

Arbore

Alternate names: Erbore, Eribori, Irbore, Murule, Ulde
Population: 10,000
Language: Arbore
Location: Only in Ethiopia in the southwestern Omo Valley along the Weito River, near the border with Kenya
Religion: Ethnic Religion
% Christian: 1.3% (70% Orthodox; 30% Protestant)
% Evangelical: 1.3%
Christian resources available: Audio recordings, no Bible translation, Jesus film or radio

Arbore means land of the bulls and their land encompasses a few square miles. The northern division, Arbore (Gondorobba), is made up of the villages of Gula'ma (Kulam), Kulye, and Gondara'ba, which is their main center and the residence of their paramount chief. They have a close relationship with their Tsamai neighbors. The southern division, called Marle, consists of the villages of Murale and Egude. They have ancestral and cultural associations with the neighboring Borana and Kono people. Each village is autonomous and has a religious chief, political chief and a group of elders. Arbore huts are slightly oval.

The women cover their heads with a black cloth. They wear earrings, many multi-colored beaded

necklaces and goatskin skirts. Girls shave their heads to indicate virginity and grow their hair out after marriage. Young children wear a shell type hat to protect their heads from the sun. The men wear colorful pieces of cloth and hats and are rarely seen in photographs. Arbore men will take wives from some of the other tribes.



Body painting is done using colors made from soil and stone. In photos you can see boys with many dots painted all over their faces and/or their chests.

The Arbore are very active traders. In the past, they had a monopoly on the ivory trade. A man's

wealth is based on the number of cattle they own. They have well developed technology and knowledge for herding cattle. They also grow sorghum, maize, cow pea, gourd and pumpkin.

The Arbore believe in a Supreme Being creator and father of men whom they call Waq. The Arbore have ritual dances and singing which they believe removes negative energy and will cause their tribe to prosper.



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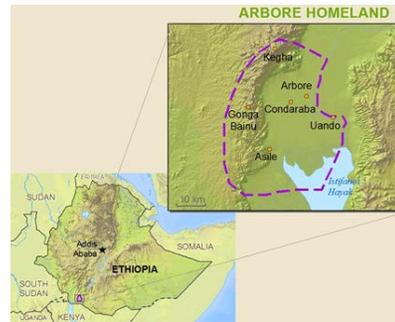
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Prayer Points



- Pray for the Ethiopian churches in the diaspora and in Ethiopia to mobilize their people and resources to reach the Arbore for Christ.
- Ask God to prepare the hearts of the Arbore people to hear the gospel.
- Pray for the workers among the Arbore people to find redemptive analogies to use to open up their eyes to the truth.
- Pray for a disciple-making movement among this people group.



Information from The Joshua Project at www.joshuaproject.net (Dr. Samuel Kebreab), <http://www.holidaysethiopia.com/ethiopia/arbore-tribe-ethiopia/>, <http://www.omovalley.com/The-Arbore-Tribe-in-the-Lower-Omo-Valley.php>, <http://kwekudee-tripdownmemorylane.blogspot.com/2013/01/the-arbore-are-cushitic-omo-valley.html>

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
And how are they to preach unless they are sent?
As it is written ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”
Romans 10: 14 - 15



For information on adopting the Arbore

www.hornofafrica.org

www.engagers.org



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