

## The Abadi of Papua New Guinea



The Abadi people live in approximately 11 villages near the Hiritano Highway, NW of Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. Their proximity to Port Moresby provides them with many economic benefits, including the lucrative business of selling their garden produce at Port Moresby markets. Some Abadi people work in the city, however strong family and social ties entice many people to remain in the villages.

Although the Abadi have preserved some traditions, they also have a number of modern conveniences, including electricity, water tanks, gas pressure lamps and a few televisions. Most Abadi houses have corrugated iron roofing. Many houses have Masonite walls, though some have walls made from “bush” materials such as bamboo. Some houses have screens and glass windows, items uncommon in rural Papua New Guinea. For cooking, many Abadi people use a metal grill over the fire, which may be raised off the ground.

The Abadi people have excellent educational opportunities. A large number of Abadi people have been to high school, and some have attended university.

The London Missionary Society evangelized the Abadi area in the late 19th century, and Christianity is the dominant religion in the Abadi area. However, some people also practice traditional magic and divination. Church leaders say that many people are uninterested in church activities, preferring to spend their time playing sports. Church leaders are concerned that the languages used in church—English and Motu—are not well understood by their congregations. During a church conference in 2000, church leaders made a commitment to pray that the Bible would be translated into Abadi. It is evident that they have been praying, and that seeds of vision for Bible translation have been planted and watered among the church leaders. Let’s join them in praying that the Abadi people will receive and understand God’s Word in their own language.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

> 10 - 20%

**Churches:**

9

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None

**Population (date):**

3,500 (2003)



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Item Name	Item Note
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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

### Profile Summary

Call Themselves Christian (%)	50%
Comment (Call Themselves Christian)	It is reported that approximately 50% would call themselves Christian. One church leader said that an Abadi chief had welcomed the gospel to his area, so everyone was required to convert to Christianity. This has led to some nominalism within the church. However, there is an expectation in Abadi churches that Christians are supposed to be involved and participate in church. It does not seem sufficient to them that a person just show up for church on Sundays.
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	> 10 - 20%
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%
Number Of Pastors	21
Number Of Missionaries Working	5
Response To The Gospel	One church leader said that an Abadi chief had welcomed the gospel to his area, so everyone was required to convert to Christianity. This has led to some nominalism within the church. However, there is an expectation in Abadi churches that Christians are supposed to be involved and participate in church. It does not seem sufficient to them that a person just show up for church on Sundays. However, it is reported that some of the people also practice traditional magic and divination.
Number Of Communities	It is reported this people group live in approximately 11 villages.
Number Of Churches	9
Comment (Churches)	It is reported there are >21 pastors for this people group.
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	There is no Scripture available in the Abadi language. Although the literacy rate is 67.4% (Census 2000) and there are Christian radio broadcasts in English, Tok Pisin, and Motu, (languages which some Abadi people can understand), the Abadi pastors say that people do not understand these languages well enough to really understand Christian teaching (The Bible is read in English and Motu in church.)
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Abadi people need someone to help them translate the Bible into their own language.

### Population All Countries

### Group Description

World Population For This People	3,500
World Population (Date)	2003
World Population (Urban Percent)	15% (approximate)
Comment (World Population)	Close proximity to the capital means many Abadi people live in the city but return frequently to the villages to visit relatives.

### Countries Where People Group Lives

### Group Description

Country Name	Papua New Guinea
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### Geography & Environment

### Group Description

Location	Located in Central Province NW of Port Moresby near the Hiritano Highway.
Country	Papua New Guinea
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs
Geological Type	Coastal
Elevation	Sea Level
Longitude	146.7 E - 146.9 E
Latitude	9.0 S - 9.1 S
Climate	Hot and humid

### Language & Linguistics

### Group Description

## The Abadi of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
Primary Language	Abadi	
Comment (Language)	Under 'People Definition' the primary language is shown as 'KABADI', but it is reported to be an alternate name for this people group.	
Alternate Language Names	Kabadi	
Alternate Language Names	GABADI	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	It is reported that 'only a few old women' are monolingual.	
Comment (Second Language)	The younger generation of Abadi speakers report bilingualism in Tok Pisin and English, with limited knowledge of Motu. In contrast, older men more commonly reported the ability to speak, or at least be passively bilingual in other local languages such as Lala, Toura and Waima. However, amongst married and young men and women of all ages, these languages are only known on an individual basis.	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Children of mixed marriages may speak their father or mother's languages in addition to Abadi. No significant intermarriage with one group.	
Linguistically Related Languages	Lala	
Linguistically Related Languages	Waima	
Comments (Related Languages)	It is reported that 'Toura' is a related language. The 'Select List' lists two: 'Toura - Eth. Code DON' and 'TOURA - Eth. Code NEB'.	
Neighboring Languages	Lala	
Neighboring Languages	KOIALI, MOUNTAIN	
Neighboring Languages	Toura	
Neighboring Languages	FUYUG	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	67.4% (2003 Census)	
Comment (Attitude to literacy)	Some people value literacy so that they can read the newspaper, and parents often want their children to learn to read. The younger generation places a higher value on literacy than do the elderly.	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	Schools in the area teach children in Abadi during the first 3-4 years of their education.	
Publications In Vernacular	There was once an Abadi primer, but it is no longer available to the people. Only the old people remember the existence of this book.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Comment (Subsistence Type)	This people group is reported to be 'swidden' agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	It varies. Abadi people can make approximately \$250 U.S. in two weeks selling their garden produce at markets in Port Moresby.	
Occupation	Gardeners	
Income Sources	Abadi people sell coconuts, betel nut, sago, tomatoes, sweet potato, mustard, bananas and cabbage. Some people sell pigs. In addition, residents of Pinu village sell prawns, fish and crabs.	
Products / Crafts	String bags	
Trade Partners	The Lala and Koitabu (nearyby language groups).	
Modernization / Utilities	Nylon fishing nets, televisions, generators, solar panels, gas pressure lamps, water tanks, plastic containers, bicycles, metal pots, kettles, plates, cups and cutlery, and linoleum.	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Good	

## The Abadi of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note
Comment (Health Care)	For medical needs people in the Abadi area go to the Health Centre at Agevairu. The furthest walk to Agevairu is from Pinu, from where it takes 1 hour to reach the Health Centre. In addition, there is an Aid Post at Avabadina, (5 minutes walk from Keveona, 20 minutes from Koupuana and 30 minutes from Magavaira). Both the Health Centre and the Aid Post are always open in case of emergencies. If an Abadi person has a serious illness, they travel by private car or PMV (public motor vehicle) to Port Moresby. Traditional healers are often consulted in cases of illness.
Diet (Quality)	Good
Comment (Diet)	The diet consists mainly of bread, starchy 'cooking' bananas, papaya, coconut, and fish.
Water (Quality)	Good
Comment (Water)	The Aro'a River is the water source for the villages located alongside it. Other villages have water tanks, wells, and/or solar-powered pumps to draw water from the ground.
Shelter Description	The Abadi live in large family homes constructed 6-10 feet off the ground that are situated on large wooden posts with detachable wooden ladders. Most homes have a veranda outside the front of the house, with sago palm roofing and no walls. Most homes have several rooms leading off the veranda with a bamboo platform underneath the house, extending across part or the entire underside of the house. This provides a place for people to sit in the shade of the house. Cooking may be done outside in a separate cooking area (small shelter built which may be built from traditional materials – sago palm roofing, wooden sides or no sides at all) or in a small area or room to the side of the veranda.
Electricity	Many homes have electricity.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Good
Clothing	Second hand western style clothing.
Transportation	Walking and public transportation (usually in the back of a truck).
Infant Mortality Rate	56.53 per 1,000 live births (national average according to <a href="http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/pp.html#People">http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/pp.html#People</a> ).
Life Expectancy	63.83 years (national average according to <a href="http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/pp.html#People">http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/pp.html#People</a> ).
Leading Cause Of Death	Illnesses in the Abadi area include malaria, TB, pneumonia, diarrhoea, asthma, fever, flu and dysentery, are the leading cause of death.

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures	The family structure is patrilineal and people live together with their extended family.
Neighbor Relations	Amiable
Authority / Rule	Each clan in each village has a chief. There is generally an overall chief in each village, and one paramount chief for the whole Abadi area. When a chief dies, his eldest son becomes the new chief.
Social Habits/Groupings	Every person belongs to a clan.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Judicial / Punishment System	The village elders and the village chief might settle some disputes. A feast is organized to bring people together to discuss the problem. Disputes might also be settled by the Council or Committee. (Council or Committee usually refers to one person, often connected with the church.)
Celebrations	Feasts are held in the Abadi area for funerals, initiation of new chiefs, harvest times and pig exchanges. The most common type of feast is the funeral, or headstone, feast. This is held 2-3 months after a death. At this time a headstone will be placed on the grave. The family of the deceased will cook a large meal of pigs and cassowary and there may be a singsing (traditional dancing).
Recreations	Sports
Art Forms	Woven string bags, traditional drums, and headdresses.
Media	There are radio broadcasts in English, Tok Pisin, and Motu.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive

### Youth

### Group Description

# The Abadi of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Household chores	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	7	
Comment (Primary Schools)	The reported seven primary schools includes elementary and community schools.	
Primary School Enrollment	>538	
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	It is reported >538 are enrolled (with about 85% eligible for enrolment). However, only approximately 400 students actually attend class regularly.	
Secondary Schools	0	
Secondary School Enrollment	60 (Approximate)	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Abadi	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Comment (Language Of Instruction)	Instruction in grades Prep, 1, and 2 is in Abadi, with "bridging" to English beginning in grade 2 and continuing in grade 3. Upper grades are taught in English.	
Comment (Education)	There is approximately 1 teacher for every 20 students enrolled in primary school. About 5 of the schools have less than 10% of students attending from outside this people group. There are many well-educated Abadi people. Approximately 16% of people over 10 years of age have completed grade 10 (Census 2000). It is reported that there are no secondary schools in the Abadi area. Students may attend secondary school in Port Moresby and are taught in English.	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Comment (Reached Status)	It is reported >10% or 20% of this people group are Believers.	
Reached Classification	Evangelized	
Total Baptized	>600	
Lay Leaders	95	
Bible Schools	0	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0	
Christian Literacy Centers	0	
Comment (Church Growth)	The biggest denomination in the Abadi area is the United Church. There are also Catholic, Christian Revival Crusade, and Seventh Day Adventist congregations.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Besides funerals, there are no specific religious practices or ceremonies listed for this people group.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	While there is some nominalism in the church, there is an expectation in that Christians are supposed to be involved and participate in church. It does not seem sufficient to them that a person just show up for church on Sundays.	
Recommended Approaches	Work with existing churches. With regard to Bible translation, Abadi is related to Waima, a neighbouring language with a New Testament translation. There is a good possibility that work that's been done in Waima could be used as a starting point for work in Abadi. There are also many educated people in the area who could possibly be trained to translate the Bible into their own language. The Abadi people have a lot of potential to participate in translation themselves.	
Items For Prayer	Pray for Bible translation into the Abadi language and that the Abadi people with financial and educational resources will be motivated to use them to help with the translation work. Also, that the Abadi people will be interested in Christian life and church activities.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1872	
By Whom	London Missionary Society	

# The Abadi of Papua New Guinea

## Item Name

Significant Events

## Item Note

The London Missionary Society (LMS) began work in Manu Manu in 1872, reaching the Abadi people shortly thereafter. The first LMS missionaries to the area came from the South Pacific, including Samoa and Fiji. Through a series of church merges, the LMS congregations became the Melanesian Church, then Papua Ekalesia, and finally the United Church in the 1960s. LMS foreign missionaries worked among the Abadi between 1872 and 1968, when the church was "indigenized." Since that time, the United Church leadership has been entirely Papua New Guinean.

## Scripture

Available Scripture

None

Form Of Scripture Available

None

Comment (Scripture Use)

There is no Scripture available in the Abadi language.

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio

There are Christian radio broadcasts in English, Tok Pisin, and Motu, (languages which some Abadi people can understand). However, the Abadi pastors say that people do not understand these languages well enough to really understand Christian teaching.

## Status of Christianity

## Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Number Of Congregations

1 (In Ukaukana Village)

Organization Name

Papua New Guinea Revival Church

Comment (Organization)

The organization's name is reported to be 'Christian Revival Crusade'.

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1986

Number Of Local Workers

2

Organization Name

Seventh Day Adventists

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1991

Number Of Congregations

1 (In Keveona Village)

Organization Name

United Church

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1870's

Number Of Congregations

5

Number Of Expatriate Workers

0

Number Of National Workers

At least 5 pastors from other areas of PNG.

Number Of Local Workers

19 evangelists

## Status of Christianity