



The Butbut Kalinga of Philippines

The Butbut people live on the mountain ridges and plateaus along the Chico River at the Southern boundary of Kalinga, and Mountain Province, Northern Luzon. The Butbut people forms part of the Municipality of Tinglayan except for those who migrated to Tabuk, Upper Kalinga. The tribe is composed of the communities of Bugnay, Buscalan, Lokong, Ngibat and Butbut . The estimated population is around 12,000. Like the rest of the Kalinga people, Butbut is represented in the formal government structure by elected officials with assistance from respected elders.

Bodong, known as the Peace Pact system, defines intertribal relationship. The Peace Pact is very important because of intermittent tribal wars among the different tribes which are caused by land dispute, killings, and water rights. The elders of the family who holds the Bodong is responsible to maintain the peace between the tribes. This centuries old practice of revenge-killing has kept the Butbut people under the bondage to fear. Currently there is tribal war going on between Butbut and a neighboring tribe.

The Butbut people have never been subjugated by the Spanish conquerors. This makes them a very proud race who cling to their animistic practices of consulting spirits believed to live in the trees, big rocks and rivers, and also divination using livers of pigs and chickens. In 1988, the Gospel was introduced to Bugnay through Youth with a Mission. At present, approximately 7 % of the population in Bugnay profess faith in Jesus Christ while the rest still hold on to their traditional beliefs. There is one church being lead now by a native

Primary Religion:

Animism

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

7%

Churches:

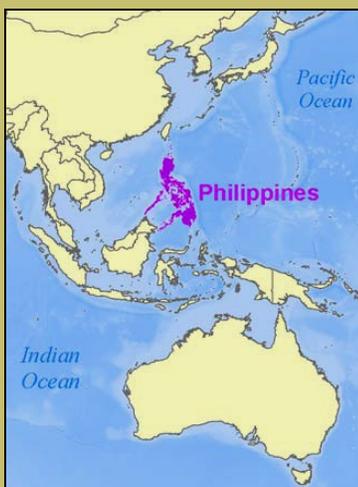
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Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

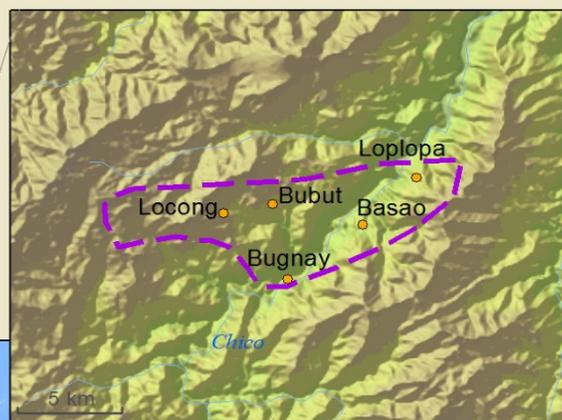
Portions

Population (date):

12,000



BUTBUT KALINGA HOMELAND



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Believe In Jesus As God And
Only Savior

7%

Is The Word Of God Translated?

Bible translation began in 1999. Plan is to do a complete New Testament and portions fo the Old Testament

Response to the Gospel

As acceptance grows, sick villagers sometimes call church elders to pray for them, which provides time to share God's Word. A team member always brings translated Scripture portions to read aloud, before witnessing and praying. On two occasions, when a team member read Mark 5:25-34 in the heart language, both men listening believed in Christ and now regularly attend church, Bible studies and prayer meetings.

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Group Description

Geography & Environment

Location

The Butbut people live on the mountain ridges and plateaus along the Chico River at the Southern boundary of Kalinga, and Mountain Province, Northern Luzon.

Literacy

Literacy Attitude

Somewhat receptive

Active Literacy Program
Comment

Yes

Literacy was started in the year 1997 and is still ongoing. Many adults have graduated from literacy classes. Most of these are women. Men have low motivation to learn to read and write. TAP believes that “Translation brings the Book but Literacy is the Key that opens the Book”. Because of this, literacy classes are hoped to continue for the next years to come

Society & Culture

Neighbor Relations

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Authority Rule

Like the rest of the Kalinga people, Butbut is represented in the formal government structure by elected officials with assistance from respected elders.

Self Image

Prestigious

History Of People Group

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Status of Christianity

Religion & Response

Current Needs

One of the hindrances to the translation is the lack of finances to pay language assistants who help with the translation.

Items For Prayer

- 1.) That a peaceful resolution to the ongoing tribal war will be found and put in effect soon.
- 2.) That the translation work will speed up
- 3.) That the Butbut men will also be motivated to enroll in literacy classes
- 4.) That the TSC will agree to partner with the Butbut team in translation
- 5.) That many Butbut will be available to help in the translation.
- 6.) That all the team members will have good health and have relief from sicknesses such as arthritis, allergies and TB.

History Of Christianity

Year Began

1988

By Whom

Youth with a Mission

Scripture

Translation Status

In Progress

Available Scripture

Portions

Comment

In 1992, TAP translators started living among the Butbut people and learned their language and culture. The Gospel of Mark was published last year and is now being distributed. Acts is currently being translated. The book of James is ready for consultant check. Bible translation is a long process requiring many people to contribute all kinds of talents, skills and expertise. One of the hindrances is the lack of finances to pay language assistants who help with the translation. The Seed Company (TSC) is hoped to partner with the Butbut translation team this year. With this partnership, it is hoped that the New Testament will be finished in 8 years. Native Butbut translators are now being trained and mentored to do the translation themselves.

Churches

Number Of Pastors

1

Number Of Churches

1

Comment

An early church in the Butbut area was planted in about 1995; several denominations are now active. Community interest in Christianity is growing, in response to outreach activities, which younger generations respond to positively. Many older people still embrace traditional animistic beliefs and practices.