



Nanerige Senoufo of Burkina Faso

The Nanerige Senoufo, one of the four Senoufo ethnic groups in Burkina Faso, number about 65,000. They live in a beautiful area of wooded savanna. In the rainy season lakes appear as a result of an unusually high water table. Their area is blessed with a more predictable rainy season than is found elsewhere in Burkina Faso. Most are farmers who grow maize, cotton, sorghum, onions and beans. Very few have learned such trades as tailoring, carpentry and small engine mechanics, so most acquire cash from the sale of surplus crops, and cash crops like cotton. Water is available from village wells. Because the well water is not always clean, water borne diseases are common.

Senoufo Nanerige remain fiercely independent people, suspicious of outsiders because of bad past experiences. They take pride in their language, which is quite complex and therefore difficult for outsiders to learn and understand. They retain a strong allegiance to fetish worship, making sacrifices to appease the spirits.

Concerning their social structure, the Nanerige are similar to other Senoufo groups in that the extended family lives in one compound made of many mud huts. The male elder maintains the authority in his compound, just as the elders maintain the authority on the village level.

At the present time, 1998, there are four missionaries working among this people group. What the missionaries have discovered is that, while foreign ideas and people may be treated with suspicion, there is a widespread belief in God, and interest in hearing God's Word in their language. Selected Scriptures telling the main points of the Gospel story chronologically from Genesis through to the life of Jesus Christ have been translated and are being received with great enthusiasm by village elders, who are the first to hear them. The Gospel message will soon be taking root, but there is a lot of work ahead to share the story with all the Nanerige people, and to ground them in the Word.

Primary Religion:

Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

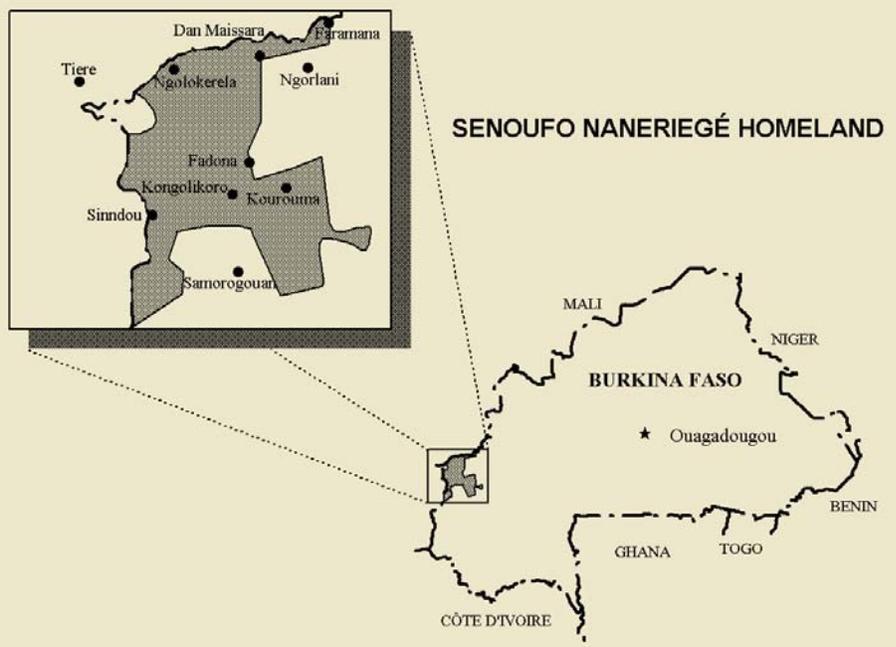
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Work is in progress

Population (date):

65,000 (1998)



Nanerige Senoufo of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	.006	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	adopted	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	20	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	30	
Number Of Missionaries Working	4	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	portions, work is in progress	
Translation Medium	printed and in recording	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	When people have very little money, they do not make personal possession of the Scriptures a high priority. The language is very complex and difficult to read. However, illiteracy is not a hindrance to an oral culture and strategy.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None in Nanerige	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes for Scripture translation, literacy and church planting	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	65,000	
World Population (Date)	1998	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Northern Kenedougou Province in southwestern Burkina Faso, on the border with Mali.	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Ecosystem Type	Scrub Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	300-400 m	
Longitude	5 degrees west	
Latitude	12 degrees north	
Climate	Hot year round. Cooler and dry in December and January, warm and dry in February, hot and humid March through May, warm and rainy June through September, hot and humid in October, warm and dry in November.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	The water table is usually high in some areas, which can create problems with sewage and with wells.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Alternate Language Names	Nanderge, Nanerge, Nanergue, Nandereke, Naani	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Most men speak Jula well enough to trade, and women know it to a lesser degree. But their own language is so strongly rooted in the identity and security of the Senoufo that, as one missionary said, "Senoufo will never die". He also said, that people find it very useful to have a language that no one else understands (the Senoufo languages are very complex, and even other African people groups shy away from learning it). French is the official language of Burkina Faso, and is the medium of almost all formal education and of government administration. The extent of knowledge and use is largely dependent on the amount of formal education.	
Linguistically Related Languages	SENOUFO, MAMARA	
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Comments (Related Languages)	All Senoufo languages	

Nanerige Senoufo of Burkina Faso

Item Name

Neighboring Languages

Item Note

SENOUFO, MAMARA

Literacy

Group Description

Literacy Attitude

Somewhat receptive

Active Literacy Program

No

Comment (Literacy)

Key portions of the Old and New Testaments have been translated. The Nanerige are more open to Literacy in French than in Jula, the trade language of the area. It remains to be seen if they would be open to literacy in their own mother tongue, because it is very complex and difficult to read. The literacy rate of 19% is that of Burkina Faso as a whole and may not reflect the situation among the Nanerige.

Economics

Group Description

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalists

Average Annual Income

300\$

Occupation

Farming by almost everyone. In small towns there is some small business of carpentry, tailoring, mechanics and trading.

Income Sources

Sale of surplus crops, cotton, and vegetables.

Products / Crafts

Maize, cotton, sorghum, onions, and beans; other products are manufactured mostly for utilitarian purposes like pottery, tools, and furniture.

Trade Partners

Neighboring ethnic groups.
Cotton is sold to the State- run cotton processing plants.

Modernization / Utilities

None

Comment (Economy)

The figure of the average income is the UNICEF figure for Burkina Faso as a whole. It does not reflect what is gained by bartering, which is the most common form of trading in rural areas, nor does it reflect the value of assets like livestock.

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Health Care)

Many villages have government run health centers, and some have pharmacies.

Diet (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Diet)

Sorghum and maize are the main staples, accompanied by a vegetable based sauce, occasionally some fish and very rarely some meat. Other foods are sweet potatoes, yams, grains like fonio and sesame seeds, peanuts, beans, and fruits according to season.

Water (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Water)

Deep bore wells are available in some villages. Other wells do not always have clean water, since they are shallow. The water table is unusually high in many places.

Shelter Description

Square mud huts with mud or tin roofs arranged around a common courtyard.

Energy/Fuel (Quality)

None

Comment (Energy)

Firewood is the main source of energy for cooking. Kerosene is used in small quantities for lamps. Flashlights are also used.

Clothing

The cloth is mainly produced in Burkina Faso and neighboring countries, and is fashioned by local tailors. Large quantities of second hand, imported clothing of all kinds are available in the markets. The Nanerige wear the second hand clothing for every day work clothing, but highly value the African fashions for special occasions.

Transportation

Bicycles and walking are the most common forms of transportation. Some have small motorbikes or mopeds. Some public transportation is available for longer journeys.

Infant Mortality Rate

16%

Life Expectancy

47 years

Leading Cause Of Death

untreated illnesses

Comment (Community Development)

The child mortality rate and the life expectancy are the UNICEF figures for Burkina Faso as a whole.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures

The Father is the family chief; his wives and children adhere to his authority. The extended family lives together in the same compound.

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Item Name	Item Note
Neighbor Relations	The Nanerige have an interesting relationship with the Bolon, coexisting peacefully together, even in small villages, but with no intermarriage.
Authority / Rule	Elders maintain authority in the village. Large issues are taken to the government civil authorities.
Social Habits/Groupings	Music and dancing are very important to the Nanerige. Other past times are visiting at the market, talking and drinking together.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	Elders take on the small cases in the village. Big issues are handled by the civil authorities of the government.
Celebrations	Funerals are important events and are celebrated by the whole village.
Recreations	Talking and drinking together, visiting in the market.
Art Forms	Nanerige music, the way they wear their traditional clothing on special occasions.
Media	No media activity is aimed at the Nanerige dialect of Senoufo.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat resistant
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant
Comment (Culture)	The people can be perceived as open because they have accepted the missionaries in the area. However, they also have a mistrust of outsiders who can be perceived as "wanting something", because they have been wronged in the past. Those who have been converted to Islam seem to be more open to outsiders. The people as a whole are still very tied to the traditional beliefs and way of life.
Youth	
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Helping in the fields for the boys. Girls are called upon in the domestic tasks: drawing water, getting food ready, helping with the younger siblings, etc.
Youth Problems (Teens)	There is a lack of salaried job opportunities for educated people in the area.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Salaried jobs. Tied in with this, another big need is to be reconciled in their minds between modern ideas and innovations on one hand and population growths and limited employment opportunities, which leave a big gap between their aspirations and reality.
Education	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	37
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	58
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French
Comment (Education)	The figures for the percentages of eligible students enrolled are from the 1994-95 school year; the pupil to teacher ratio is from the 1992-93 school year; the two figures are for the whole province, including larger towns, where they would be considerably higher than the villages. The figure also seems only to reflect the situation of villages where there are schools.
Church Growth	
Reached Status	Adopted
Total Baptized	4
Religion & Response	
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Funerals are most important ceremonies in which the whole village participates. All people belong to one or more fetishes to which they give allegiance. The traditional religion is woven throughout the daily lives of the people, and sacrifices are common.
Attitude To Christianity	Indifferent
Attitude To Religious Change	Indifferent

Group Description

Group Description

Status of Christianity

Status of Christianity

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Item Name

Item Note

Resistance / Receptivity

The people have been receptive to four missionaries, but outsiders can be viewed as a threat. A key to being well received is to work through the elders, which these missionaries did, who are extremely conservative and concerned about seeing the community hurt by divisive new, unproved ideas. They are curious about Christianity, but their perception so far is that it is irrelevant to their lives. However the Gospel message is being listened to with great enthusiasm by the village elders. As one elder said, after listening to a few sessions, "Now we know why things are the way they are".

Spiritual Climate And Openness

They are curious about Christianity, but their perception so far is, that it is not relevant to their lives. However, the Gospel message is listened to with great enthusiasm by village elders. One elder said, after listening to a few sessions, "Now we know why things are the way as they are"

Comment (Religion)

Pray for the departure from traditional satanic practices. Pray that the Holy Spirit will make the people listen and understand the truth of God. Pray that God would raise up Christian leaders among their own ethnic group. Pray for missionaries to come and help them. Pray that the translation program will continue.

Recommended Approaches

Translation and literacy work. Work through the elders of the society. Patiently talk with the elders about the content of the Scriptures.

Current Needs

Literacy and Bible translation

Items For Prayer

Pray for a departure from traditional Satanic practices. Pray for the Holy Spirit that He may open people so that they may hear and understand the truth of God. Pray that the Lord may raise up Christian leaders from among their own ethnic group. Pray for missionaries to come and help them to build up a strong community of believers. Pray that the Bible translation program will continue.

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Year Began

70

By Whom

Roman Catholic Church

Significant Events

In 1984 the African Inter-Mennonite Missions (AIMM) of the United States started church planting in the area. The Assemblies of God of Burkina Faso also evangelize in the area.

Comments (History of Christianity)

The Assemblies of God and the Roman Catholic church have churches in the area, but neither target the Senoufo. The Mennonites are working specifically with the Nanerige Senoufo.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status

In Progress

Available Scripture

Portions

Form Of Scripture Available

Printed and Audio

Scripture Use

Private use only

Scripture Use

3

Comment (Scripture)

The missionaries have translated Key Old and New Testament passages, a total of about six hours worth of listening or reading. These portions have been recorded as well as printed.

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Mennonite

Country Of Origin

United States

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

84

Number Of Expatriate Workers

4

Number Of Workers Using Local Language

4

Language Used By Workers

Sénoufo, Nanerigé

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available

see above.
Literature is also available in Jula and in French

Audio Recordings Available

see above

Nanerige Senoufo of Burkina Faso

Item Name

Films Available

Radio Programs Available

Videos Available

Audio Visual Available

Item Note

The Jesus Film is available in Bambara , similar to Jula, the trade language.

A Christian radio station in Bobo-Dioulasso broadcasts in Jula. It is uncertain how much of this language the Nanerige can understand.

None

None