

## The Hunsrick of Brazil



German Parade by Pamela Machado CC

The Hunsrik people, who live in Brazil, are almost all professing Christians; however, for the most part, their Christianity is nominal. Though many people go to church, they hardly ever talk about Jesus. Rather, they live in fear of spirits and regularly consult traditional religious leaders.

The Hunsrick, a Germanic people, immigrated to Brazil about 200 years ago. Although they came from many different regions of Germany, for commercial and social reasons they set aside their local dialects in favor of Hunsrick, the majority language.

Most of the Hunsrik live in mountainous regions of Southern and Southeastern Brazil. They enjoy singing and playing music, particularly during their festivals, which occur close to the harvest season.

Because their language was unwritten until very recently, the Hunsrik people do not have God’s Word in their mother tongue. Now, in association with mission organizations and two major denominations, a team of translators is ready to bring the Gospel of Luke and the “JESUS” film to the Hunsrik people, so they may move out of bondage to fear and into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Primary Religion:**  
 Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**  
 Less than 2%

**Churches:**  
 Yes

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**  
 None

**Population (date):**  
 3 million



### HUNSRICK HOMELAND



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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

History of Christianity

One hundred percent of the Hunsrik people would consider themselves Christian, and most identify with one of two major denominations.

Religious Practices and Ceremonies

Over the years, the practice of Christianity in Brazil has become syncretistic. Many church members follow African spiritism and Kardecism, a variety of spiritism that centers on a belief in reincarnation.

They may go to church on Sundays but during the week visit spiritist centers. On holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, they will attend church because they are expected to. But they also go to traditional religious leaders and pay them to bless or curse their enemies. Behind the veneer of morality and Christianity are lives dominated by alcoholism, drugs, spiritism, nominalism and a lack of healthy family values.

Is the Word of God Translated?

No. Even though the Hunsrik people have been in Brazil for 200 years, their language remained unwritten until 2004, when a linguist came to define their grammar and orthography (conventions for spelling, hyphenation, capitalization, word breaks, and punctuation.)

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

Two years ago, the Hunsrik translation team worked with an International Mission Board (IMB) missionary to produce some stories from the Gospels. These were a test version, to give the team some experience in translating. Now they are ready to move forward.

The first step will be a translation of the Gospel of Luke, and then the script for the "JESUS" film. The goal is to have the "JESUS" film available to distribute during the World Cup in July of 2014, with the Gospel of Luke made available later that year

Audio Recordings Available

None

Bilingualism

Most also speak Portuguese

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## Group Description

### Population all countries

World Population For This People 3,000,000 in Brazil; 5,000,000 ethnic population

### Geography & Environment

Location Most of the Hunsrik live in mountainous regions of Southern and Southeastern Brazil.

### Alternate Language Names

Hunsriker, Rio Grand Hunsriker,  
Portuguese: *hunsriqueano riograndense*

### Linguistically Related Languages

German

### Neighboring Languages

Talian, Kaingang, Mbya Guarani

### Economics

Subsistence Type Agriculture and industry.

Occupation The Hunsrik people work primarily as farmers and shoe-makers.

Income Sources The Hunsrik farms are productive, but small, and those who work in industry usually do so for minimum wage, which is considerably lower than the U.S. minimum wage. By most economic standards, they would be considered poor.

### Society & Culture

Community The Hunsrik are very community minded and believe that helping out in the community is essential to being part of society. Thus, it is easy to find volunteers to assist the schools, churches and other organizations.

Recreations Each community has one special festival each year, but they celebrate them on different weekends so the people can attend them all. The Hunsrik are very community minded and believe that helping out in the community is essential to being part of society. Thus, it is easy to find volunteers to assist the schools, churches and other organizations.