



Quick Facts

Population: 2,500,000

Egypt: 1,700,000

Sudan: 750,000

Location: Nile River–Central

Language Group: Sudanic

Religion: Sunni Islam

Believers: 0.001%

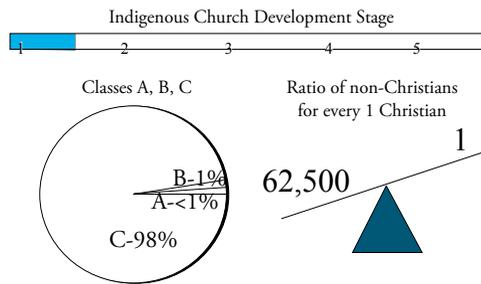
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JGT

Church Status: 1

Mission Status: 1

MS Subgroups: 15+



Identity: The Nubians are a Nilo-Saharan people-cluster of seven tribes that live in, or originated from, the Nuba mountain region. Their language, culture and genetics have been significantly influenced by their interaction with Arab traders and settlers.

Lifestyle: The Nubians of both Egypt and Sudan have suffered immensely at the hands of their respective governments. In Egypt, the Nubians were forced to abandon their homeland in order to construct the Aswan dam. The building of this dam was a disaster for agriculture along the Nile as it trapped the silt the farmers depended on. As a result, potentially millions of Arab farmers are being relocated onto Nuba farmland regions further south. In Sudan, the Nubians have faced and continue to face a deliberate attempt to eradicate them from existence.

Customs: The Nubians are known for their champion wrestlers, a sport

which every fit male participates in where village society is still intact. Villagers send their best candidates to “cattle camps” where they learn not only to herd cattle but how to wrestle. The best wrestlers will be chosen to represent their village at a festival match.

Religion: The Nubians converted to Islam around the 16th century, mostly as a way to protect themselves from being kidnapped by Arab slavetraders. There were once many Christians in Nubia, and recent mistreatment of Nubians by surrounding Muslim peoples has created a renewed sense of Nubian nationalism, and a call by some to return to their Christian roots. Several conservative Islamic movements in the 20th century, such as the Marghaniyya brotherhood, are attempting to purge the Nubians of various pre-Islamic songs and dances and even inter-village wrestling.

Christian Outreach: Little effort has been made to reach the Nubians,

though they are regarded as receptive to the gospel, perhaps more so now than at any other time in the last three centuries. The genocide against the Nubas in Sudan by Arab fascists specifically targets Christians for summary execution. Due to the instability in the region it is unknown how many Sudanese Nuba believers have survived.

How to Pray:

✞ Pray for renewed interest among global Christians to reach the Nubas. Pray especially for the persecuted believers in Sudan that they might know their brothers and sisters in Christ have not abandoned them, but pray for them daily and seek to help them in every way.

✞ Pray for creativity in how to embrace the rising Nuba nationalism with the message of Christ’s redemptive love for all peoples, their language and their culture.

✞ The Nubas are the poorest people in Egypt and many have migrated to the cities looking for work. Pray for a specialized ministry to help these migrant laborers with their needs.

✞ Pray for the production of the Bible into all 12 Nubian languages.

**Every year 23,000
Nubians die
without Christ.**