will begin in March 2006.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	The Jesus Film script has been translated and will be recorded soon.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	There is need for missionaries in the fields of: medicine, Bible translation, Bible and seminary teaching, and church planting.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Democratic Republic of the Congo	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Literacy)	Second language literacy rate: 65 (Bangala) 30 (French)  Vernacular literacy program not yet underway	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	First missionaries well received, but today there is syncretism and indifference to the Gospel.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1912	
Comments (History of Christianity)	Introduced in 1912 by AIM missionaries	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	Yes	