

The Punjabi Sikhs of Kenya

Sikhism began as a result of a blending of the mystical aspects of Hinduism and Islam. In 1469, Guru Nanak came to teach "living truth" that combined Islamic and Hindu teaching. Followers worship together without regard to caste, creed, race or sex, and without ritual. All prayer comes from a sincere heart, and is to be accompanied by a pure life.

In 1699, Sikhism became a militant order called Khalsa panth. A special uniform was devised, and members were called singhs (lions). A special style of turban was introduced which is still worn today by the singhs. The 10th Guru, Govind Singh, having no successor, invested the holy writings, Granth Saheb, with the guruship, thus ending the line of human gurus. The book itself is not worshipped, only the word of god it contains.

When the British became involved in India, the Sikhs became a vital part of the Indian Army. It was as soldiers that many came to Kenya, to police the colonies, and later, the building of the railroad. Thousands of other Sikhs also came then as professionals and skilled workers. When the railroad was completed, a few opted to remain in Kenya, where they set themselves up as entrepreneurs in their skills. They especially excelled in mechanics, which they continue today, along with electrical work, construction, professions and many other skills. Some went back to their farming skills, especially around Lake Victoria.

The Sikh temple, one of many in Kenya, has become a landmark and exemplifies their open-door policy. Anyone may eat and sleep in their rest houses. Sikhism also recognizes the equality of men and women. Marriage is not restricted to within the community, or even religion, although individual families may object. A Sikh wedding is very simple compared to a Hindu wedding.

In 1957, International Missions, Inc. came to Kenya to minister to Asians, including Sikhs. Some have studied the Bible, but only a few have accepted Christ.

Image
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Primary Religion:

Sikhism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0.1%

Churches:

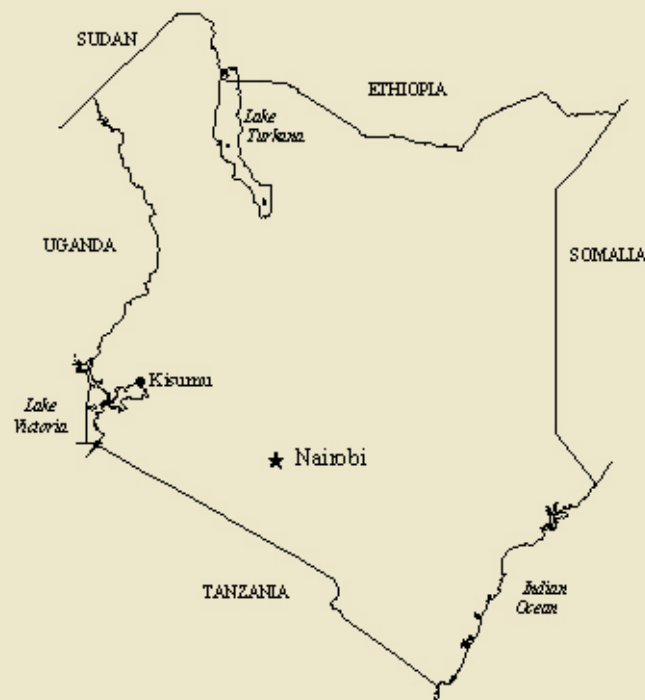
Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Bible

Population (date):



PUNJABI HOMELAND



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	.1%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.1%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	99.9%	
Number Of Missionaries Working	4	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes, in Punjabi	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	The Bible is in the Punjabi language, but is not readily available in Kenya. The hindrance is really only their lack of interest in Christ.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, cross-cultural missionaries are definitely needed.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Kenya	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Cities	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Alternate Language Names	Panjabi, Punjabi	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ENGLISH	
Literacy		Group Description
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	Literacy rate is low	
Economics		Group Description
Occupation	mechanics, construction workers, professionals, farmers	
Income Sources	Trade goods	
Trade Partners	Kenyans	
Modernization / Utilities	Very modern lifestyle	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Very good	
Diet (Quality)	Very good	
Water (Quality)	Very good	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Very good	
Clothing	Western with turban (men)	
Transportation	Private vehicles	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Nuclear family	
Neighbor Relations	Good	
Social Habits/Groupings	Have own social clubs	
Cultural Change Pace	Medium	
Identification With National Culture	Similar	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Celebrations	The Sikh calendar has over 30 holidays. Most are commemorations of Sikh gurus. The most important day for Sikhs is Baisakhi, celebrating the day Guru Govind Singh chose to initiate his Khalsa army. It is held on the Spring Solstice. Sikhs also celebrate Diwali, Dussehra and some other Hindu festivals, but with their own variations and emphases.	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Education		Group Description
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Comment (Education)	They run their own schools.	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Blend of Hinduism and Islam	
Attitude To Christianity	Indifferent	
Attitude To Religious Change	Indifferent	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1957	
By Whom	International Missions	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Scripture	
Available Scripture	Bible	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed	
Scripture Use	Hardly at all	
Comment (Scripture)	Prefer English	
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	No	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	International Missions	
Main Ministry	Church Planting	
Year Started	1957	
Number Of Adherents	1	