

The Terik of Kenya



representative photo by The Advocacy Project CC

The Terik people originated in the Mount Elgon region and later moved southerly to where they live today west of the Nandi people to whom they are related. In the old days they used to fight the Nandi raiding them for cattle, territory and would steal their women. Today, though, they are close friends and in many ways they have assimilated with the Nandi people.

The distinction of the Terik has been strengthened nowadays through teaching of the Terik language in schools and radio programs in Terik as well as other measures. They do not have Scripture in their language, however.

The Terik are one of the Kalenjin peoples who also live in Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia. They constitute nearly 15 percent of the Kenyan population. The famous runners from Kenya are disproportionately Kalenjin.

While most Terik identify as Christian, there are also a sizeable number who follow their traditional animist religion, perhaps as many as 45 percent.

The people speak KiSwahili and English in addition to Terik.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Perhaps 20%

Churches:

Many

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

None

Population (date):

301,000 (2009 census)

