



# PRAY FOR THE ALAGWA

## WHO ARE THE ALAGWA?

The Alagwa live in 15 villages in a geographically remote area in the hills and mountains of central Tanzania. Although the Bubu river runs through the lower lands, the higher regions suffer from lack of water and the Alagwa often walk miles to find water to meet the needs of their families. They are subsistence farmers, growing maize and millet and also some livestock, normally cows, goats and sheep. They are very community oriented, living in houses made of burned brick with roofs of thatched grass. The Alagwa speak both Alagwaisa and Kiswahili.

## WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

A tribal legend says that some Alagwa once visited Mecca but were rejected by the Muslims for having 'no religion' – only animistic beliefs. They later embraced Islam;

now over 90% are Muslims. However, they seamlessly blend traditional beliefs with Islamic ones. Allah, Mungu and Lala'a are all used to refer to God. Although they call themselves Muslims, their beliefs and practices are strongly steeped in their traditional ways of life.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REACH THEM WITH THE GOSPEL?

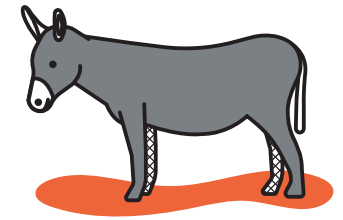
From 2010 to 2013, a multi-cultural TIMO (Training In Ministry Outreach) team lived and worked among the Alagwa, learning their language and culture and helping with a project to provide a reliable community water supply. The TIMO team has ended, but several members have remained and now form a new team, including the Pugh family from the UK. The beginning of a church has been planted among the Alagwa.

# WHAT CAN WE PRAY FOR?

Pray for Alagwa believers who are being disciplined to share boldly with their families and neighbours. A number of believers have spouses who are not following Jesus. Please pray that they would have courage to faithfully witness to their partners and that their lives would demonstrate Jesus' love.

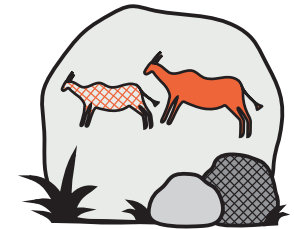
Sharing the gospel is not without risks for Alagwa believers. Recently, a disciple was faced with a close family member seeking to put a death curse on her and her children. Whilst initially terrified, she was encouraged by understanding from God's Word that this was a spiritual battle and that God is stronger than Satan! The family member tried two different witchdoctors, and was not able to curse her. The disciple later said that because she belongs to God, she is no longer afraid. May this demonstration of God's power impact many in her community. Please also join her in praying that this family member will come to know and follow Jesus.

Pray for the process of Bible translation as work continues on the Gospel of John. Pray that the Muslim translators would understand who Jesus truly is as they grapple with the work of translation and that the Christian translators would grow in the depth of their understanding of and love for Jesus. Pray too for a project translating the Jesus Film into Alagwaisa. Recordings were carried out in a nearby town for the voices of Jesus and the narrator, then back in June (2021) the rest of the voices were recorded on location. Pray for the production process and that seeing the whole story of Jesus' life would bring many to trust in him.



## WATER CARRYING

Donkeys are kept by the Alagwa and used to carry water up from the river in the lowlands.



## ROCK ART

The region of Tanzania where the Alagwa live is well known for rock art. The rock art spans a period of time from at least 3,500 years ago, to 200 years ago.



## ORAL LANGUAGE

The language of the Alagwa, Alagwaisa, is not a written language. Instead it is learnt orally.

You can download our prayer PDFs from: [eu.aimint.org/resources](http://eu.aimint.org/resources).