

The Mery of Cameroon



The Mery are a group of about 10,000 people living in a mountainous area of the Far North Province of Cameroon. Christianity is well implanted, though the wider area is predominately Muslim. Translation work began in the later 1980s when Beat Haller, a translator in the Neighboring Zulgo language helped a Mery man work with the Zulgo translator to convert the New Testament from Zulgo to Mery. Sadly, both these men died before the work was able to advance further. The Mery translation committee chose a replacement, Eli Doumok, to continue the work. The Mery describe themselves as a gentle and faithful people.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

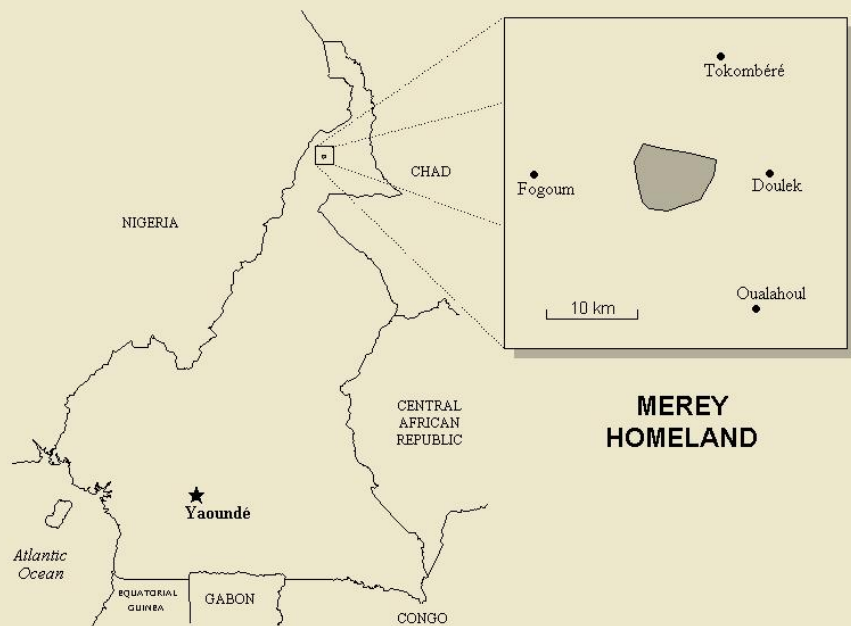
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions are available

Population (date):

10,000



The Merery of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	60	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	20	
Number Of Churches	7	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Work is in progress.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Financing literature production.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	They have a hymnbook and Bible portions	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	10000	
World Population (Urban Percent)	400	
Comment (World Population)	5% of the Merery live in the urban areas.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Cameroon	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Far North Province	
Country	Cameroon	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Mountains Mesa	
Climate	Hot with dry and rainy seasons	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Alternate Language Names	Meri, Mere, Mofu de Meri.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	GEMZEK	
Comments (Related Languages)	Fulfulde is spoken by most men and some women. Neighboring languages of Gemzek, Mbuko, Zulgo, Mafa, Mofu are spoken by many.	
Neighboring Languages	MAFA	
Literacy		Group Description
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Literacy)	An agency has three literacy classes on a two year cycle. Parables, the Christmas story, one hymn book and one health book have been published in mother tongue.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	50,000 ?	
Occupation	Farmers	
Income Sources	Sale of farm produce and cotton.	
Products / Crafts	Millet, beans, peanuts. They also have goats, sheep and chicken.	
Trade Partners	Neighboring peoples.	
Modernization / Utilities	Meri has electricity, but there is no city water.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	There is a government hospital outside Meri and a health center in Meri. There is no full time doctor.	

The Merery of Cameroon

Item Name

Item Note

Diet (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Diet)

Famine is regular when there are not enough rains.

Water (Quality)

Poor

Shelter Description

They have stone huts on the mountain and mud huts on the plains. There are a few cement houses.

Comment (Energy)

There is electricity only in Meri. They use fire stalks and wood for energy.

Clothing

They wear used clothing purchased in the local market and typical African wraps made by local tailors.

Transportation

Bicycles and walking are their main modes of transportation.

Leading Cause Of Death

Malaria

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures

Patrilineal

Neighbor Relations

There was some strife in the past, but the relationships are better now.

Authority / Rule

Traditional Chiefs and village chiefs.

Social Habits/Groupings

Clans form the basic unit in a village.

Cultural Change Pace

Slow

Self Image

Neutral

Celebrations

Funerals, marriages, harvest festivals and cow festivals.

Recreations

Soccer and visiting.

Art Forms

Music and dance. They have very few artifacts.

Local Language Broadcasting

None

Attitude To Outsiders

Very receptive

Attitude To Change

Somewhat receptive

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)

Fetch water, care for small animals.

Education

Group Description

Teacher To Pupil Ratio

70

Language Of Instruction Early Years

French

Comment (Education)

There are primary schools in all villages. There is one secondary school in Meri.

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Attitude To Christianity

Very receptive

Attitude To Religious Change

Very receptive

Current Needs

Consultant for translation work.
Finances for translation work.

Items For Prayer

Pray that the translation of the Bible can be completed and that the Mere people will use it.
The translation committee asks for prayer that they may have an office in which to work. They are currently trying to do their work in a local church building.
Pray for the Merery Christians, that they would support the translation work with a contribution of 200 CFA (35 Cents US) Per year.

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Comments (History of Christianity)

The Germans with Vision Africa began the work there.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status

In Progress

Available Scripture

Portions

Form Of Scripture Available

Printed

The Merrey of Cameroon

Item Name

Item Note

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Union des Églises Évangéliques du Nord du Cameroun
Number Of Expatriate Workers	2

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available	One hymnbook,one health book, Bible portions.
Audio Recordings Available	No
Films Available	No
Radio Programs Available	No
Videos Available	No
Audio Visual Available	No