

The Aghem of Cameroon

The Aghem are an industrious people with a highly organized social structure. The majority live from subsistence farming with some cattle herds and cash crops contributing to the economy.

The Aghem people have many churches but the truth of the Gospel has yet to penetrate the general fabric of the society. Syncretism is pervasive, with appeasement of the 'ancestors' being considered critical to success in all aspects of life, whether harmonious family relationships, thriving crops, or good community projects. There is, however, a small core of believers emerging who are turning away from the rituals and sacrifices and are depending on Christ alone to meet every need. Unity is a deep-seated value for the society. Unfortunately, since many rites are performed by the whole community, those refusing to participate tend to be ostracized by their kinsmen. It is often easier to keep silent and keep unity rather than take a strong stand against the syncretism.

*Image
Unavailable*

Primary Religion:

Traditional, Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

< 50%

Churches:

14

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions

Population (date):

30,000 (1999)



Map Unavailable

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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>50%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 50%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	There are a few Aghem Muslims.	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	Greater than 90%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	Less than 10%	
Number Of Pastors	19	
Comment (Pastors)	19 national pastors and priests. About 1575 Aghem per pastor/evangelist.	
Number Of Missionaries Working	0	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	No expatriate missionaries; No missionaries per se but all pastors are non-Aghem.	
Response To The Gospel	Wum has had a church presence for over fifty years. Although a fairly large number of Aghem adhere to the Christian faith, many of these people are still firmly entrenched in African Traditional Religion. In a conversation with one host, it was explained to us that everything that God has made is good. Since God gave us plants for medicine, we should use them. By extrapolation, God also made the traditional healers, ancestors and sacrifices; therefore, they are also good and should be used.	
Number Of Communities	11	
Comment (Number Communities)	WUM town is a cluster of long, and often narrow, villages side by side.	
Number Of Churches	14	
Comment (Churches)	15 different groups work among the Aghem. This is only a rough figure based on personal observations while attending all of these churches. Many of the above churches primarily serve the large non-Aghem population found in Wum.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Translation work has just begun. A Luke 15 shell book has been printed, and they are testing copies of The Christmas Story, The Easter Story, and The Good Samaritan. Less than 5% of the Bible has been translated. Some small portions of the New Testament are becoming available as the Aghem Bible Translation team is being trained and beginning to work.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Many Aghem will claim not to have an English Bible because they cannot afford it. This does seem too realistic given that these Bibles are available in several versions for as little as 1500 FCFA (a little over \$2.00 US). It would appear to be more a question of priorities.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings: no Literature: no Films/videos: no Radio: no	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Given the existence of nine different denominations, there is no real need for church planting, but the church universal in Wum needs some good fundamental teaching about the essentials of the gospel. Many Aghem have been well inoculated and can no longer discern the truth of God's Word.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	30,000	
World Population (Date)	1999	
Comment (World Population)	30,000 (1999) No reliable figure has been available.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Cameroon	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Wum, Wum Sub-division, Menchum Division, Nothwest Province	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	50% (in English)	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity

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Item Name

Comment (Church Growth)

Item Note

More than 10 local workers. The number of total local workers could be considered as substantially higher if one takes into account the teachers in the church-run schools run by the Catholic, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches.

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Presbyterian Church of Cameroon
Number Of Adherents	960
Comment (Number Of Adherents)	70 attend the church in Kesu, 800 in Naikom, 50 in Zongekwo, and 40 in Zongenchagha.
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Located in the villages of Kesu, Naikom, Zongekwo, Zongenchegha
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	Some. No workers in Naikom use the language.
Organization Name	> UNLISTED Organization #2
UNLISTED Organization Name	Deeper Life Bible Church
Comment (Organization)	Church found in the village of Kesu
Number Of Adherents	20
Number Of Congregations	1
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0
Language Used By Workers	
Organization Name	> UNLISTED Organization #1
UNLISTED Organization Name	True Church of God
Number Of Adherents	40
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Naikom Oversight
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0
Language Used By Workers	
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church
Year Started	Saint Martin's Catholic Mission started in 1949.
Number Of Adherents	3,100
Comment (Number Of Adherents)	1,300 attend the Holy Trinity Catholic Mission in Kesu, and 1,800 attend Saint Martin's Catholic Mission churches in Cheregha.
Number Of Congregations	3
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Located in the villages of Kesu and Cheregha
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	Some
Organization Name	Full Gospel Mission
Number Of Adherents	60
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Located in the village of Kesu
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	Some
Organization Name	Apostolic
Number Of Adherents	2
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Kesu
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0

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Item Name	Item Note
Organization Name	Cameroon Baptist Convention
Number Of Adherents	30
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Located in the village of Kesu
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0
Organization Name	Seventh Day Adventists
Number Of Adherents	15
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Located in the village of Naikom Overside
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0
Organization Name	Church of Christ
Number Of Adherents	30
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Located in the village of Naikom Overside
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0
Organization Name	Christian Missionary Fellowship
Number Of Adherents	10
Number Of Congregations	1
Comment (Number Of Congregations)	Located in the village of Kesu
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0