

The Awing of Cameroon

The Awing people live in a reasonably secluded valley Southwest of Bamenda in the North West Province of Cameroon. They live in one village which is made up of several quarters. There is a Fon (a village chief or king) who is the traditional ruler and has a very important social and political role in the Awing society. Nearly all the Awing people belong nominally to a Christian church. The only Muslims in the area are from other people groups who moved into the area. Although people do not like to talk about it, traditional religion and culture still have a very strong hold on the people. It is very common for men to have more than one wife. The Fon has a good number of wives, and he inherits the wives from the last Fon when taking over the throne. Many of the Fon palaces have Christians slogans such as "Christ is the head of this Palace", yet Fons have one-hundred wives or more and are the head of any traditional ceremony. It is extremely hard for believers to break out of traditions. Often Christianity has failed to reach the hearts of the people. They go to church. They pray and sing songs, but when they gather for a meeting that includes traditional music and dancing their hearts are really there. They need a church that is able to show them that they do not need to give up their identity in order to be true followers of Jesus. The mother tongue is vitally important in order to make Christ a brother and God a father and not a white ruler.

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Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

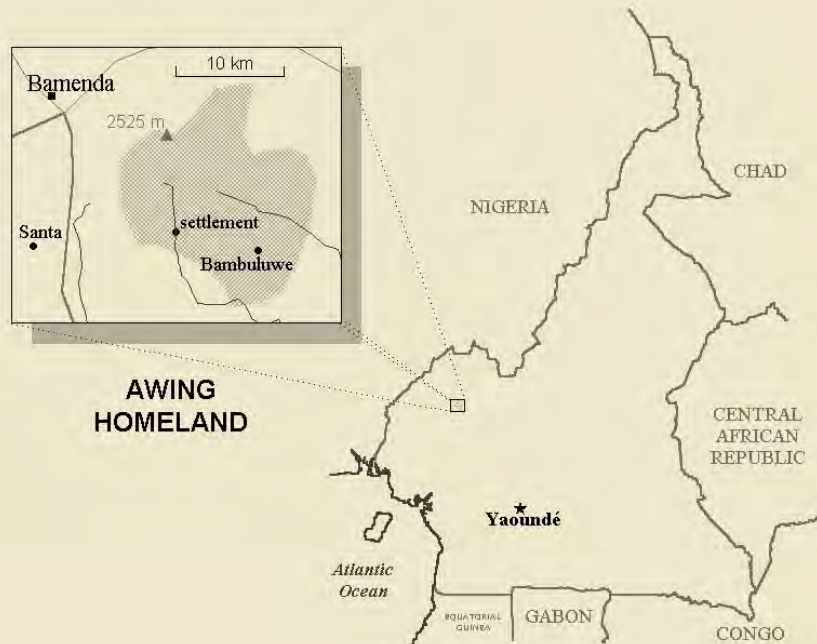
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in their language

Population (date):

19,000



The Awing of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	90%	
Response To The Gospel	Rapid growth, but largely nominal or syncretistic; People appear to be very open and receptive to Christianity, but the change has not been very deep.	
Number Of Communities	1	
Comment (Number Communities)	1 very large village with 12 quarters	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	There is some literature in the mother tongue but no religious material apart from songs. A lot of people have radios. There are Gospel Audio Recordings.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	People are very open to change as they feel the need to work hard and learn in order to come closer to the western standard of life. There are probably enough churches, but a standing need exists for a "life changing teaching".	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	19,000	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Cameroon	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Country	Cameroon	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain Valley	
Elevation	1,500 meters	
Longitude	10.1	
Latitude	5.5N	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	AWING	
Comment (Language)	2-5% Monolingual	
Alternate Language Names	Mbwe'wi	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	PIDGIN, CAMEROON	
Linguistically Related Languages	PINYIN	
Neighboring Languages	BAMBILI	
Literacy		Group Description
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Publications In Vernacular	4	
Comment (Literacy)	Their attitude towards literacy is very positive. Some members of the people group have taken part in a course offered by SIL to analyze the sound system and create a suitable alphabet. They have a diary, calendar, anthem of the village and phonetic description.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Occupation	Civil servants, traders, laborers.	
Income Sources	Trade of farming products. More educated people work in bigger towns.	
Modernization / Utilities	Electricity, clean water supplies, schools, and health care.	
Comment (Economy)	At least at national average.	
Community Development		Group Description

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Item Name

Item Note

Health Care (Quality)	Fair
Diet (Quality)	Good
Water (Quality)	Good
Shelter Description	Good
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Good
Comment (Energy)	There is electricity in the village but not in every house.
Clothing	Good
Transportation	Poor. By foot and motor vehicle.
Comment (Community Development)	The people are actively involved in construction and maintenance of roads and buildings.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Authority / Rule	Fondom with a Fon (king) as the head of society and elders as leading men.
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Prestigious
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Very receptive
Comment (Culture)	Most people see the need for changes although some are resistant.

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	20
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 (Education)	The are 15 primary schools and 5 secondary schools.

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Reached
Reached Classification	Evangelized

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Comment (Religion)	There is still some syncretism.
Recommended Approaches	Work through the existing churches.
Current Needs	Bible translation and literacy
Items For Prayer	Pray that people would keep working on their language and get motivated to work on Bible Translation. Pray for teachers and preachers that they will reach the hearts of the people. Pray for a healthy way to leave old ways which are ungodly and keep old ways that are godly and vital for their identity.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status	Definite
Available Scripture	None
Comment (Scripture)	Waiting for local initiative before sending language personnel

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

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Item Name	Item Note
Audio Recordings Available	Gospel Audio Recordings available both in Awing and Mbwe'wi.