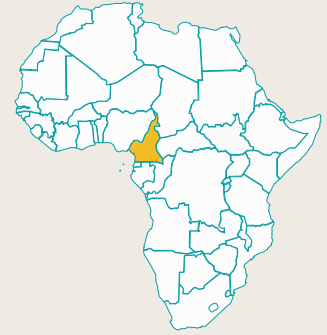




Languages: Bamenyam, Bebele, Kwa, Mbo, Ndanda

Speakers: 68,000



Dates: 2019-2022

Project Goals: New Testament portions, oral Bible stories

BAMILEKE CLUSTER (bah-MILL-ay-kay)

AFRICA — CAMEROON

THE PEOPLE

The Bamenyam, Bebele, Kwa, Mbo and Ndanda groups are part of a larger population of Bamileke people in western Cameroon.

They are known for their arts and crafts, such as intricately decorated ceramics. Some artisans even own their own cooperatives in the regional capital.

Others typically make a living through agricultural pursuits. Much of their day is spent cultivating crops and raising livestock, with the fruits of their labor sold at weekly markets.

Although traditional religion holds influence in these communities, about 80% of the people identify as Christians.

But many aren't sure how to live out their faith. For example, praying to God, whom they can neither see nor touch, is sometimes challenging for those who formerly revered idols. Believers also lack a deep understanding of Scripture, which is only available in another language.

To grow spiritually, the people of the Bamileke Cluster need God's Word in languages that speak to their hearts.

THE PLAN

We're partnering with local teams to translate Scripture into the Bamenyam, Bebele, Kwa, Mbo and Ndanda languages!

To meet the needs expressed by local church leaders, a set of 30 oral Scripture stories will be developed first for each language. These narratives draw from Old and New Testament passages that highlight God's redemptive plan for creation.

Team members will hold several storytelling workshops, training participants to craft Bible stories and then share them orally. Audio recordings of the completed stories will be produced as well.

In the second phase of this three-year project, each of the teams will translate the Gospel of Luke, publishing it in print and audio formats. They'll also begin work on the Gospel of Matthew.

Literacy materials and classes will help Bamileke people learn to read and write their own languages. And church leaders have requested health booklets to build awareness about AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

THE IMPACT

"In Cameroon, people pay more attention to stories recounted in their mother tongue — and value them more," a project adviser said. "Therefore many will come close to God through the work of Bible translation."

The perception that Christianity is a foreign religion will be dispelled as Bamileke people encounter Scripture in their languages. Additionally, false religious beliefs will be discarded.

"The Holy Spirit will speak to people's hearts, transforming lives by the power of the Word of God," the adviser said. "A big part of that transformation will be the rejection of the traditional religion, which is based on sorcery and fear."

Local Christians are fully committed to the success of this project. "They're prepared to send their best sons and daughters to be trained as translators and storytellers," the adviser said.

Your prayers and gifts will help the people of the Bamileke Cluster gain access to God's Word in their own languages!