

Dyan

Burkina Faso

Physical Exertion: MEDIUM
Resources: LIMITED
Threat Level: LOW
Freedom: SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED



SUMMARY

20,000 population, resistant to gospel, potential pastors to partner with, New Testament translation in process

DETAILS

Who are they? The Dyan (also known as Dyana) have an estimated population of 20,000.

What is their primary religion? Animism

Where are they? Dyan can be found in southern Burkina Faso. An estimated 35 villages have Dyan speakers, but the populations are primarily concentrated in seven villages with populations of over 1,000 Dyan each.

Do they have a Christian witness? There are an estimated 10 Dyan Christians, including three ethnic Dyan pastors. However, these pastors are not doing active work among the Dyan.

What strategies are being implemented for reaching this people group?

- Work has started on a translation of the New Testament into the Dyan language, called Dyane
- Canadian Pentecostals have done some work in the area and have encouraged one of the Dyan pastors to begin work with his people.

Suggestions and rationale for engaging this people group: An Engaging Church with a long-term commitment is a good option. With Bible translation work in progress and three pastors ready to support Dyan work, God is preparing the way for a strong gospel presentation to the Dyan. Diebougou is a big town from which Dyan work could spread.

What specific challenges or opportunities could directly affect the engagement of this people?

- Past evangelical work in the Dyan villages was met with significant resistance. The Dyan were dissatisfied with the legalism they saw in the witness of Pentecostals and are very hesitant to open their villages to an evangelical influence.
- Although the three pastors are excited about future evangelical work, they are not in situations to devote themselves to Dyan ministry. One is in his late 60's and another is in a far away city.
- Animism is a dominant factor in the lives of the Dyan. Overcoming their religious mindset will take time.

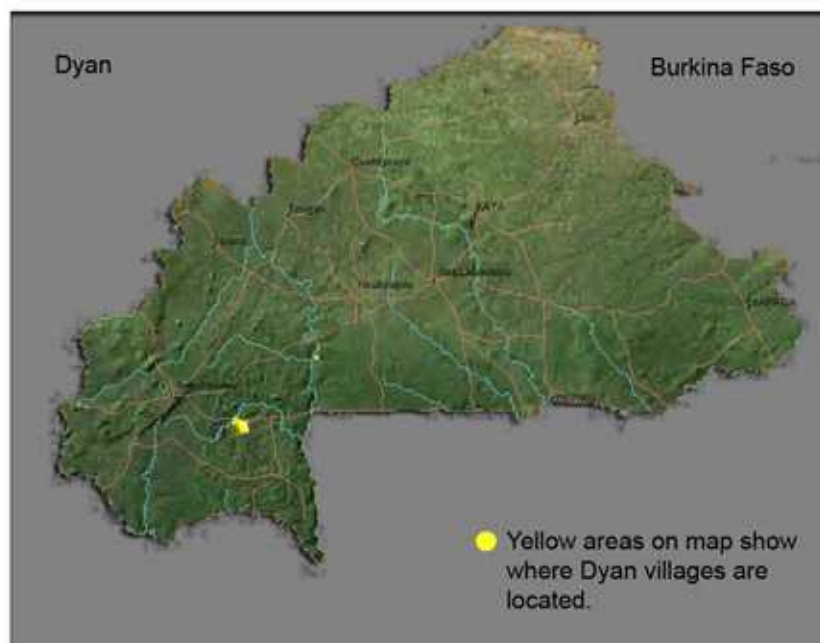
Specific Opportunities/Benefits:

- The Dyan towns/villages are generally located close to Diebougou. Although some Dyan villages are at a distance, most roads leading to them are accessible to vehicles.
- One of the Dyan Christians is quite talented musically. He prepared 45 Christian songs and put them on cassette.
- Some basic linguistic books have been completed and distributed. Although having had limited effect in the villages, the materials could help in language learning or in opening the door to teach in a village.
- The Dyan of Diebougou have access to several churches of various denominations (but not in Dyane).

For further information about this people, contact:

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