

## The Bialiba of West Africa



The Bialiba are an ethnic group of some 80,000 in northwestern Benin. Approximately 1,800 speakers live in southeastern Burkina Faso.

The Bialiba homeland is one of the driest regions of Benin, a savanna region quite different from the humid Benin coastal area. The average rainfall in the north, which is between 35 to 40 inches or 900 to 1000mm yearly, is nevertheless sufficient for the subsistence farming that the Bialiba practice. The crops grown are millet, sorghum, peanuts, and yams. Maize is also becoming popular as a staple crop.

**Primary Religion:**

Tribal Religion

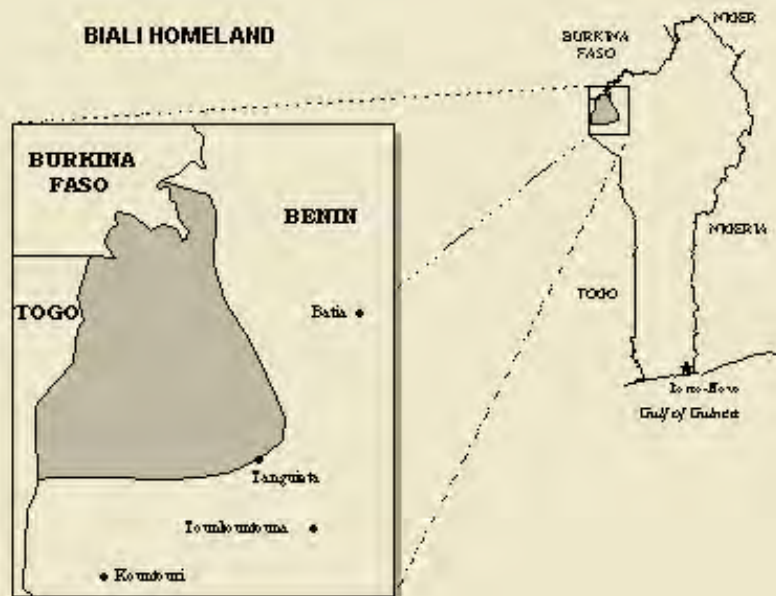
**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

**Population (date):**

80,000 (1998)



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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	80000	
World Population (Date)	1998	
Comment (World Population)	There are 80,000 centered in north western Benin. Approximately 1,800 speakers live in southeastern Burkina Faso.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Benin	
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	They live in the north western Benin in the Atakora province.	
Country	Benin	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Other	
Climate	They area is the driest in Benin.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Language)	Most of the Biali are monolingual.	
Alternate Language Names	Bieri, Bjeri, Bjerb, Berba.	
Linguistically Related Languages	NATENI	
Linguistically Related Languages	NATENI	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	1	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Literacy)	Literacy rate is very low. In the Biali region the government has been helping the Bialiba to learn to read and write their language for several years. A new production center for reading materials, a facility which will have desk-top publishing and duplicating equipment, is also under construction.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Occupation	They are subsistence farmers growing millet, sorghum, peanuts and yams.	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Diet)	Maize is becoming popular as a staple crop.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	In their sets of beliefs, the world is full of spirits which control the events and situations. To appease these spirits, the group, as well as individuals, must offer sacrifices of chicken and small livestock.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Islam has not greatly penetrated the group. Christianity has also had only a small influence.	
Items For Prayer	Pray for the translation program as it gets underway, as two translation teams have had to leave this project for other jobs.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church	
Comments (History of Christianity)	The Roman Catholic church has had an outreach in the area since the 1970s. The Assemblies of God has been in the area for a similar period of time, and a new evangelical mission, the Ministry of Jesus, began work in the area in 1995.	

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### Item Name

### Item Note

#### Scripture

#### Status of Christianity

Translation Status

In Progress

#### Christian Literature And Media Status

#### Status of Christianity

Literature Available

Yes