The Tumulung Sisaala of Ghana

The Sisaala Tumulung cover most of the Sisaala East District to the Burkina Faso border in the north and shares a border with the Wa East District which is the Pasaale-speaking Sisaala area.

Making charcoal is a Sisaala occupation along with farming. Farms are mostly within 5 kilometers of the village; crops include millet, corn, guinea corn, white and brown beans, groundnuts (peanuts), bambara beans, yams, rice, sweet potatoes and cotton. During the last decade, corn has become a profitable cash crop while the cultivation of cotton as a cash crop has declined sharply.

A town or village is a clan settlement made up of lesser kindred groups or sections, separate family compounds, and individual living quarters. Traditions of migration into the area differ from clan to clan but suggest origins among the Mossi, Mamprusi and Dagombe.

Although Islam is relatively new it has gained much influence in the Sisaala East District. Since the 1990s, mosques have been put up in all the villages mostly with money from Arabic countries. Islam has become attractive because it counts among its fold most of the wealthy and influential Sisaala men and women in politics and business. However, syncretism is wide spread among adherents of Islam in the Sisaala area.

The Sisaalas are open to listen to the gospel preached on FM radio since the dedication of the full Bible in June 2014 but only a few are ready to commit themselves.

On the whole Christianity is seen as a worthy religion to follow because two chiefs in Tumu, who are the paramount chiefs of the Sisaala East have been Catholics. In addition the chiefs of 7 villages are also Christians.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Have They Heard The Gospel?</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call Themselves Christian (%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Believe in Jesus as God &amp; Only Savior</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Believe Jesus is a prophet, but not God’s Son (%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Believe in their Traditional Religion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Pastors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Missionaries Working</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Communities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Churches</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response to the Gospel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is The Word Of God Translated?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Translation Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any Hindrance to Scripture Distribution?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kind of Missionaries Needed?</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Tumulung Sisaala of Ghana

Group Description

Population

World Population For This People 57,000
World Population (Date) 2010
World Population (Urban Percent) 18%

Countries Where People Group Live

Country Name Ghana

Geography & Environment

Location Upper West region: Tumu area east to Sisili river area; Upper East region: Bulisa district. North central.
Ecosystem Type Savanna
Geological Type Cape Coast Granite Complex
Elevation 300-350 m
Longitude 1-2 W
Latitude 10 N
Climate Tropical, hot and dry

Language & Linguistics

Primary Language Sisaala, Tumulung
Alternate Language Names Sisai, Issala, Hissala, Sisala tumu, Isaalung
Language Status Developing
Dialects Gil Bagale (Galebagla), Isala, Nsihaa, Potule
Comment Sisaalas in the Sisaala East District speak two dialects, Sisaali Tumulung and Gelbagil.
Language Use Vigorous. Used in all domains and by all ages.
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue Very positive. Important Sisaala cultural identity. Used on radio to discuss religious, political and socio-cultural issues that affect the development of the people.
Second Languages Akan [aka], Hausa [hau]
Neighboring Languages Western Sisaala [ssl], Kasem [xsm], Buli [bwu], Paasaal [sig], Konni [kma]
The Tumulung Sisaala of Ghana

**Literacy**
- Adult Literacy Percentage: 25%
- Literacy Attitude: Somewhat receptive
- Active Literacy Program: Has lost its appeal
- Publications in Vernacular: The Sisaali-English, English-Sisaali Dictionary. 43 other publications on traditional stories, proverbs, health, agriculture, developmental issues, etc.

**Economics**
- Subsistence Type: Agriculturalists
- Occupations: Farming, charcoal burning; petty trading, Vehicle and tractor maintenance and repairs
- Crops: Corn, guinea corn, white and brown beans, yam, rice, groundnuts, bambara beans, millet sweet potatoes, cotton. Corn has since 2008 become a major cash crop.

**Education**
- Sisaali Tumulung has been approved to be taught in the training colleges and at the university level.
### Status of Christianity

**Church Growth**
- Reached Status: Reached

**Religion and Response**
- Attitude To Christianity: Open but hesitating
- Attitude to Religious Change: Ready for change. A Sisala young evangelist who was formerly a Moslem has returned to his home area and is using the Jesus Film to spread the gospel among his own people. The response is great.
- Resistance / Receptivity: They will listen to the Christian message with interest but only a few commit themselves to become followers and disciples.
- Items For Prayer: A lot of people in the villages would want to hear the Christian message, but not many workers are ready to bring them the good news.

**History of Christianity in Group**
- Year Began: 1950
- By Whom: Roman Catholic Church

**Scripture**
- Translation Status: Complete
- Form of Scripture Available: Printed, Online, Audio, Film/Video

**Missions and Churches**
- Organization Name: The Catholics were the first in the area, followed by Baptist Mid-Mission (Regular Baptist) in 1950. Sometime later the Presbyterian and Methodist Church jointly opened a chaplaincy. Now the two denominations have their own churches. At the moment there are about 12 denominations in Tumu town alone; Catholic, Regular Baptist, Ghana Convention Baptist, Methodist Church of Ghana, Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Church of Pentecost, Assemblies of God, Good News Church, Fountain Gate Chapel, Church of Christ, Deeper Life Chapel, Light House Chapel International, International Central Gospel Church, Apostles Revelation Society and a Prayer Group led by persons from the south of Ghana. The Pioneers Ghana has Community Churches in five villages in the south-east of the Sisaala East District and two in the Sisaala West District.
The Tumulung Sisaala of Ghana

**Christian Literature and Media Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audio Recordings Available</td>
<td>Yes. Gospel Recordings has extensive audio Bible stories and lessons available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film/Videos Available?</td>
<td>Yes. The Jesus Film, also God’s Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Available?</td>
<td>Yes. FM Station (Online radio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online?</td>
<td>Yes. New Testament is available online from Bible.is in textual and audio format. Also available in audio from Faith Comes By Hearing and through iTunes podcast.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>