

Butu-Ningi in Nigeria



You might call them “bartered brides.” A girl from clan A marries into clan B, and clan B has to reciprocate by giving a girl to clan A. If no girl is available, then someone must pay a bride price. This is a practice in the northern part of Nigeria among the Butu-Ningi people, also called the Butawa people. They are a small people group, and the languages that they had spoken as recently as the 1970s were considered “dead” by the 1990s. The Butu-Ningi have adopted the Hausa language.

Ministry Obstacles

It is hard to overcome traditional beliefs, and the Buta-Ningi have many. They used to believe that certain people could transform themselves into animals, especially elephants. Today, however, children are sent to Islamic schools, and many families embrace Islam, the religion of the surrounding Hausa people.

Outreach Ideas

A people who like to sing, the Butu-Ningi compose new songs for the Gwarma Gom, a thanksgiving festival to the gods every January. Outreach partners can teach them more new songs—songs of thankfulness to the



POPULATION: 57,000

LANGUAGE: Hausa

RELIGION: Islam

BIBLE: Complete

STATUS: Unreached

God who gives life to the full!

Prayer Focus

Pray for Holy-Spirit-directed workers to go to them. Pray for a Disciple Making Movement among the Butu-Ningi people that will spread to the powerful nearby Hausa people. Pray for spiritual hunger among this people group.

SCRIPTURE Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Ps 139:23-24

PRAY *that many from this people group will have the kind of intimacy with the Lord that it takes to purge their lives of anything that offends Him.*