

RASHAIDA

OF SUDAN

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Rashaida

People Cluster: Arab

Language: Gulf Arabic

Trade Language: Arabic

Primary Religion: Islam

Population: 152,000

PRAYER POINTS

Pray that God will make Himself known the Rashaida through dreams, visions, signs, and wonders.

Pray that the Lord will raise up laborers who are willing to invest long term service as workers among the Rashaida.

Pray that African believers will gain a vision to see the Rashaida of Sudan reached with the Gospel.

Pray for strong communities of believers to be formed among the people.

CONTACT

FRONTIERS

(800) 462-8436
www.frontiers.org

HISTORY

The Rashaida migrated to Eritrea from Saudi Arabia about 150 years ago after being expelled. They now live in the desert around the Red Sea, from the area of Massawa in Eritrea all the way down to Port Sudan.

LIFE

The Rashaida people are mainly nomadic, and the men are also skilled in trading imported goods. In the past, during the 30-year Eritrean war for independence, the Rashaida accumulated significant wealth by renting their own camels to freedom fighters.

Rashaida women keep their faces veiled, a practice that begins in childhood so as to ensure that their faces are never seen by men.

The people live in isolated communities, usually remaining separate from nearby tribes. However, they will occasionally live in Tigre villages or intermarry with them.



BELIEFS

The Rashaida are highly Islamic, and family prayer houses are essential, especially because of their nomadic lifestyle. Until very recently, there were no known believers among the Rashaida. However, in 1998-2000, many of the youth were drafted into the army because of the Eritrea/Ethiopia border war, and through this, many were exposed to the Gospel, possibly for the first time in their lives.

