

The Dzun of Burkina Faso

The Dzuun, a small ethnic group of over 13,000 speakers, are one of many people groups inhabiting Burkina Faso's southwest region. The Dzuun are concentrated in about 10 villages, so their territory is not very large.

Economically, the Dzuun are well off compared with other ethnic groups. They live in Burkina Faso's fruit-basket. Thus, besides subsistence farming of millet, sorghum, maize, peanuts and sweet potatoes, the Dzuun earn cash by selling products such as oranges, mandarins, mangoes, yams, okra and sweet potatoes.

Education is gaining in importance among the Dzuun, although less than half of the boys and only one-quarter of the girls who are of school age are currently enrolled. It appears the Dzuun are taking more of an interest in learning to read in their mother tongue. Literacy centers for Jula are also available.

In terms of religion, the group experienced a mass conversion to Islam only 50 years ago. While all profess to be Muslim, many still secretly practice aspects of the traditional religion. The Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM) began a church-planting ministry among the Dzuun 10 years ago. In their approach to evangelism, they have sought to earn favor with village elders, as the opinions of the older people carry much weight in traditional African culture. The missionaries do this through playing audiocassettes of translated Scripture stories to the older generation first. Besides the efforts of those from AIMM, another church group has recently evangelized among the group. Another development in presenting the Gospel is a Dzuun man's writing three Christian songs, based on the Psalms. In church planting, it is always encouraging to see church music that arises from the local culture; that is, music that uses Dzuungoo melodies and instruments, but whose words carry the truth of the Gospel. In addition, the translation of the Scriptures is progressing.

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Primary Religion:

Islam/Local traditional

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0.15%

Churches:

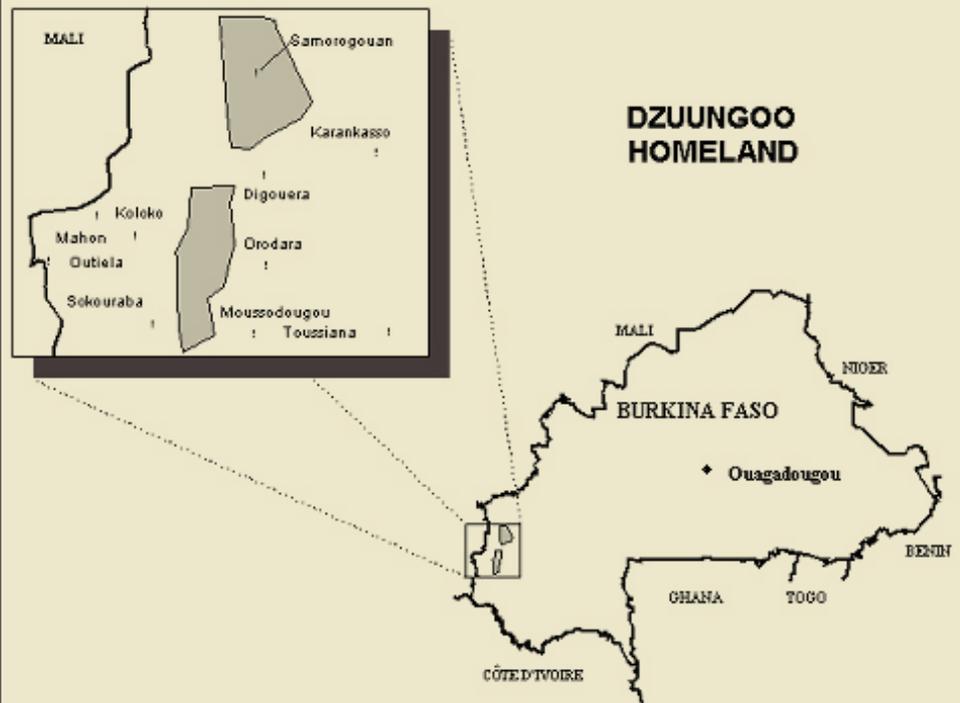
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

work in progress

Population (date):

13,400



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	0.15%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.15%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	90%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	98%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	10%	
Number Of Pastors	1	
Comment (Pastors)	There is only one pastor	
Number Of Missionaries Working	5	
Number Of Communities	10	
Number Of Churches	1	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	work is in progress	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	<p>Literacy is only just beginning in Dzuungoo. So far, the people have accepted the audiocassettes of the Old Testament stories. Yet one can predict future obstacles to distribution of written materials.</p> <p>a. A lack of money. Most speakers are poor and do not have enough money for basic needs such as medicines and education. As a result, many are not willing to spend money on such things as books.</p> <p>b. A low literacy rate. The concept of reading is not a part of their traditional culture.</p> <p>c. Social pressure to retain the current religion and to resist the spread of the Christian Gospel.</p>	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	<p>Recordings: Yes Literature: Yes Video/Films: No Radio: No</p> <p>The audiocassettes of the Old Testament stories have been well received. There are some folk tales, a village history, and a primer in Dzuungoo. Some audiovisuals in Julia can be understood by some of the people, as Julia is the trade language in the area.</p>	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	<p>Evangelists and pastors are needed, as are literacy personnel and translation consultants. It should be noted that this help could come in the form of other Burkinabè, and not necessarily from expatriate workers. Financial help is always appreciated, both in funding and in training for local income generation.</p>	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	<p>Eastern Dunn (DUX) and Dzuungo (SBE) combined in 13th Ethnologue edition to make DZUUNGO (DNN) in Burkina Faso. Western Duun is now called DUUNGO (DUX) in MALI.</p>	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	11%	