

The Zhilvu of Nigeria



Zhilvu woman with a bowl of local berries

The Zhilvu (also spelled Jilvu) people along with the Kəryə, Konzəl, Madzara, Vin, Huli, Bwin, and Menta are part of the Fali people in Adamawa State, Nigeria. Although there are several languages spoken amongst these groups, all of the people consider themselves to be the Fali people socially and culturally. Most Zhilvu have learned to understand the Madzara and Bwin, though their young children still have difficulty understanding them. Unlike the other Fali people, the Zhilvu report that they did not originate from Bagira (Bwin) or Cameroon. The elders say that they have always lived in the very same hills that they live in today.

The Zhilvu farm in the hills of Adamawa State and follow a more traditional way of life. They are known for building stone embankments on the mountain sides for terrace farming. Major crops include guinea corn, maize, ground nuts, bambara nuts and beans.

While most schooling is conducted in English, sometimes Hausa, the language of wider communication in the area. One teacher says that given the opportunity, he would like to teach in the local language. He says that it would help the children to better understand what they are learning.

They report that they would be eager to have the Bible in their own language because although many speak Hausa, there are still some that do not. Having the Word of God in Zhilvu would mean that all the people in their villages would have access to the Bible. The gospel of Luke has been drafted, checked by consultant and is being prepared for publication.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

6%

Churches:

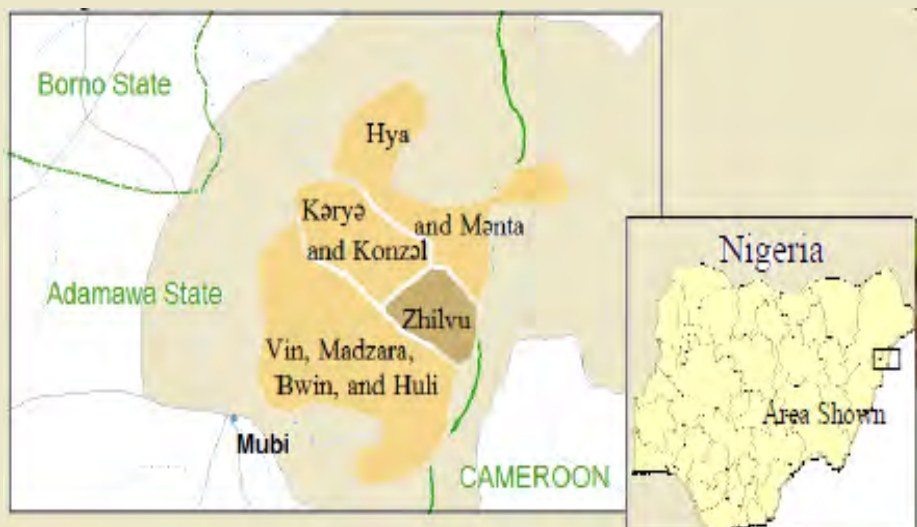
Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

16 Bible Stories

Population (date):

1,490 (2000)



The Yasa of Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Is the Word of God Translated?

Yasa people have enjoyed oral Bible storytelling in their mother tongue, and they're eager for more. The Yasa team needs a little more help with developing a formal writing system for their complex language. The Yasa translators are eager to add more oral Bible stories to those already circulating among their friends.

How Have They Responded

The zesty flavor of God's Word in their own language has sharpened the appetite of the Yasa speakers. It follows the introductory work on the Oral Bible Storytelling.

Hindrances to Scripture Distribution

High cost of doing business in the country. Also government suspicion of outside organization.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

None.