

BERTHA OF ETHIOPIA

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Bertha

People Cluster: Unknown

Language: Bertha

Trade Language: Unknown

Population: 146,000

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for more information to be learned about the Bertha people so that the worldwide Church can pray and send more effectively.

Pray that God will reveal Himself to the Bertha people through dreams and visions.

Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Bertha who will boldly declare the Gospel.

Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.

Ask the Lord for communities of Jesus followers among the Bertha.

CONTACT

FRONTIERS

(800) 462-8436

www.frontiers.org

ABOUT THE PEOPLE

The Bertha people are originally from eastern Sudan; however, they migrated in around the 16th or 17th century to their current home in an area along the border of Sudan and Ethiopia known as *Benishangul*. Initially, after moving to Ethiopia, the people settled on hills and mountains in order to protect themselves. There was strong conflict between Bertha communities, so they feared violence from one another, as well as from Sudanese raids.

In the 20th century, however, when peace became more prevalent, they moved their homes to the valleys, where they are to this day.

The Bertha diet consists mainly of sorghum, which they use to make porridge and beer. Beer plays an important role in Bertha society. For example, when a member of society has a need for manual labor, it is typical to provide beer and food and invite others to help.

The Bertha are mainly Muslim, which is likely a result of their intermarriage, over the centuries, with Arab traders and their sustained contact with Sudanese Arabs. Though Islam is prevalent among them and many are fluent in Arabic in addition to their own language, the Bertha also still hold to many of their pre-Islamic traditions and beliefs. For example, ritual specialists, called *neri* are consulted for healing, divination, and dealing with evil spirits. They also often practice rain-making rituals.

