



The Tama of Chad

A wedding in the Tama village is an exciting and important event. As the sun begins to light the sky on the wedding day, the women gather to spend the day talking and eating with the bride. There is anticipation and readiness in the bride's heart as she waits for her groom. The time for his arrival has not been set; she must be ready at any moment for him to fulfill his promise of commitment to her. The day after the wedding night, all the young men gather with the groom, the ladies gather with the bride, and everyone enjoys snacks of pastries with sesame seeds made especially for weddings. The celebration lasts around two weeks.

Other than the festivities of weddings, life for the Tama is difficult. Their physical and educational needs are great, and they are eager to welcome anyone who comes to help them. Famine has attacked the Tama villages, not only physically, but also spiritually. Their ties to Islam are strong and they have no Christians living among them to demonstrate the love of Christ.

A young Tama bride knows that she must be prepared for her groom to come at any hour. As Christians, we know that we also must be prepared for the return of Christ for His bride. But the Tama have never received the invitation to this wedding. Pray for the Tama, that the Lord will send Christians to live among them, help meet their needs, and share the Good News with them. Also pray that their hearts would be receptive to those God will send and the message they bring.

Primary Religion:

Muslim

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

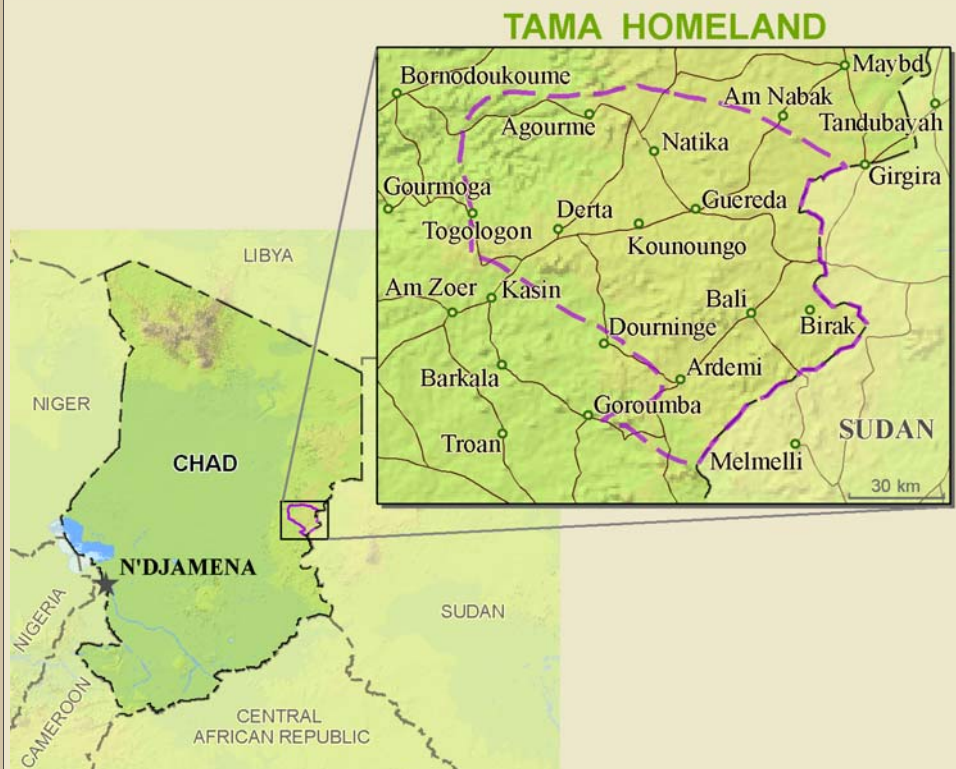
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in their language

Population (date):

62,931



The Tama of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	For translation to be effective, literacy projects would be necessary.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	A cassette by Gospel Recordings.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	They are in need of development work, road building, teachers, literacy workers, famine relief, and medical missions.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	62931	
World Population (Urban Percent)	1888	
Comment (World Population)	3% live in urban areas.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Chad	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Located in the Ouaddai Prefecture of Eastern Chad. They are primarily in the Adr? sub-prefecture, south of Gu?r?da and north of Massalit.	
Country	Chad	
Ecosystem Type	Scrub Forest	
Geological Type	Mountains Mesa	
Elevation	1000m above sea level	
Longitude	22E	
Latitude	14N	
Climate	Hot and dry.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	All Tama speak Arabic to a certain degree, mainly for communicating at the market. However, only 30% can speak Arabic at FSI level three and higher, which shows that they use their mother tongue as the primary language.	
Alternate Language Names	Tamongobo	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Linguistically Related Languages	SUNGOR	
Neighboring Languages	MASALIT	
Literacy		Group Description
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	The literacy percentage of 33% is based on the national average (1994) and may be lower in the villages.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	<\$450	
Occupation	Farming	
Income Sources	Selling their farm products.	
Products / Crafts	Millet and Fruit	
Trade Partners	The Arabs sell milk and meat to the Tama.	
Modernization / Utilities	GTZ runs a cooperative in the region.	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	There is a small dispensary in the Am Zoer and a well stocked dispensary in Gu?r?da. Tama villages are numerous, and many of them have little or no medical help. They are in desperate need of hospitals and qualified doctors.	
Diet (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Diet)	They have millet and meat and can buy from a good source of vegetables from the market in AmZoer and Gu?r?da.	
Water (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Water)	Many villages have wells which supply clean and potable water. However, they are still in need of more wells in the villages.	
Shelter Description	They live in round huts made of mud with straw roofs.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None	
Comment (Energy)	The nearest city with electricity is Ab?ch?.	
Clothing	The men wear long robes called Jalabiywa, and the women wear wrap-around skirts called Pagnes.	
Transportation	Transportation is difficult because of dirt roads which during the rainy season are virtually impassible.	
Infant Mortality Rate	12.3	
Life Expectancy	47 Years	
Leading Cause Of Death	Intestinal Infections.	
Comment (Community Development)	Child mortality, Life expectancy, and leading cause of death information is based on the national average (1994). Intestinal and other infections are due largely to lack of sanitation.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Extended families	
Neighbor Relations	The Tama have good relationships with their neighbors, partially due to their religious ties.	
Authority / Rule	Village chiefs are subservient to the canton chief (sultan) who resides in Gu?r?da.	
Social Habits/Groupings	No clan or caste system	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Distinct	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Judicial / Punishment System	Village chiefs and their elders make appeals to the sultan.	
Celebrations	Islamic celebrations. No traditional celebrations observed.	
Recreations	Socializing, listening to the radio and evening dances.	
Media	Radio Nationale de Tchad broadcasts from Ab?ch? in Fench and Chad Arabic.	
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive	
Attitude To Change	Very receptive	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Youth help with the farming and girls also help with childcare and housework.	
Youth Problems (Teens)	Pre-marital sex	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	A basic education for all youth is necessary. Also, a youth group program which provided group social activities would be beneficial.	
Education		Group Description
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	

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Item Name

Comment (Education)

Item Note

There are 11 primary schools. Often, the teachers have had very little education themselves and have to teach several grade levels at one time. The need for qualified teachers is great.

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

Ramadan, Eid Al-Ahda

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat receptive

Attitude To Religious Change

Somewhat receptive

Resistance / Receptivity

The impression was given by the canton chief that they would be open to Christian missions working among them

Religious Analogies & Bridges

Jesus as direct mediator between God and man; God is referred to as Father

Spiritual Climate And Openness

The commitment to the identification with Islam makes them resistant toward religious change.

Current Needs

They are in need of medical missions, teachers, development work, famine relief, and literacy workers/translators.

Items For Prayer

Pray that the Tama would grow in their receptivity towards mission work among them. Pray that their needs would lead them to search for God in a more personal way. Also pray that the Lord would raise up Christians to go and live among them while this spirit of receptivity is alive.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status

Definite

Available Scripture

None

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Audio Recordings Available

Gospel Recordings has a cassette in the Tama language.