



The Kaan of Burkina Faso

Originally from Ghana, the Kaan migrated to southwestern Burkina Faso and settled near the town of Loropeni. The Kaan speak the Kaanse language and number about 6,000 in Burkina Faso. There are also many Kaase who have moved to Côte d'Ivoire to live and work.

Unlike many other ethnic groups in the region, the Kaan peoples have retained their traditional system of leadership headed by a king who is elected from the royal clan and rules for life. He judges matters pertaining to the royal family.

The Kaan can be characterized as being hard-working and peaceful. They grow millet as their staple crop and supplement their diet with green leaves, nuts, beans, yams, corn, and tomatoes.

The Kaan are almost 100% adherents of their local traditional religion and have, until recently, held firmly to their traditions. The Kaan king is the guardian of the group's traditional fetishes which are at the heart of their animistic religion. Their neighbors, the Lobis, have had missionaries working among them for over fifty years and it was through them that the Gospel has spread to the Kaan. In 1986 the first Kaan professed faith in Christ and now there is a vibrant group of Christians in the region. Six young Kaan men are in training to become pastors. Currently, missionaries are working among the Kaan doing literacy and Bible translation.

Primary Religion:

Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

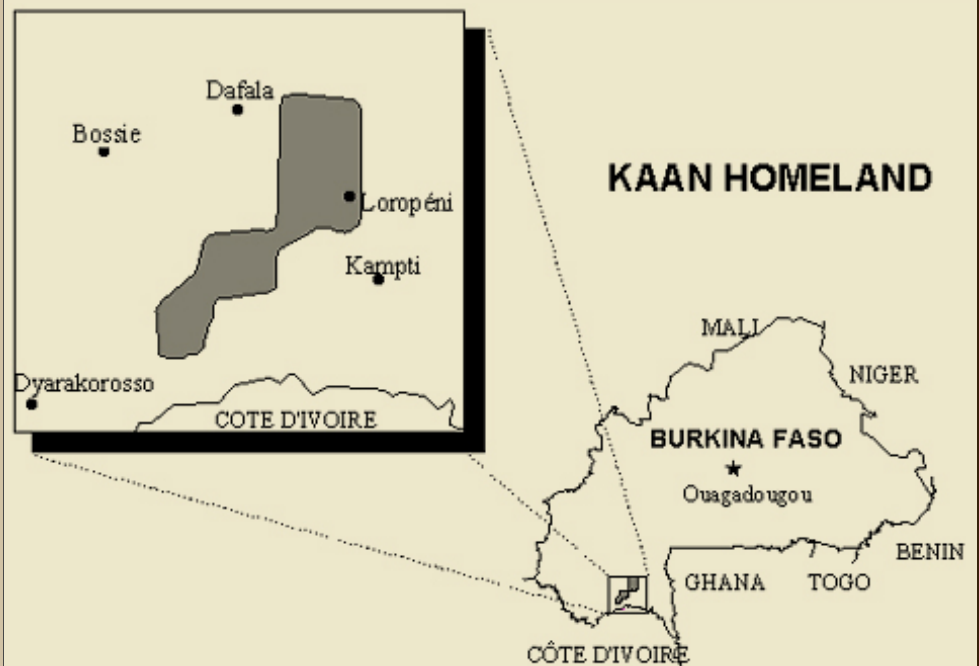
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Work is in progress

Population (date):

7,200 (1994)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	2	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	.5	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	25	
Number Of Pastors	6	
Number Of Missionaries Working	3	
Number Of Communities	30	
Number Of Churches	2	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Work in progress	
Translation Medium	will be in print	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	The opposition to Christianity among some parts of the group, especially the elderly, is very strong.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings, literature, film	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	translator, help for the local pastors	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	7200	
World Population (Date)	1994	
World Population (Urban Percent)	15	
Comment (World Population)	6,000 Kaan live in Burkina Faso, and a small number live in Ivory Coast. Urban population lives abroad, in Burkina Faso the urban population, living in Bobo Dioulasso, Gaoua, Banfora, Ouagadougou, is 2%.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	area south-west of the village of Gaoua in the south of Burkina Faso	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Ecosystem Type	Scrub Forest	
Geological Type	Interfluvial	
Elevation	200	
Longitude	10W	
Latitude	3.2N	
Climate	Hot and dry	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	Abroad the monolingual % is very low, at home it is higher. Attitude is more positive at home than abroad but at school it is negative.	
Alternate Language Names	KA~ASE, KAN, KAAAN, GAN, GA~, GANE	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat resistant	
Second Languages	40	
Second Languages	100	
Second Languages	10	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	KPATOGO	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	DOGHOSIE	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	KHISA	

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Item Name	Item Note
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	KHISA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	KPATOGO
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	LOBI
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	LOBI
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	DOGHOSIE
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	less than ten % according to Ethnologue
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	no indications for %
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	don't know %
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	don't know %
Linguistically Related Languages	DOGHOSIE
Linguistically Related Languages	KHISA
Linguistically Related Languages	DOGHOSIE
Linguistically Related Languages	KHISA
Linguistically Related Languages	KPATOGO
Linguistically Related Languages	KPATOGO
Comments (Related Languages)	Don't know %
Comments (Related Languages)	No indications for %
Comments (Related Languages)	Less than ten % according to Ethnologue
Comments (Related Languages)	Don't know %
Neighboring Languages	JULA
Neighboring Languages	LOBI
Neighboring Languages	KHISA
Neighboring Languages	DOGHOSIE
Neighboring Languages	KPATOGO

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	5
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	4
Comment (Literacy)	Three out of the four MT publications are now out of print.

Group Description

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	\$50
Occupation	hunting, gathering, animal raising, marketing, mechanical works, producing crafts.
Income Sources	animal raising, gathering, weaving, marketing, shea nut butter
Products / Crafts	weaving, woodwork, soap, shea nut butter
Trade Partners	Jula, Lobi, Doghosie, Kpatogo, Mossi
Modernization / Utilities	trade societies, Association de Development, contact with the western world comes through the tourists who are attracted by the idols and come from Gaoua (50 km).
Comment (Economy)	average income so low because Kambe are mostly self subsistent.

Group Description

Community Development

Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note
Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	2 dispensaries, 1 hospital 50 kms away
Diet (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Diet)	millet, sauces with few vegetables and without meat; fruit, sweet potatoes, corn, yams
Water (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Water)	some wells in Loropeni, otherwise none. Most sicknesses come from water.
Shelter Description	mud brick houses with straw roofs
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Comment (Energy)	kerosene lanterns, flashlights for men. No current; wood for cooking.
Clothing	western clothes or hand-woven garment (for mourning)
Transportation	none, poor. About 15% of the men have bikes
Infant Mortality Rate	20%
Life Expectancy	40
Leading Cause Of Death	malaria and dehydration
Comment (Community Development)	as a community they are subsistent, despite these rather bleak conditions

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	women have more liberty than in Muslim groups (money of their own). The bride is considered a gift of her family to the groom. There is no dowry. Royalty is passed down through the mother.
Neighbor Relations	friendly with Jula, Kpatogo; animosity with Lobi (mostly in the past) and Fulani.
Authority / Rule	King's power is declining, he has judicial power and the right to arrange marriages for many of the girls of royal lineage. The royal family makes two suggestions for the position of the king. The Jula fetish decides which one of the two candidates will become king. No one wants to become king because of the heavy responsibility (new king inherits wives of the old one). Quotation from Gloria Scott: "When you become king you become poor".
Social Habits/Groupings	Funerals: one for burying the person, one after a year. The second funeral is an orgy with drinking and promiscuity. The fetish controls the social life (taboos, sacrifices)
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Distinct
Self Image	Neutral
Judicial / Punishment System	in-group matters: done by king inter-group matters: done by Prefet/Commissaire
Celebrations	second funerals, fetish night on Fridays, enthronement, judgment celebrations
Recreations	dances, hunting (men), soccer (men), market, talking, visiting
Art Forms	weaving, wall decoration, painting, statuettes, idols
Media	very few radios and tape players
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive
Comment (Culture)	A new king has just been elected. He will want change.

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	fieldwork, carrying water, babysitting, preparing food, gathering
Youth Problems (Teens)	medical, malnutrition, many children live not with their own parents
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	economical needs, at 18 most young run away to "make their fortune" somewhere else - and some come back miserable and often with AIDS. This, however, cannot be proven as no one talks outright about it.
Comment (Youth)	Church offer very attractive to youth

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Item Name	Item Note	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	3	
Primary School Enrollment	150	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	15	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	45	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French	
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	1	
Comment (Education)	secondary school 20 km away	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Engaged	
Reached Classification	Unevangelized	
Total Baptized	40	
Lay Leaders	10	
Comment (Church Growth)	All six pastors are still in training. Only two out of the ten lay leaders are officially recognized by the church.	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	funerals	
Attitude To Christianity	Very resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	About 95% adhere their local traditional religion. The Christians are being persecuted. Yet there is a high interest among the younger people.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	often people find the Lord through sickness. The Christians pray for them, they are healed and realize the power of the Lord.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	persecution; yet there is a great openness among the youth	
Comment (Religion)	that the new king might become less hostile to Christianity than the last	
Recommended Approaches	Illnesses are often a bridge. People get healed through prayer and find the Lord.	
Current Needs	There are needs for development, education, government intervention (sensibilisation against excision etc.) and a way to keep the young people in the villages needs to be found by creating work for them.	
Items For Prayer	Pray that the new king will become more favorable of Christianity than the last and that excision will be abandoned.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1963	
By Whom	WEC International	
Significant Events	1982 1st conversion, 1986 1st church.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	None	
Comment (Scripture)	(Imported: Literature/Media: Literature: available Recordings: available Film: available) (Imported: Summary: Word of God translated: Work in progress Word of God form: will be in print Other forms of gospel: recordings, literature, film)	

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Item Name

Item Note

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	WEC International
Country Of Origin	United States
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Year Started	1963
Number Of Expatriate Workers	18

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available	available
Audio Recordings Available	available
Films Available	available