

## The Asurini do Xingu of Brazil



Caló ancestors fled the Iberian Peninsula during the 16th century Inquisition. The people immigrated to Brazil between the 16th and 19th centuries. Many still live in suburb tents; some own businesses in cities. People work in shops and hotels, and drive taxis. Caló men often buy products on the border to sell in cities. Women are fortunetellers, card and palm readers. Since Chibi speakers are not technically “indigenous,” they are not well-accepted in Brazil. This large people group clings to the margins of mainstream society, sometimes hiding their identity.

Chibi-speaking men wear loose-fitting pants, colorful embroidered shirts, earrings and gold jewelry; some also boast gold teeth. Ladies wear skirts and blouses. Older women use doily head-coverings and wear as much jewelry as they can afford. All Caló people love to dance and sing; they rarely refuse opportunities to perform in public.

Religious practices in Caló culture mix animistic traditions and Christian rituals. A fear of spirits permeates daily life. Their religious heritage is a world religion worshipping a pantheon of gods, so these pragmatic people do whatever improves their circumstances. This includes faithful church attendance and rigorous attention to rituals, alongside trusting fortunetellers’ advice.

**Primary Religion:**

Christianity/Animism

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

Unknown

**Churches:**

Unknown

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

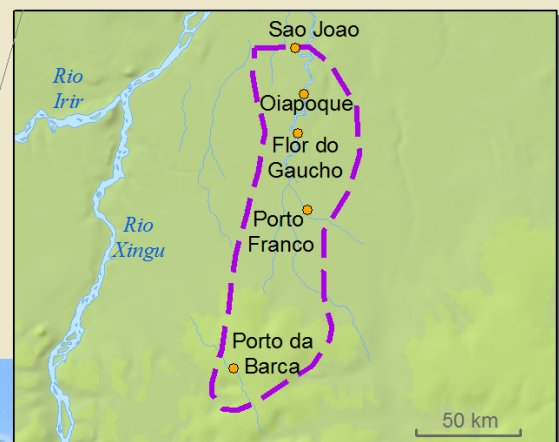
Oral Bible Stories and portions of Scripture

**Population (date):**

800,000



### ASURINI OF XINGU HOMELAND



## **The Chibi of Brazil**

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### **Have They Heard The Gospel?**

Is the Word of God Translated?

The Ruth Cluster project was a foundation, when mother tongue Chibi and a dozen other languages received the Book of Ruth. Caló translators started their training with Ruth and will continue it during this project. Christians will have verses from Genesis, all of Jonah and Luke, 30 oral Bible stories and the “JESUS” film. The team will use the oral method Video Audio Strategy for Translation (VAST), to produce the “JESUS” film from Luke’s Gospel.

Hindrance to Scripture Distribution

Because Caló culture passes important information orally more often, this project focuses on non-print media first. Oral Bible stories and the “JESUS” film will give church planters and believers tools to share Jesus with family and friends more quickly. They will anticipate printed Scripture, but teaching and encouraging their culture to use texts will take time.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

The “JESUS” film will be the first video media in history for Chibi speakers. It will help them understand how God loves them and gave His son to live, die and rise again to provide salvation. Luke and oral Bible stories will powerfully impact people who listen, discuss and internalize God’s truth. The translation team anticipates a decrease in problems, like prostitution, child marriage, idolatry, fatalistic thinking, abuse of alcohol and drugs. They are eager to see their people change, when they begin to understand deeply God’s message in the heart language.