

UNREACHED

People Group Profile



Xhosa

The Xhosa language includes 15 distinctive clicks, some of which are barely audible to the untrained ear.

Traditionally, Xhosa had not only diviners, called *amagqirha*, but also herbalists (*amaxhwele*), prophets (*izanusisi*), and healers (*inyanga*). Most diviners are women, who train in five-year apprenticeships to learn their craft, including interpretation of dreams.

Because the Xhosa have a strong oral tradition, the role of the *imbongi* or praise singer is very important; this person accompanies chiefs on official occasions, reciting poetry praising the deeds of chiefs and their ancestors.

Ancestors act as intermediaries between people and *uThixo*, the supreme being. Though many Xhosa claim Christianity, some denominations include traditional beliefs and practices.

People Group Name: Xhosa

Alternate Names: (None)

Location: South Africa

Language: Xhosa

Population: 8,478,000

Primary Religion: African Traditional

Number of Christians: 5,000

Number of Churches: 102

Category: Engaged by IMB, engaged by GCC

Level of Difficulty in Reaching People Group: Strenuous

Christian resources available in this language include complete Bible, JESUS film, audio New Testament, audio recordings and tracts.

