

Karrayyu Oromo

The people: The Karrayyu are one of the few remaining Oromo groups to maintain the traditional Oromo culture and pastoralist way of life. They are governed by the Gada system, an ancient and complex form of African democracy. It is traditionally based on generation sets which alternate power every eight years. The officials live together in a village and travel together. A full Gada cycle lasts 40 years. It guides the religious, social, political and economic lives of individuals from birth to death, as well their philosophy, art, history and method of time-keeping. This system is the basis of their democratic/egalitarian political system, under which power to make laws belongs to the people. The people have the right to share their views in public without fear. You can watch a video of the power transfer ceremony at: <http://www.ethiotube.net/video/19013/BilisummaaTVKarrayyu-Of-Oromo-Tribe-Power-Transfer-Ceremony>

The Karrayyu are nomadic pastoralists who only rear livestock. They rarely farm so they buy food from their neighbors.



The Karrayyu and other Oromo were persecuted during the reign of Menelik II who imposed Amhara rule. During the 20th century, they were deprived of 70% of their land, including their shrines, as the government took them over for national parks and modern sugar and cotton plantations. Finding grazing lands and water resources is a daily challenge and results in conflicts with their neighbors.

Alternate name: Kereyu
Population: Number was 289,000, but may now be as low as 10,000 - 55,000
Language: Borana-Arsi-Guji Oromo;Kereyu
Location: Only in Ethiopia; in the Awash Valley, around the Mount Fentale volcano and the Metehara Plain in the Fantalle District of the south Oromo region
Religion: Islam and ethnic religion
% Christian: 1.0% (60% Protestant, 30% Orthodox; 10% Independent
% Evangelical: 0.05%
Christian resources available: Scripture (EASYBibles), Audio recordings: Global Recordings, Online New Testament (FCBH); Jesus Film and God's Story

Religious Beliefs: One source says the Karrayyu are majority Muslim, with a minority still practicing the traditional ethnic religion. Another source says their main religion is Waaqeffatta, a monotheistic ethnic religion, that worships a supreme being named Waaqa; they say it is not animistic.

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What are their needs?

- They face extinction as their numbers are dwindling.
- Lack of enough grazing land causes overgrazing, soil erosion and conflicts with neighboring groups.
- Getting enough water is a daily challenge.
- Medical care, access to medicine and ending the tradition of female genital cutting are needed.
- Christian workers
- Discipleship of new believers and leadership training



Prayer Points

- Pray for the Ethiopian churches in the diaspora & in Ethiopia to mobilize their people & resources to reach the Karrayyu for Christ.
- Ask God to raise up prayer teams to prepare the soil of the Karrayyu hearts to be ready to receive the gospel.
- Pray for God's favor upon the church planters who work among the Oromo.
- Ask God to give boldness for Oromo believers to share Christ with the Karrayyu.
- Pray for God to save key leaders in the community who will become Karrayyu Oromo church leaders.

Information from: www.joshuaproject.net; http://www.labatafantalle.org/?page_id=57; <http://kwekudee-tripdownmemorylane.blogspot.com/2013/07/karrayyu-people-east-africas-cushitic.html>; <http://www.opride.com/oromsis/news/horn-of-africa/3655-jeans-and-marto-with-love-from-karrayyu>

"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 Karrayyu:

www.hornofafrica.org

www.engagers.org



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