



Yoron in Japan

The Yoron people live on an island near Okinawa in the Ryukyu Island chain south of Japan proper. It is within a Japanese national park of the Amani Island group. As a consequence, it is a popular tourist site. However, the people do not speak standard Japanese. Their religion differs from the Japanese; they blend in their own traditional Yoronese belief and practice with Buddhism and Shintoism. Their homes might be Japanese style homes or Yoronese thatched houses. The people are much engaged in the tourist industry, catering primarily to Japanese tourists.

Ministry Obstacles

The Bible is available only in standard Japanese, not Yoronese. There are no churches on the island.

Outreach Ideas

Because standard Japanese is increasingly spoken because of Japanese-medium education, Bible distribution may be possible, as would the JESUS Film in the Japanese language. Okinawan churches should adopt the Yoron and seek to start churches among them, as should the mission-minded at Okinawa Christian College. Indeed, the college may be able to offer English classes, using the Bible as a text. Christian tourists can also serve as catalysts of evangelism.



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POPULATION: 900

LANGUAGE: Yoron

RELIGION: Buddhism

BIBLE: Unspecified

STATUS: Unreached

Prayer Focus

Pray that the Yoron will be receptive to the gospel; that they will become spiritually hungry and seek God. Pray for visions and dreams of Christ among the Yoron. Pray this will be a decade of spiritual harvest for this people group, leading to abundant life.

SCRIPTURE For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back? *Isa 14:27*

PRAY *that many from this people group will understand that God is sovereign, and they must obey him alone.*