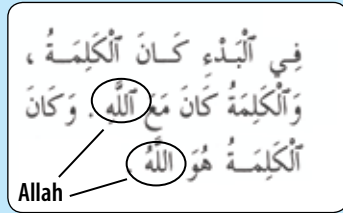




Please note that the word Allah is used for the word God in the Arabic Bible. Very small numbers of Arabic speaking believers also use the word “Al Ilaah” for the God of the Bible.



The text above is John 1:1 in the Bible. “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God.”



Day 25

Tanzanian population: 39,400,000

Rangi population: 350,000

Since the early 1900s in the city of Kondo and the surrounding areas, more and more Rangi have turned to Islam. When the British took control of Tanzania in 1920, the Kondo region was already 90% Muslim. Only the Rangi in the Haubi Valley refused Islam. After some debate among the local chieftains, in 1937 the Rangi in Haubi became Catholic and built an imposing cathedral. Since then the 90% Muslim, almost 10% Catholic ratio has basically not changed. Although there have been evangelical congregations for several decades in the area, there are few Rangi evangelicals.

Life among the Rangi: The majority of the Rangi population live in villages, and their identity is often wrapped up in village life. For a long time few non-Rangi Tanzanians wanted to live in Kondo and the 150 surrounding Rangi villages. The Rangi were often unloved and mistrusted by many because of their reputation of being active with evil spirits and witchcraft. Even today some Rangi are brought to trial for ritual murders associated with black magic. However, in the last ten years larger numbers of Tanzanians have started to live in Kondo with a noticeable rise in the number of cars and televisions. Mobile phones abound, business is booming, and hospitals and schools are being built.

Communications: A Rangi language Bible translation project began in 1996, and the translation is progressing well. Other work to help poor families is also under way. In September 2006 some local believers opened a new school in the city. It is hoped that there will be good communication between all the groups, that old historical prejudices will be overcome, and that social as well as spiritual development will continue.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *Pray for the unity among the believers that Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-26 to become reality in the area. Muslims have sometimes pointed out that the Christians have often been divided.*
- ▶ *Pray for courage, creativity, and wisdom for the Rangi Christians as they proclaim the Messiah to their Muslim neighbors.*
- ▶ *Pray for positive economical development and that the Rangi will not forget God as they seek better economic conditions.*