

The Kap of Papua New Guinea



Kap speakers live in the Sandaun Province of Papua New Guinea. Two villages are located on the coast and speakers also live on three small islands about 7 kilometers from the mainland.

Sago is a major food in the area. People mix sago with boiling water to make a jelly like substance which they eat. People in the mainland villages harvest sago both for their own consumption and to sell at market. They also have gardens where they grow fruit and vegetables, most of which they eat themselves. People on the islands are short of land and only have small gardens. They are fishermen, catching fish on the reefs next to their islands. To get other food they either sell or trade the fish they catch. For half of the year, when the seas are rough, it is difficult and dangerous for them to travel to the mainland to sell or trade their fish. The island people regularly face hunger because of this. Many church leaders on the islands requested prayer about this shortage of food.

The area was first evangelized by the Catholic church in the 1890s. Other denominations began churches in the area from the 1960s onwards. There are now many different denominations with churches in the area. However, many people are Christian in name only. Several church leaders felt there was a need for people to repent and change their lives.

The Kap language is becoming less widely spoken as people are shifting to speaking Tok Pisin, a trade language. Most children do not speak Kap.

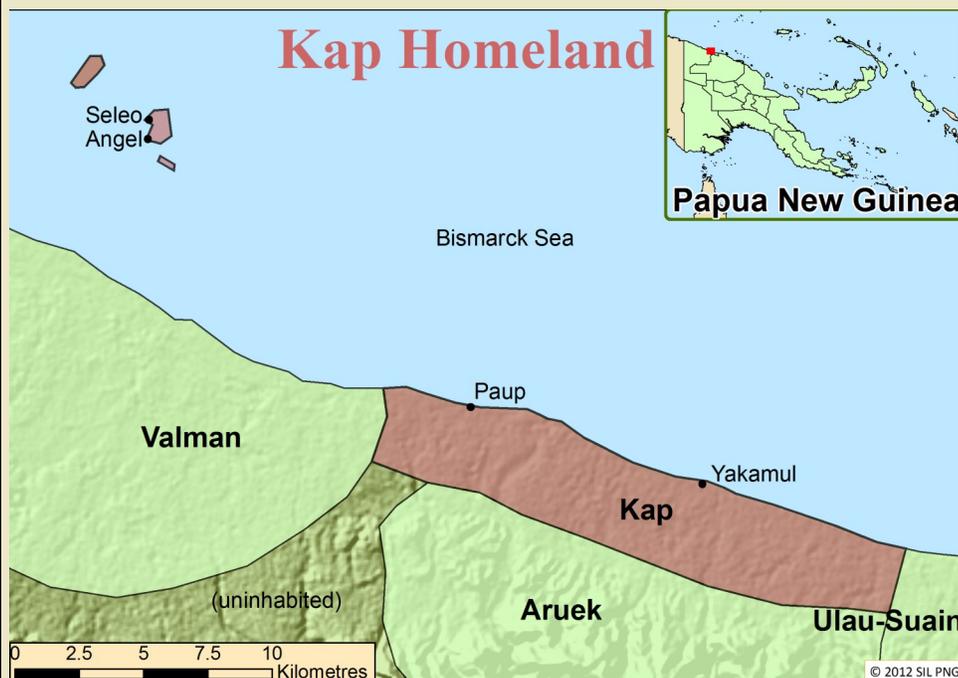
Primary Religion:
 Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
 95%

Churches:
 18

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
 None

Population (date):
 3371 (2000)



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian Comment	95% Nearly everyone would claim to be Christian.
Believe In Jesus As God And Only Savior Comment	25% 25% is a rough estimate based on reported church attendance
Believe In Local Traditional Religion	Some people still believe in their traditional religion.
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is	0%
Attitude to Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Attitude to Religious Change Comment	Somewhat receptive There are many denominations in the area.
How Have They Responded To The Gospel?	Most people in the Keoru-Ahia area would call themselves Christian. However, many of them do not attend church and still believe in their traditional religion.
Number Of Pastors	9
Number Of Missionaries Working Comment	7 2 expatriate Catholic priest, 1 national Catholic priest, 2 national Revival church pastors and 2 national CBC pastors.
Number Of Churches Comment	18 There are eight different denominations working in the area: Catholic, Revival, CBC, AoG, CRC, COC, New Apostolic church and the Salvation Army. The Catholic church is the biggest denomination in the area.
Number Of Communities Comment	5 There are five larger communities: Yakamul and Paup on the mainland plus Ali, Seleo and Angel Islands. However, these communities are broken up into smaller hamlets.
History of Christianity Year Began By Whom Significant Events	1896 The Divine Word (SVD) mission, Catholic church. The Catholic Church was the first denomination to evangelize the Kap area. They started work on nearby Tumleo Island in 1896 and a few years later established a mission station on Ali Island. A Catholic priest from Germany was stationed on Ali Island in the early 1900s. The Catholic Church began work in all the Kap villages before World War II, although the work was not always well established. During the war all the

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missionaries had to leave the area. After the war the Catholic Church started a high school on Seleo Island. This functioned for a number of years before being relocated to Aitape, a nearby town. Other denominations began to arrive in the area from the 1960s onwards.

Is The Word Of God Translated?

The Bible is not translated into Kap. However, language shift to Tok Pisin is underway. The whole Bible is available in Tok Pisin.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations Available

Although there are no gospel presentations available in Kap, Tok Pisin, the language the Kap people are shifting to, has recordings, literature, videos and radio available. The Kap people could make use of literature and radio. Lack of devices to play recordings or videos would hinder access to those.

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Group Description

Geography & Environment

Two of the villages, Yakamul and Paup are on the mainland, on the coast. The other villages are on three small islands: Ali, Seleo and Angel. Angel is especially small with no space for gardens.

Literacy

Literacy Attitude

Somewhat receptive

Adult Literacy Percentage

64%

Percent Literate for Men

69%

Percent Literate for Women

43%

Active Literacy Program

Yes

Comment

Elementary schools were started in 2007. Some use of Kap in lessons was planned. However, as the children do not speak Kap it is likely that a lot of Tok Pisin will be used.

Economics

Subsistence Type

The people living on the islands are fishermen. The people living in the coastal villages are swidden agriculturalists.

Occupation

Subsistence economy.

Income Sources

Fish, dry and wet cacao beans, sago

Trade Partners

The island people trade with people along the coast, including people from the Valman, Ulau-Suain and Bukiyip language groups.

Community Development

Health Care

Fair

Comment

There are aid posts in Paup and on Ali Island. There is a hospital in Aitape. There can be a shortage of medicine

Diet

Poor

Comment

The people on the islands can be short of food for part of the year. When the seas are rough they are unable to go to the coast to trade fish for other food to eat. There isn't enough space on the islands for large gardens. The people living in the mainland villages have adequate land for gardens. They also harvest sago. They generally have enough food, but there is a shortage of protein in their diet.

Water

Fair

Comment

On the islands water is collected in tanks or from wells.

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Shelter Description	The houses on the islands are generally small, consisting of one or two rooms. The houses are mostly built on the ground. All building materials must be traded for or bought. Traditionally the walls are made of woven coconut leaves. The houses on the mainland are generally larger than those on the islands. People can collect building materials from their own land, having ready access to sago palms, bamboo and other building materials. Some houses are built on the ground and others are built on stilts. On both the islands and the main lands there are now some semi-permanent houses with roofing iron.
Electricity	There are a few houses with generators. The priest's house on Ali Island has solar panels.
Clothing	Second hand, western style
Transportation	Walking, canoes, PMVs (public motorized vehicles), dinghys, boats.
<u>Society & Culture</u>	
Social Habits/Groupings	The people live in five main villages. However, these large villages are broken down into smaller hamlets, generally along clan lines.
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Recreations	Chewing betel nut. Telling stories.
Attitude to Change	Somewhat receptive
<u>Education</u>	
Primary Schools	4
Comment	There are also four elementary schools offering 'elementary prep'. Three of the primary schools offer grades 1-6 and the other one also offers grades 7 and 8.
Total Number of Teachers	26
Comment	Four of these are teachers in the elementary schools. The other 22 are primary school teachers.
Language of Instruction Later Years	English
Language of Textbook Later Years	English
Comment	Some Kap [ykm] will be used in the elementary schools. All the schools report some use of Tok Pisin [tpi] to help the children understand what they are being taught in English.
Number of Schools Greater Than 90 % Homogeneous	8

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Status of Christianity

Religion Population

Religion 1 Other/Small
Comment Jehovah's Witness. Only a small number of people are involved.

Church Growth

Total Baptized
Comment Nearly everyone in the language area has been baptized. The Catholic church is the main church in the area and baptizes babies.

Scripture

Scripture Use Majority of the churches
Comment Kap speakers are shifting to Tok Pisin. The Bible is available in Tok Pisin.

Missions and Churches

Organization 1 Catholic
Country of Origin Germany
Year Started 1896
Number of Adherents 2800
Number of Congregations 4
Comment There are Catholic churches in Yakamul and Paup and on Ali and Seleo Islands.

Number of Expatriate Workers 2
Number of National Workers 1
Number of Workers Using the Local Language 2
Language Used by Workers Tok Pisin [tpi]. One expatriate worker, a parish priest, can understand Kap, but can only speak a little.

Organization 2 Assemblies of God
Year Started 1980
Number of Adherents 220
Number of Congregations 4
Comment There are congregations in Yakamul and Paup and on Ali and Seleo Islands.

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Number of Workers Using the Local Language	5
Language Used by Workers	During and outside of church services the pastors, who are local men, mostly use Tok Pisin [tpi].
Organization 3	Christian Brethren Church
Country of Origin	An English missionary began work in the area.
Year Started	1969
Number of Adherents	90
Number of Congregations	3
Comment	One of these congregations is currently meeting with the Assemblies of God church in their village.
Number of National Workers	2
Number of Local Workers	1
Number of Workers Using the Local Language	1
Language Used by Workers	Tok Pisin [tpi]
Organization 4	New Apostolic Church
Year Started	1983
Number of Adherents	70
Number of Local Workers	1
Number of Workers Using the Local Language	2
Language Used by Workers	During and outside of church services the priest and rector, who are local men, use mostly Tok Pisin [tpi].
Organization 5	Christian Revival Crusade
Year Started	1999
Number of Adherents	57
Number of Congregations	1
Language Used by Workers	There are three local elders. During church services they mostly use Tok Pisin [tpi].

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Organization	6	Revival Centers of Papua New Guinea
Country of Origin		Papua New Guinea
Year Started		1989
Number of Adherents	41	
Number of Congregations	3	
Number of National Workers	3	
Language Used by Workers		Tok Pisin [tpi]