

The Yangben of Cameroon



representative photo

The Yangben live in the savanna plains and are agriculturalists. They are part of the Mbam communities. Their income comes from the sales of vegetables and fruits. They also sell yams, manioc, plantain, macabo and taro in the neighboring village markets. They live in mud brick or concrete blockhouses with tin roofs. Some of the houses near the main road have electricity, while the other use wood as the main energy and fuel.

Generations of Yangben people cling to traditional beliefs rooted in a fear of evil spirits. The fear of sorcery is prevalent, and the issue of sorcery is regularly raised at times of misfortune. The ongoing struggle is the power people attribute to the spirit realm.

Though a large majority of people in Mbam communities may attend church or profess Christianity, they lack a foundation in God's Word. Because of the area's multilingual nature, church leaders tend to conduct services in French — the national language. As a result, churchgoers often fall back into familiar traditional beliefs, and the next generation repeats the cycle. Truths from God's Word in the mother tongue can tear down traditional strongholds.

Stories play a far more significant role than simple entertainment among the Yangben people. Storytelling is a common way to relay vital information. This time-honored method will be utilized to reach people with God's Word and address the most pressing spiritual issues.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

0.50%

Churches:

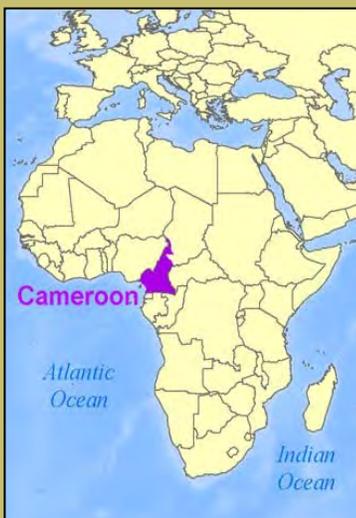
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Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

Storytelling

Population (date):

5,300



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Is the Word of God Translated?

Plans are to add eight more oral Bible stories to repertoire, audio translation of Gospel of Mark and to determine next steps in Bible translation.

Hindrances to Scripture Distribution

Community apathy toward print media. Narrow window to leverage intern-training opportunity for the greater Francophone translation context..

Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed

Need missionaries to assist with Bible translation.

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Group Description

Geography & Environment

Location	Bokito Sub-Division, Mbam Devision, Centre Province.
Geological Type	Savannahs and plains.
Elevation	200-400 meters
Climate	Equatorial.

Economics

Occupation	Agriculturalists (sedentary)
Income Sources	Sale of vegetables and fruits
Products/Crafts	Yams, manioc, plantain, macabo, taro.
Trade Partners	Neighboring village.

Community Development

Health Care	Poor
Comment	Catholic basic healthcare clinic within walking distance. Serious cases go to the nearest town, Bafia, over 35 kilometers away.
Diet	Good
Comment	Agricultural produce
Water	Poor
Comment	The pump system is failing. They are dependent upon stream water and water holes.
Shelter Description	Adequate. Mud brick or concrete block. Tin roof.
Energy/Fuel	Fair
Comment	Use wood.
Clothing	Mostly western.
Transportation	Fair. No telephone system.
<u>Education</u>	
Primary Schools	2
Teacher to Pupil Ratio	45
Language of Instruction Early Years	French
Comment	Primary only. Pupil: teacher ratio is an estimate for primary grades 1-3. French is the language used in unmixed language areas.

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Status of Christianity

Religion and Response

Attitude to Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Attitude to Religious Change	Somewhat receptive
Resistance/Receptivity	Somewhat receptive

Scripture

Need for Translation	Yangben is related to Mmala and Elip and could possibly use the same translation as these two speech forms.
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Church Growth

Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1
Comment	Nearest clinic is in Yangben within walking distance.

Mission/Churches

Organization #1	Roman Catholic Church
Comment	Medical mission.
Number of Expatriate Workers	3.