

## The Bena of Nigeria



representative photo

**Primary Religion:**

Ethnic Religions

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

0.8%

**Churches:**

Yes

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

Gospel of Luke

**Population (date):**

96,000



The Bena are also known as Yungur. Rocky, undulating savannah country is where the Bena people live. Missionaries trekked into the Bena area in the 1930s and introduced Jesus and His teaching. Today, most Bena people consider themselves Christians. But any Scripture they've ever read or heard came in another language, so Jesus has remained a foreigner.

The map below shows only a few of their many villages.

Believers are concerned about divorce, substance abuse and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Couples need to discover their identity in Jesus and look to Him to meet their needs, allowing His life through them to slow the soaring divorce rate. Those caught in the trap of substance abuse and sexual promiscuity need to know the One who gives power to break free from these habits and satisfies the longings of love and acceptance that initiate destructive behaviors. Pray that God's Word will touch individuals, convincing them of the love, unconditional acceptance, new life, security and peace they can find only in Christ.

### BENA HOMELAND



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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Is the Word of God Translated?

Additional biblical literature in Bena will be needed to meet the need anticipated in response to the “JESUS” film and the printed and audio versions of Luke’s Gospel. This phase will include two portions of a series of booklets called “The Wonderful Plan of God.” These first two books of the series feature stories from the Old Testament. In addition, Mark, Acts, 1 and 2 Timothy and James from the New Testament. The plan is to use a variety of media to get the Word out. This includes printed materials, audio recordings, and health materials in the language.

Response to the Gospel

In February 2014 the Bena community celebrated launching the Gospel of Luke in their own language. For the first time, they viewed the “JESUS” film, based on the Gospel of Luke. Breathless silence hung over the huge crowd as they listened to the story of the Good Samaritan read in their own language. At the end of the story, they burst into tumultuous applause. People lined up to purchase the Gospels and CDs. Many have mobile phones with SD cards; now they can listen to these first Scriptures on their phones. This first experience of Scripture in Bena has created a hunger for more.

Hindrances to Scripture Distribution

Potential extremist activities could interrupt work.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

Audio recordings are available.