

Kereyu Oromo of Ethiopia



Picture Credit: Joshua Project

Introduction/History

The various Oromo people groups are the largest, most widely dispersed groups in Ethiopia. The Oromo have various clans, including the Kereyu. Most likely they were pushed westward from the Horn of Africa by the Somali during the tenth century.

Together with the Amhara and the Tigrai, they dominated the government and military classes of the Ethiopian Empire. In the 1700s and 1800s, these peoples became a prominent force in Abyssinian (Ethiopian) politics. During the nineteenth century, they converted to Islam.

What Are Their Lives Like?

The Kereyu Oromo are herdsman with a warrior tradition. Their staple diet includes durra (a cereal grain), maize, beans, rice, milk, meat, and wild fruits. Men usually have only one wife, and children are considered a necessity. The more children and grandchildren a man has, the greater his prestige. Some Kereyu Oromo have moved to the towns, attracted by employment opportunities and modern schooling. Others have entered national security forces, the industrial labor force, or fields of trade, transportation, and education.

Population: Number

Language: Name

Religion: Name

% Christian: XXX%

% Evangelical: XXX%

Bible Available: Complete/Incomplete (Year if Complete)

Ministry Resources: Name, Name, Name

What Are Their Beliefs?

The majority of the Kereyu Oromo are Muslim; however, they still practice their traditional religion. These ethnic religionists worship a supreme being named Waqa. Wadaja feasts are organized on various occasions, and they sacrifice livestock in Waqa's honor. Today, these feasts reflect a Muslim influence. Many Kereyu Oromo believe that objects such as trees, springs, and rocks have spirits. They also believe that spirits called jinn may take possession of people. Adults fast during Ramadan (the Muslim holy month), but few celebrate other Muslim festivals.

What Are Their Needs?

Oromo villages usually have no electricity. Medical care is poor, and access to medicine is limited. Their water supply comes from rivers and springs. Today, there is a great need for Christian workers among the Oromo. Also, leadership training and discipleship of new believers is critical if growth is to continue and new churches are to be planted. There is potential for Oromo movements to Christ, but workers must go!

Prayer Points

- Pray for workers to go to each Oromo people, especially the Kereyu clan.
- Pray for Oromo disciples to make other disciples who will make even more disciples.
- Pray for spiritual hunger among the Kereyu Oromo people, especially their leaders.
- Pray for the Lord to show himself powerful and loving by providing abundance to the Kereyu Oromo people.

Information from The Joshua Project at joshuaproject.net



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