



The Bituri of Papua New Guinea

Primary Religion:

Christianity, Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

25 - 30%

Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in mother-tongue

Population (date):

875



The Bituri of Papua New Guinea

| Item Name | Item Note | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Have They Heard The Gospel? | | Profile Summary |
| Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%) | 25 - 30% | |
| Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior) | A majority of them are members of an Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea. | |
| Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%) | 5 | |
| Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%) | 5 | |
| Number Of Missionaries Working | 1 | |
| Response To The Gospel | 95% would call themselves Christians but 75% tend to combine traditional religious practices with Christianity. 5% have not heard who Jesus is. | |
| Number Of Communities | 5 | |
| Comment (Number Communities) | Five: Upiara (383), Tewara (249), Bisuaka (173), Petom (51) and Kasimap (20-25). | |
| Comment (Churches) | Four evangelical protestant churches in five communities | |
| Comment (Churches) | Majority are members of the Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea. According to community pastors, ~90% of the pop. Attends church on Sundays in three of the five communities. | |
| Is The Word Of God Translated? | Not formally, but pastors frequently prepare informal translations to memorize scripture or teach a Bible lesson in the local vernacular. As of 2002 community leadership expressed over and over again ". . .we have a very great need for God's Word in our language. . .a very great need." Land has been set aside for this purpose, waiting. | |
| Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution? | The literacy rate is only 35% in their mother tongue; and only 40% in English | |
| Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution? | NO! They greatly desire translators to come to write the word of God in their language. | |
| Population All Countries | | Group Description |
| World Population (Urban Percent) | 0 | |
| Countries Where People Group Lives | | Group Description |
| Country Name | Papua New Guinea | |
| Geography & Environment | | Group Description |
| Location | Western Province, Trans-Fly Region, South Bank of the Fly River | |
| Ecosystem Type | Tropical Forest | |
| Geological Type | Riverine | |
| Elevation | 0-50m | |
| Longitude | 142d42'E | |
| Latitude | 8d33'S | |
| Climate | Tropical | |
| Language & Linguistics | | Group Description |
| Comment (Language) | Bitur is primary Language (not yet on Ethnologue list) | |
| Alternate Language Names | DUDI | |
| Alternate Language Names | PASWAM | |
| Attitude Towards Mother Tongue | Very receptive | |
| Linguistically Related Languages | WERE | |
| Linguistically Related Languages | BARAMU | |
| Comments (Related Languages) | Makayam is another related language not on the Ethnologue list | |
| Neighboring Languages | AGOB | |
| Neighboring Languages | WERE | |
| Neighboring Languages | BARAMU | |
| Neighboring Languages | IDI | |
| Comments (Neighbor Languages) | MAKAYAM and WIPI are two neighboring languages not listed in the Ethnologue | |

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| Item Name | Item Note | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Literacy | | Group Description |
| Literacy Attitude | Very receptive | |
| Publications In Vernacular | None | |
| Comment (Literacy) | General literacy Rate 40% for English, 20% in Gogodala, 10% in Motu; 35% in Bituri | |
| Comment (Literacy) | In 1998 MT education began so it is difficult to assess literacy rates. Educated adults who understand orthographical conventions in English are able to use that knowledge to facilitate reading and writing in the Bitur language. | |
| Economics | | Group Description |
| Subsistence Type | Agriculturalists | |
| Education | | Group Description |
| Comment (Education) | Average level of education in Bitur language group is grade 6. 50% male-50% female in elementary school. 12% female-88% male in high school. | |
| Church Growth | | Status of Christianity |
| Bible Schools | 1 | |
| Comment (Church Growth) | The one missionary is not native to the Bituri people | |
| Comment (Church Growth) | The Bituri District Bible School was begun in 1966 and still operates today. Eventually, Bituri men who had completed their training replaced the Gogodala pastors. The first generation of trained Bituri leaders still have a heart to equip and train the next generation of church leaders/members. | |
| Comment (Church Growth) | There are 9 other local workers among the Bituri | |
| Religion & Response | | Status of Christianity |
| Attitude To Christianity | Very receptive | |
| Current Needs | The ECPNG district has been recently restructured at the local level, and the national church leaders are (for the first time) learning how to govern themselves by making decisions together and implementing them using the resources within the community. This time of transition has been a bit confusing for national leaders who have previously relied on expatriate direction at that level. | |
| Items For Prayer | 3. Pray for whole-hearted devotion to God by the people and hunger and seek Him daily. Ask God to reveal any deception or misconception they have about God's ways. Pray for wisdom for the people to break spiritual strongholds associated with syncretistic practices. | |
| Items For Prayer | 2. Guide and direct the local/district level leaders of the ECPNG church | |
| Items For Prayer | 1. God would bring His Word to the Bituri people. That a team would be assigned to work with and train national translators in their tongue. | |
| History Of Christianity In Group | | Status of Christianity |
| Year Began | 1934 in Trans-Fly area, 1952 in Bitur group | |
| By Whom | Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea | |
| Comments (History of Christianity) | A Gogodala pastor named Malu worked in the Bituri district several years until 1962. | |
| Scripture | | Status of Christianity |
| Translation Status | Definite | |
| Comment (Scripture) | Some passages have informally been translated by pastors who then post them in churches and they're memorized. | |
| Comment (Scripture) | The Bituri people are motivated to work on a Bible translation project, with men identified to serve on a translation committee; however, they are in need of assistance and training | |
| Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature | no | |
| Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings | no | |
| Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio | no | |