



The Anyang of Cameroon

There are 20,000 Anyang people living in the rain forest of southwestern Cameroon at about 400 feet above sea level. The language of the Anyang is called Denya. They generally live in mud brick houses with thatch roofs and their ethnic foods include Eru, a green vegetable that grows wild in the rain forest, and Mango Seeds, from which they make a marketable soup. They live close to the Nigerian border and do business regularly with them and with other groups around them such as the Ejagham and Kenyam.

Because of the heavy rains the roads cannot be used by motorized traffic. It is not uncommon for the Anyang to walk everywhere, even hours, to their destination! They also walk to their fields, as most Anyang are farmers. They make sturdy wooden baskets to wear on their backs to carry the fruits or vegetables they harvest from their fields or from the vast tropical forest that surrounds their land. The Anyang have come from a history of traditional animistic beliefs, but have recently been exposed to the truth of God's Word through evangelism and Bible translation.

The Anyang people have many needs. Their neighbors generally look down upon them. They have few means of income and the younger generations are losing satisfaction with living the agricultural lifestyle. Most children do not continue their education after the sixth grade due to economic hardship and therefore lose the means to better their lifestyle. The Anyang need educational programs, economic resources and momentum, Bible teaching and discipleship to develop Anyang Christian leaders, and a new hope for the future.

Primary Religion:

Traditional Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

< 10%

Churches:

44

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Work in progress

Population (date):

20,000 (2003)



Map Unavailable

The Anyang of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>15%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 10%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	5 % Christian (from People Profile summary page)	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	< 25 %	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	> 85%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	>50 %	
Number Of Pastors	50	
Comment (Pastors)	1:400 (Ratio of pastors/evangelists to population); Only a few itinerant pastors (minority Anyang) who travel to the churches maybe once a month	
Number Of Missionaries Working	5	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	5 based on 1:4,000 (Ratio of missionaries to population); 2 expatriate missionaries, but also others who help such as consultants, etc.; National workers: a few Cameroonians doing church planting and evangelism; Total local workers: translators: Gabriel Besong, Eyong Ashu Daniel, Agbor-Osang Joseph. Data entry and back translation: Achaw Gladys Literacy and Scripture Use: Tambe Robinson Tabi, others involved as well	
Response To The Gospel	People have been responsive to the gospel for the most part. There is syncretism, however, as people have held onto traditional religion and turned back to it during crises in their lives.	
Number Of Churches	44	
Comment (Churches)	Catholic, Presbyterian, New Apostolic, Apostolic, All Saints Ministry, Deeper Life, Full Gospel, and Baptist.	
Comment (Churches)	1:455 (Ratio of churches to population)	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy (CABTAL) translators have drafted Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (half done), Acts, 1 Corinthians, Philipians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, James, Revelation, and Ruth.. The translation of these books is being checked for accuracy and naturalness by the community, and by translation consultants. There are five parables published in their own books: The Sower, the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, the Prodigal Son, the Lost Sheep, and the Good Samaritan. Also the Christmas and Easter stories were published in their own books.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Hindrances include: transportation, neglected roads, cost, and non-Anyang pastors. The Anyang are separated due to the geography of their region. There are 53 Anyang villages, however they are connected only by footpaths, with only a few accessible by vehicles. This has hindered Christian work among them. The few churches that do exist are barely maintained by itinerant pastors who visit a few times a year. Secret societies which hold to ancestor worship are a hindrance. Syncretism is a problem. People don't yet see the value of having the Scriptures in their mother tongue. The literacy rate is low. Those who have been or are in school learn to read in English. Very few have learned to read in Denya.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel Recordings has put Bible stories on a Word of Life cassette in Denya. Luke was published in 2000. A book of 5 parables (including the Sower, Pharisee and Tax Collector, and the Prodigal Son) has been published. A cassette of Denya songs and scripture reading has been recorded. The Word of Life cassette contains a selection of short Bible stories such as Creation, Noah, Prodigal Son, Lost Sheep, Christ is Alive, God has more power.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	There are not enough trained Christian Anyang to serve their own population. Medical workers, media (audio, visual), Bible teaching, and evangelism are needed. People are open to more missionaries coming. There are numerous Cameroonians with the zeal and burden to reach out in evangelism and church planting (particularly among charismatic denominations).	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	20,000	
World Population (Date)	(2003, The Seed Company)	
World Population (Urban Percent)	5%	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description

The Anyang of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Country Name	Cameroon	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Southwest Cameroon, along the northern border with Nigeria. Central and southern parts of Akwaya Subdivision and northern part of Mamfe. Central Subdivision, Manyu Division, South West Province. Partially in Takamanda Forest Reserve.	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Volcanic mountains, rolling hills, escarpment (Bamenda), plains	
Elevation	500 feet above sea level	
Longitude	10° E	
Latitude	7° N	
Climate	Hot and humid; the dry season is from November to March/April and the rainy season is from March/April to the end of October.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Land is abundant, but the high clay content in the soil makes farming difficult.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	Denya	
Comment (Language)	The Anyang are the “down-trodden” people of the region. They have not prospered as some other groups have, and they and their language are looked down upon by others.	
Comment (Alternate Names)	Anyang, Agnang, Anyan, Anyah, Eyan, Takamanda, Obonya, Nyang	
Dialects	Basho, Bitieku, Takamanda, Bajwo	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Comment (Second Language)	Most people can at least speak Cameroonian Pidgin; those who have gone to school can speak English. Both Cameroonian Pidgin and English are widespread. Some have learned the neighboring languages of Ejagham and Kenyang.	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	There are no other people groups that speak this language as their mother tongue.	
Linguistically Related Languages	Kenyang	
Linguistically Related Languages	Kendem	
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Ejagham, Kenyang, Bokyi, Nigerian languages (Igala, Tiv)	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	<1%	
Comment (Attitude to literacy)	<1% are literate in Denya	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	Robinson Tabe (Anyang) is the Literacy/Scripture Use Coordinator, under him are 7-8 Literacy Supervisors, under them are the teachers. Not many adult literacy classes, mostly taught as part of the elementary education program.	
Publications In Vernacular	Reading Denya, Books 1, 2 and 3, Reading Denya Drawings, Post Primer, Math Book 1, Elementary Counting, Reading & Writing (transitional primer from English to Denya), Purified Drinking Water (brochure), AIDS (short booklet)	
Comment (Literacy)	On International Literacy Day, the Anyang compete to see who is the best in reading, writing, and spelling in Denya.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers	
Subsistence Type	Fishers	
Comment (Subsistence Type)	agriculturalists, hunter/gatherers, fishers	
Occupation	small store owners, farmers, school teachers, traders (in Nigeria and Mamfe)	

The Anyang of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note
Income Sources	Eru (a green vegetable that grows wild in the forest), Mango seeds, bush meat, palm wine, cacao (cocoa), oranges, bananas and plantains.
Products / Crafts	Large baskets used in harvesting
Trade Partners	Nigeria and other people groups in Mamfe
Modernization / Utilities	radios, outboard motors, water pump (only in Satoum), electricity and running water in Mamfe. Some people have generators. Sometimes the village owns and operates a generator and everyone pays a small amount to have electricity.
Community Development	Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Water (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Water)	Poor quality (plenty of supply)
Shelter Description	Mud brick or sticks with mud plaster homes, thatch or tin roofs, 3 or more rooms (sitting room, bedrooms), extended families (multi-generational) families may live together
Electricity	None (except in Mamfe)
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Good
Comment (Energy)	wood is gathered for cooking, kerosene is purchased for lanterns
Clothing	Western pants, shirts; traditional wrap skirts or one piece dresses for women, sandals/flip-flops Those who have the means dress up more in western style clothing. Older generational women may go topless.
Transportation	Trekking, boating from Mamfe to other river villages, daily passenger trucks to other villages (weather/roads permitting), bush car taxis (weather/roads permitting)
Infant Mortality Rate	70.12 deaths/1,000 live births (statistics for Cameroon, CIA World Fact Book)
Life Expectancy	Male: 47.15 years, Female: 48.97 years (statistics for Cameroon, CIA World Fact Book)
Leading Cause Of Death	many deaths due to malaria, AIDS, sometimes meningitis, etc.
Society & Culture	Group Description
Family Structures	Patrilineal, polygamous (most Christians monogamous)
Neighbor Relations	good working relationship with neighbors in the people group
Authority / Rule	There are traditional chiefs supported by about 5 to 7 elders, depending on the size of the village. Chiefs are appointed by the council of elders, not elected or passed to a son.
Social Habits/Groupings	Villages
Cultural Change Pace	slow (because they're more remote)
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Comment (Identification with National Culture)	Culturally they feel similar; Socio-economically they feel distinct because they feel excluded from the national resources (education, running water, road and bridge maintenance)
Self Image	Depressed
Judicial / Punishment System	Local council decides on justice, national government uninvolved
Celebrations	Death Celebrations - one year after a death the people will celebrate with singing and food. There are also celebrations for weddings and births. The rite of passage of a child is no longer observed.
Recreations	Chew Cola Nut (stimulant), drink palm wine (men more than women), dances. At the end of a market day people will gather to dance to local music. A generator is brought in to run lights and music (pre-recorded).
Art Forms	Weave baskets for practical use, wood carved idol statues, bells, drums and other percussion instruments

The Anyang of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Media	radio, newspaper	
Comment (Local Language Broadcasting)	Denya newspaper in the villages, radio	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Comment (Attitude To Outsiders)	Somewhat receptive, very friendly	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Babysit, draw water, help cook, possibly help hunt	
Youth Problems (Teens)	teen pregnancy, alcohol	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Secondary education, hope for a future job, satisfaction in being farmers	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	50	
Comment (Primary Schools)	around 50, from 1st - 6th grade	
Primary School Enrollment	5000	
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	around 5,000	
Secondary Schools	1 at Bache; otherwise students must go to Mamfe, Akwaya or Kendem	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Comment (Language Of Instruction)	English (possibly Pidgin, though not condoned)	
Comment (Language Of Textbook)	English (except for cases where they're using Denya primers)	
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	primary-majority; secondary-none	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Engaged	
Reached Classification	Unreached	
Bible Schools	0	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1	
Comment (Christian Clinics/Hospitals)	Full Gospel clinic in Mamfe, 1 doctor	
Christian Literacy Centers	1	
Comment (Christian Literacy Center)	Manyu (district) Language Center (SIL)	
Comment (Christian Literacy Center)	The Manyu Language Center (MLC) sells Ejagham, Denya and Kenyam literature, houses translation offices, photocopying and email services available, Mavis Beacon typing lessons	
Comment (Church Growth)	The Manyu Language Center (MLC) sells Ejagham, Denya and Kenyam literature, houses translation offices, photocopying and email services available, Mavis Beacon typing lessons	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Christianity is syncretized with local traditional religion	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	positive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Comment (Attitude Religious Change)	hesitant, want gradual change if any	
Resistance / Receptivity	generally receptive, resistance from some practitioners of traditional religion.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	scapegoat ceremony – putting one's sins/bad on a goat and driving it away.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	open, but numerous people are still bound by traditional religions and kept in fear.	

The Anyang of Cameroon

Item Name

Items For Prayer

Item Note

1. The translation team anticipates completing the New Testament translation by 2007. Pray that the Lord strengthens every element to make this goal a reality.
2. Finding funds is a constant struggle. Pray that the Lord would provide the finances to sustain this team of Cameroonians.
3. Pray for receptiveness to the scriptures that have already been translated.
4. Pray for pastors to be willing to use them.
5. Pray for the adherents to remain strong.
6. Pray for wisdom for Christians in relating to traditional leaders and communities so as not to offend.

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Year Began

c. 1900

By Whom

the Basel Mission, a Presbyterian group from Switzerland

Significant Events

early 1960s – revival among Denya-speaking churches, but later decline.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status

In Progress

Form Of Scripture Available

Printed and Audio

Comment (Form of Scripture Available)

About 70% of the New Testament is drafted. Luke, 5 parables, Christmas story, Easter story. The team is planning to publish Philippians and James as separate books in early 2004 and hopes to finish the New Testament by 2007. The team consists of Gabriel Besong, Eyong Ashu Daniel, Agbor-Osang Joseph. Achaw Gladys is the back translator and typist.

Scripture Use

Individuals & some churches

Comment (Scripture)

Some Anyang are bilingual in English and could have access to the Bible in it.

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature

Yes

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings

Yes

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio

No

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Presbyterian

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

The Seed Company

Main Ministry

Literacy

Main Ministry

Bible Translation

Organization Name

> UNLISTED Organization #1

UNLISTED Organization Name

Charismatic churches

Main Ministry

Evangelism

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Organization Name

Cameroon Bible Translation Association

Main Ministry

Literacy

Main Ministry

Bible Translation