

The Marom of Nigeria



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The Marom are popularly called Tambes. Tambes is the broad name for their dispersed settlements in Pankshin Local Government area of Plateau State. They are estimated to be about 7,000 people. They trace their origin back in Chad, where their ancestors migrated through Maiduguri in North Eastern Nigeria to Bununu in Bauchi State, and to their present location. It is believed that this movement was influenced by conflict and the search for more arable land.

The Marom are mainly farmers. They grow, maize, fonio (acha), millet, sorghum (guinea corn), rice, sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes. Maize is their main crop.

They are bordered by Ngas, Mupun a dialect of Mwaghavul and Fyer speaking groups, with whom they relate cordially, evidenced by intermarriages with all three groups.

They observe a cultural festival called Fatdi Rom. It is a celebration that showcases the cultural diversity and uniqueness of Marom people. It features the display of their unique artifacts, the cultural dances, and songs in the Tambes or Rom language. The high point of the celebration is the crowning of the winner of a local pageant as Miss Rom.

They have a local delicacy called Waap. It is made of fonio (acha), olive oil, locust beans (dawadawa) and meat.

The Marom are reported to be about 95% Christians and 5% African traditional Religionist. There is no known indigenous Marom Muslim. The denominations working among them are: Assemblies of God, Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), Roman Catholic, Redeemed Christian Church (RCCG), Assemblies of God Church (AG) and Christ Apostolic Church (CAC).

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

45%

Churches:

Several

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

None

Population (date):

7,000 (2019)



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Hindrances to Scripture Use	They use Hausa and English Bible translations, but desire to have a Bible translation in their own language.
Response to the Gospel	They have responded to the gospel, and church growth is stable, but nominal.
Bilingualism	<p>The Marom have a strong affinity to the Ngas and Fyer speakers. Most middle aged and older adults understand the two languages.</p> <p>The Marom live as a small group among a big population of the Ngas. Ngas language is widely spoken and the Marom even use Ngas to settle disputes in the palace of Dah-wel-lah Rom, the paramount chief of the Marom. Hausa is a language of wider communication in the area.</p>
Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed	The aspects of ministries that are needed in the communities are: literacy and education, agriculture, health and pastoral training.
Number of Christian Congregations	There are up to 6 Christian denominations serving the community. The congregations have not come together to discuss Bible translation.
Churches using primarily vernacular	None
Language of Wider Communication	Hausa [hau]