

## The BESSA/AKWETO of Cameroon

*Image  
Unavailable*

**Primary Religion:**

Traditional Religion

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

>1

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

7,000 (2000)



*Map Unavailable*

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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Number Of Missionaries Working	0	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	No known missionaries	
Response To The Gospel	Major problem with syncretism. For both Akweto and Kamine, there is the claim that there are many Christians who follow traditional religion. They say, "The traditions must not be abandoned."	
Number Of Communities	3	
Comment (Number Communities)	3 villages: (1) Kamine (4,300 pop); (2) Akweto including Bakenchine (2650); (3) Mbissa (900) = 7000 total est. population.	
Number Of Churches	>1	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No. The Scriptures are translated into the mother tongue at church meetings.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	A low percentage of the people are literate.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None of the following are available in the mother tongue. Recordings: no Literature: no Films/videos: no Radio: no  Gospel Recordings (also called Audio Gospel) may reactivate its ministry in Cameroon this year.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Gospel Recordings would fulfill a role in reaching the Nsari language community which is predominantly an oral culture.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	7,000	
World Population (Date)	2000	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Cameroon	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	In the hilly North West Province. Two villages (Mbissa and Kamine) are on a part of the Ring Road which is now graded and as recently ago as early 2001 was in good condition. The village of Akweto is more isolated, located about five miles off the Ring Road northward on a drivable but often rocky road.	
Longitude	7 N	
Latitude	11 E	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	NSARI	
Comment (Language)	Positive. The people expressed a desire to read and write their language, and they said that they would like their children to learn to read and write it as well. They feel that Nsari will be better understood than Pidgin. But the interviewees in Kamine also expressed an interest in learning to read and to write Nooni, saying, "It is the same language," and they expressed a similar interest in Ncane.  The mother tongue is used daily in all domains of life. Pidgin English is used for communicating with the significant number of foreigners who come to the area to farm. The youth have a tendency to mix their mother tongue and Pidgin or English. The churches use Pidgin and English, but translate prayers, sermons, and songs into Nsari. There is a high degree of acquired/learned comprehension of Ncane, the most closely related Eastern Beboid language.	
Alternate Language Names	SALI	
Comments (Dialect)	None. The language is spoken without significant variation in the three villages of Kamine, Akweto, and Mbissa.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Comment (Second Language)	Pidgin English is a language used widely in the area for speaking with others whose mother tongue is another language, and competence in such a "language of wider communication" is often restricted to certain aspects of daily life. -- There is a high degree of acquired/learned comprehension of Ncane, another Eastern Beboid language with which Nsari shares about 84% lexical similarity. This is especially true for the villages of Mbisaa and Kamine, which are located on the main road. -- Comprehension of Noonni, the only Eastern Beboid language with a language development project, is low.
Linguistically Related Languages	NCANE
Neighboring Languages	LIMBUM
Neighboring Languages	KEMEZUNG
Neighboring Languages	BEBE
Neighboring Languages	NCANE
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Ncane, Bebe, and Kemezong within the East Beboid linguistic sub-family; and also next to Limbum of the Nkambe linguistic sub-family.
Literacy	Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	Low
Comment (Attitude to literacy)	The people express a desire to see their language developed and in becoming literate in it. Speakers in Kamine express openness to also becoming literate in Ncane and Noonni. There is no language committee.
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive
Active Literacy Program	No
Publications In Vernacular	A phonology, employing a non-SIL model, was published in 1991 by an SIL linguist.
Economics	Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Comment (Subsistence Type)	Mainly subsistence farmers. Signs near Kamine indicate the existence of a farming cooperative and a fish farm. For both Akweto and Kamine, there are development committees of local people works to maintain the roads, schools, and water supplies.
Occupation	Farmers
Community Development	Group Description
Comment (Health Care)	Residents of Kamine and Mbissa go to the Misaje Clinic; whereas residents of Akweto go to the clinic at Nkambe.
Comment (Water)	They have water.
Shelter Description	Mud brick, sometimes with plaster walls
Electricity	No
Transportation	Bush taxis travel the Ring Road where Bonsobi, Kamine, and Mbissa are located. The occasional bush taxi can also reach Akweto. Taxis shuttle people between Nkambe and Misaje, but trekking is also common. Akweto to Kamine is an hour and fifteen-minute trek; and the residents of these two villages have daily contact. Except when the Kinte River rises during the rainy season, access goes unhindered by trekking among the villages.
Society & Culture	Group Description
Neighbor Relations	Good
Authority / Rule	There is a fon over the Nsari language community, but a leadership dispute exists between the two largest villages (Kamine and Akweto) about which chief of these two villages is over the entire Nsari language area.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Comment (Attitude To Outsiders)	The survey team was openly and warmly received in Kamine. In Akweto, the reception was reserved. African Traditional Religion is more deeply rooted in Akweto than at Kamine. Akweto is more remote than is Kamine or Mbissa. We have had the fon of Kamine village in our home.
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive

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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English	
Comment (Education)	Very few go on to secondary school, and even fewer continue on to higher education.  Most children attend primary school, but parents cannot afford to send them to secondary school.	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Reached Status	Adopted	
Comment (Reached Status)	Partially evangelized	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0	
Christian Literacy Centers	0	
Comment (Church Growth)	Churches: Roman Catholic, Cameroon Baptist Convention, Presbyterian Church of Cameroon.  The mother tongue is used for prayer, Bible reading (in translation), singing, and the sermon.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Comment (Attitude Religious Change)	They are holding on to African Traditional Religion.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Kamine is more open than is Akwto.	
Comment (Religion)	More African Traditional Religion is practiced in Akweto than in Kamine.	
Recommended Approaches	Recordings of Biblical accounts would be a strategic approach in this oral culture.  Utilize a macro team for outreach to Nsari and the other language communities of the East Beboid linguistic sub-family.	
Items For Prayer	Pray for spiritual vitality in the churches and unity among the believers. Pray that believers will find strength to remain faithful in the face of existing syncretism with African Traditional Religion.	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	Definite	
Available Scripture	None	
Comment (Form of Scripture Available)	Only through Pidgin English or English.	
Comment (Scripture Use)	The people express a definite interest in seeing the Bible translated into their mother tongue.	
Comment (Scripture)	Gospel Recordings (also called Audio Gospel) may reactivate its ministry in Cameroon this year (2002).	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	
<b>Missions and Churches</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Organization Name	Presbyterian Church of Cameroon	
Organization Name	Cameroon Baptist Convention	
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church	