



The Kaninuwa of Papua New Guinea

The Kaninuwa live in the villages of Sivesive and Kikwanauta. Both villages are located in the north of Goodenough Island, in the province of Milne Bay, southeast Papua New Guinea, around the Catholic mission station of Wataluma.

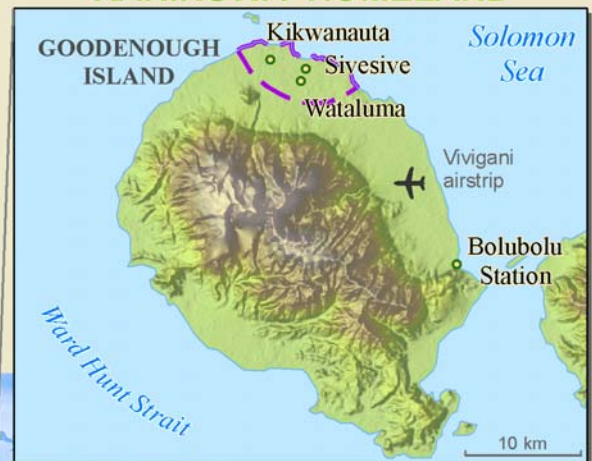
This people group are dedicated to the cultivation of their gardens. They produce taro, yam, sweet potato, sago, and fruits such as coconut, bananas, pineapple and papaya. They also raise chickens and pigs, and fish in the sea. They sell some of the products from their gardens at the Wataluma market, and some people sell them in the provincial capital of Alotau.

The house style of the Kaninuwa people has been changing with the introduction of new materials and architectural styles. Houses are constructed on wood stilts. Roofs are perched and covered with sago palm leaves or sheets of tin. The walls are made of the bark of saksak (sago palm), and the floor is made of the bark of the limbum tree (another kind of palm tree). On average, the household size is 6 people.

Although they are a small group, they are very proud to be Kaninuwa. They have strong feelings for their own language, and they have education in the vernacular during the first three years of primary school. Due to the fact that they are located very close to the Wataluma Catholic Station (where there is a primary and secondary school), many of the Kaninuwa have attended school up to grade 6, 8 or 10.

The majority of the Kaninuwa call themselves Christians, and approximately half of them attend the United Church in Sivesive. However, many keep practicing magic for success in their gardens and hunting. There is not a Bible in their mother tongue. Only the leaders and educated members are able to read the Bible in English or in Dobu, the language of the church there. One of their needs is a

KANINUWA HOMELAND



Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

30%

Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None

Population (date):

400 (2004)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>90%	
Comment (Call Themselves Christian)	The majority of the Kaninuwa call themselves Christians but few of this people group have a true relationship with Jesus. Many keep practicing magic for success in their gardens and hunting.	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	30%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	30%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	60%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%	
Number Of Pastors	0	
Comment (Pastors)	There is no pastor within this people group. However, there is one pastor from the area where Bwaidoka is spoken (also on Goodenough Island). He understands Kaninuwa but does not speak it.	
Number Of Missionaries Working	1	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	There is one national missionary.	
Response To The Gospel	The gospel first arrived on Goodenough Island almost 100 years ago. The first missionaries were Methodist, who had arrived initially on Dobu island. The inhabitants of Dobu had been cannibals and the Kaninuwa's worst enemies before. Missionaries from Bwaidoka (in the south of the island) brought the gospel to the area of the Kaninuwa people in the 1970s. Now, the majority of the people call themselves Christians. However, few people have a true relationship with Jesus.	
Number Of Communities	Two	
Comment (Number Communities)	The two villages of Kaninuwa (Sivesive and Kikwanauta) are situated around the Catholic station in Wataluma, but the Kaninuwa people are not Catholic. There is a United Church in Sivesive village.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	According to government statistics, 70% of the people are literate and the Kaninuwa people have been writing in their own language for years, although no formal books exist. There is a lack of understanding of the Scriptures because they do not have the Scriptures in their mother tongue. In some churches, the Dobu Bible is used in addition to the English Bible as well as some portions in Bwaidoka.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Foreign missionaries are needed to translate the Bible or to train national translators. The leaders of the villages and the leaders of the different churches are very ready to help.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	400	
World Population (Date)	2004	
World Population (Urban Percent)	5%	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Papua New Guinea	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	The villages of Kaninuwa are located around the Catholic station in Wataluma, in the north of Goodenough Island (S9.22560, E150.24353)	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Coastal	
Elevation	30 meters	
Longitude	E150.21633-E150.24383	
Latitude	S9.22046-S9.21309	
Climate	Tropical forest with heavy rains. There are two seasons: dry season (with sporadic rains) and rainy season. Temperatures range between approximately 20°C at night and 28°C in the day.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Map Features	Bolubolu Station S9.37311E150.35773 Kikwanauta S9.21309E150.21633 Sivesive S9.22046E150.24383 Vivigani Airstrip S9.30984E150.32390 Wataluma Mission S9.22560E150.24353
Language & Linguistics	Group Description
Comment (Language)	It is reported there is a similarity to Iduna, a neighbor language.
Percent Monolingual (%)	10%
Comment (Second Language)	The majority of the people understand simple things in English, Iduna and Bwaidoka.
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	There are no other mother tongues of this people group, and no other people groups speaking Kaninuwa.
Comments (Related Languages)	The Kaninuwa language is not related to any of the other languages on Goodenough Island, but it is related to other languages in the Milne Bay Province.
Literacy	Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	80%
Percent Literate For Men	90%
Percent Literate For Women	70%
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	Education in the vernacular language during the first three grades of primary education.
Publications In Vernacular	The book of the alphabet of Kaninuwa.
Economics	Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Comment (Subsistence Type)	They grow sweet potato, taro, tapioca, bananas, papaya, and coconuts. Some youth work in industrial fishing.
Average Annual Income	Lower than the national average (US\$530 per capita)
Occupation	Fishing and agriculture.
Income Sources	The Kaninuwa sell coral trout as well as products from their gardens, such as taro, a variety of sweet potatoes, vegetables, yucca, coconuts, and sago (which is a flour extracted from the pulp of the sago palm tree). They go to the market in Wataluma and every now and then to the market in Alotau (the provincial capital).
Products / Crafts	They weave baskets made of sago leaves. They also make women's skirts out of bark from a certain kind of plant.
Trade Partners	The people of Fergusson Island.
Modernization / Utilities	They use radios and canoes with motors. The water that they drink is taken from streams. They use kitchen utensils and various industrialized products (plates, cutlery, etc) for eating.
Community Development	Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Good
Comment (Health Care)	Adjacent to the two villages is the Wataluma Catholic station, in which there is a hospital that provides medical services to the inhabitants of the area and neighboring areas.
Diet (Quality)	Good
Comment (Diet)	The diet of the Kaninuwa consists of a variety of sweet potatoes, yucca, sago, pumpkin, papaya, citrus fruits and some greens. On top of these, they eat rice, sugar, salt, beans, and canned meat and fish. Occasionally, they eat pig, chicken, or other animal meat.
Water (Quality)	Good
Shelter Description	The house style of the Kaninuwa people has been changing with the introduction of new materials and architectural styles. Houses are constructed on wood stilts. Roofs are perched and covered with either sago palm leaves or sheets of tin. The walls of the house are made of the bark of the saksak (sago palm). Floors are made of the bark of the limbum tree (another kind of palm tree). The average household size is 6 people.

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Item Name	Item Note
Electricity	None
Comment (Energy)	Kerosene for lamps and firewood for cooking.
Clothing	Western style; second hand clothes.
Transportation	Their means of transportation include certain trucks, canoes, boats, and walking.
Life Expectancy	40-50 years.
Leading Cause Of Death	Malaria, tuberculosis, AIDS, and witchcraft.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	Patrilineal
Neighbor Relations	Good
Authority / Rule	Their authorities are made up of chiefs and clans, and their laws are their own and are in agreement with the State.
Social Habits/Groupings	The Kaninuwa share many festivities, ceremonies and beliefs, which are the same as their neighbors.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Neutral
Art Forms	Fishing
Media	Empty gas tanks are used as bells to call people together.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Comment (Local Language Broadcasting)	None in the mother tongue.
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Very receptive

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Take care of younger brothers and sisters, work in the garden, carry water, and wash clothes.
Youth Problems (Teens)	A lack of financial resources keeps students from being able to continue their studies.

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	1
Comment (Primary Schools)	There is one teacher for every 40 students.
Primary School Enrollment	60
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	70% of primary age are enrolled, and there are no unmixed schools.
Secondary Schools	1
Secondary School Enrollment	5
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	10%
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English
Comment (Education)	It is reported there is one teacher for every 40 students enrolled in the secondary school.

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Evaluated
Comment (Reached Status)	Although 90% of this people group would call themselves Christians they do not have the Word of God in their mother tongue.
Reached Classification	Evangelized
Total Baptized	>300
Comment (Total Baptized)	It's reported 90% are baptized
Bible Schools	0

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Item Name	Item Note	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1	
Comment (Christian Clinics/Hospitals)	A clinic in the station near Wataluma.	
Comment (Church Growth)	It is reported that 50% of this people group attend church.	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Church services on Sundays, youth group (they meet sporadically) and a women's group.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Comment (Attitude Religious Change)	They are open to change but change is hindered by the lack of understanding of the Scriptures. Also, many people continue practicing magic and believing in the traditions of their ancestors.	
Resistance / Receptivity	They do not seem to be resistant. The lack of Scripture has left them in the dark. Scripture in their language would light their path with little resistance.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	In general, the Kaninuwa understand the steps to salvation, but there is little spiritual reality in their lives. It seems that they live in two worlds at the same time: the spiritual world of God and the church and the spiritual world of their legends, traditions, and spirits. There are few that have an intimate relationship with God.	
Recommended Approaches	Work with the United Church that is already working in the region.	
Items For Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">·That the VITAL course to train national translators would supply the needs of these villages.·That the villages would have the interest and be in agreement to send various people to this course.·That the leaders of the communities would support the chosen translators and that they would be able to supply the economic needs that this implies.·That the God of grace would give them more interest in Scripture and in knowing Jesus Christ personally. For the revelation of Christ in their lives as a real person. Also for discernment to see the difference between a custom and having a relationship with Jesus.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1960	
Comments (History of Christianity)	History of Christianity in this people group was begun by missionaries from Bwaidoka.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Definite	
Available Scripture	None	
Form Of Scripture Available	None	
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	United Church	
Main Ministry	Evangelism	
Comment (Main Ministry)	Church planting is another ministry.	
Year Started	1960	
Number Of Adherents	400	
Number Of Congregations	1	
Comment (Expatriate Workers)	None	
Number Of National Workers	1	
Number Of Local Workers	0	
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0	