

The Alago of Nigeria



representative photo

The sub-Saharan Alago speakers raise the food their families need, including guinea corn, maize and millet grain. For those living in rural areas, meals, usually cooked outside, frequently include *dodo* (fried plantains) and fufufu (pounded yam or pounded grain) with well-spiced soup made from vegetables and leaves. They enjoy lush tropical fruits like oranges, melons, grapefruit, limes, mangoes, bananas and pineapples year-round.

Many Alago people practice traditional religion deeply rooted in ethnic identity, sacred kingships and hereditary political office. Conversion to Christianity means a new cultural assimilation, yet 35 percent claim Gospel faith. The area has over nine Christian denominations. About 10 percent of the Alago follow another major world religion.

When Bible translation work began among the Alago more than 30 years ago, few people were interested. Today, however, Alago speakers are committed to developing their heart language. They want to share with family and friends bound by legalistic religion or perpetual fear of capricious spirits. Believers need mother tongue Scripture to effectively understand and share Christ.

Primary Religion:

Traditional religions

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

35%

Churches:

Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

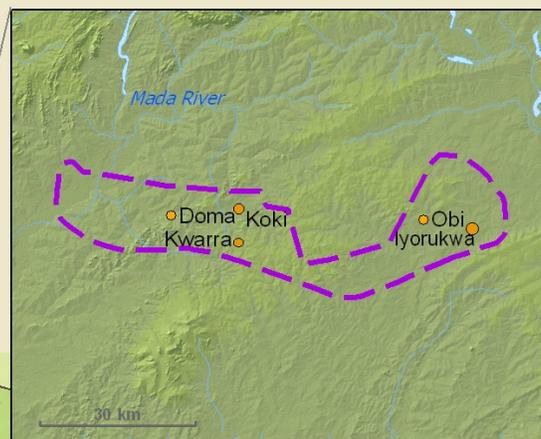
Complete NT and portions of OT

Population (date):

70,000



ALAGO HOMELAND



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Is the Word of God Translated?

When Alago speakers were not interested in heart language efforts, the first translation couple stopped the project. However, that has changed. Alago church leaders yearn for widespread revival in this area long held captive by traditional religion. They believe the times are urgent and they are called to spread the Gospel to their neighbors. To this end, they sent representatives from several different denominations to ask the Nigeria Bible Translation Trust (NBTT) to help produce mother tongue Scriptures.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

Since Alago speakers are passionate to preserve their language, a mother tongue literacy program is planned. Alago speakers from all religious backgrounds will have the opportunity to read and appreciate their mother tongue. This will prepare eager readers for Alago Scripture. In future years the team hopes to collaborate with school authorities to produce more Alago literature. This also will promote the completed Scriptures and reach the community with God's Good News. For nonreaders, the "JESUS" film is a top priority.

Audio Recordings of Gospel Available Yes

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Status of Christianity

Religion and Response

Need for Translation

Translators witnessed their community's hunger for Scripture when they traveled by road to several Alago towns with portions of the Gospel of Matthew. They unloaded the booklet stacks before curious onlookers. Good news is exciting to share, and as people read, they caught the team's enthusiasm for God's Word in Alago! Believers are excited to have more Scripture to understand Him better and to share the Good News with others. The Scriptures in the language the Alago understand best will deeply transform their lives.