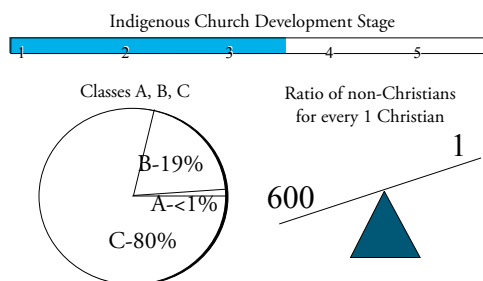


# Nupe Muslims



## Quick Facts

**Pop. in Nigeria:** 1,200,000  
**Location:** Kaduna River  
**Lang. Family:** Benue-Kwa  
**Religion:** Sunni Islam  
**Believers:** 0.16% (MBB)  
**Scriptures:** NT, OT  
**Ministry Tools:** JGRT  
**Church Status:** 3  
**Mission Status:** 3  
**Churches:** 20  
**Organizations:** 8  
**MS Subgroups:** 10+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

**Identity:** The ethnogenesis of the modern-day Nupe begins with the founding of the Nupe kingdom (Nupeland) in the 15th century by a conqueror named Edegi, who was half-Nupe and half Igala. Since that time the Nupe have absorbed at least a dozen peoples, which have all contributed to the collective ethnicity. Their language is related to Yoruba and Ibo.

**Lifestyle:** The Nupe live primarily along the Niger and Kaduna rivers, engaging in fishing and farming. Fishing was once the basis for an extensive trade that made the Nupe wealthy in centuries past. Today, rice is their staple food, supplemented by sorghum, maize, millet, beans and potatoes. They are famous for their stained leatherwork, including sandals, wallets and bookbags, as well as for their furniture made from treated raffia fibers.

**Customs:** Nupe villages consist of interlinked compounds, each hav-

ing a sufficient number of dwellings to accommodate an entire extended family. Women have their own rooms, where male children will stay until they have reached puberty. At which time adolescent boys will transfer to one of the rooms of their male relatives.

**Religion:** The Nupe have been in the process of gradual conversion to Islam for about 200 years. The last twenty years have seen a rapid increase of Islamic adherence, rising from a low of 30% of the population in some areas, to a high of 90% in most villages today. The chief Muslim missionary among the Nupe was a Fulani itinerant preacher named Mallam Dendo. His disciples became known as *mallamai*, and were influential in establishing Quranic schools throughout Nupeland. They are still known today for their powerful charms which they produce and sell.

**Christian Outreach:** Missionaries began work among the Nupe as early as

1860 and had a large impact on many rural villages. Today the Christianized Nupe number about 2% of the population. Unfortunately, these churches have ceased to grow evangelistically among the Muslim Nupe, and have essentially allowed the latter unchallenged expansion among those Nupe still following their traditional ethnic religion.

## How to Pray:

🙏 Pray for the eight church planting agencies working among the Muslim Nupe that God enables them to effectively cooperate together to see a disciple-making movement established all throughout Nupeland.

🙏 Pray for the continued success of the Jesus Film among the Nupe, which has brought hundreds to faith in Christ in the last decade.

🙏 Pray for spiritual breakthrough among each of the major Nupe ethnic subgroups, especially the Beni, Benu, Kusopa, Dibo, Gana-Gana, Kakanda, Basa, Cekpan, Kede, and Kupa.

🙏 Pray for revival among the older churches, and for effective partnership between born-again believers and missionary teams seeking to expand the gospel in unevangelized regions.

**Every year  
13,000 Nupe die  
without Christ.**