

The Busam of Cameroon

The Busam people are somewhat isolated, living in several valleys of a mountainous area. They are primarily farmers, growing their own food. They also export coffee for cash to buy things they cannot get locally. The Busam live in a semi-tropical area and there are two seasons: the cool rainy season and the warm dry season.

*Image
Unavailable*

Germans began colonialization of the area in the late 1800's, later followed by the English after World War I. Since then the Catholic Church has proliferated and Presbyterian and Apostolic groups have emerged among the Busam as well. Today, most are Christian by name, but traditional religion is so fundamental in their culture they do not see the contradiction between the two.

The Busam speak Pidgin for communicating with outsiders, and Busam, their mother tongue, within the group. Many Busam have a primary education, but few go on to secondary school. Since there is a small number of Busam that are literate and the only Scriptures available to them are in English, access to the Word of God is difficult. The Busam have a great need for a translation of the Bible in their language, for literacy, and a clear Christian teaching.

Primary Religion:

Traditional, Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

< 5%

Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

No Scripture

Population (date):

8,000 (1999)



Map Unavailable

The Busam of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>50%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 5%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	>75%	
Number Of Pastors	3	
Number Of Missionaries Working	0	
Response To The Gospel	Rapid growth, but largely nominal or syncretistic	
Number Of Communities	8	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Translation Medium	None	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Illiteracy	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Pidgin NT has been published recently which would be quite useful in all Busam villages. Gospel audio recordings available.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Bible translation, literacy, community development	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	8000	
World Population (Date)	1999	
World Population (Urban Percent)	5%	
Comment (World Population)	Population figure is based on 1987 Census with an estimated 2.9% growth rate per year to 1999.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Cameroon	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	In the highlands of the Momo division, west of Bamenda. Widikum sub-division, Momo Division, North-West Province.	
Country	Cameroon	
Ecosystem Type	Semi-tropical	
Geological Type	Mountain, Slope	
Elevation	500 - 800 m	
Longitude	5.5 degrees E	
Latitude	9.5 degrees N	
Climate	Rainy season: cool and wet. Dry season, warm and drier. Can be hot in dry season.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Good roads to the Busam area from Bamenda, but within the group roads are virtually non-existent.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Primary Language	BUSAM	
Comments (Dialect)	There is a northern and a southern dialect which are quite similar	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	<5%	
Second Languages	PIDGIN, CAMEROON; ENGLISH	
Comment (Second Language)	90% of Busam speak Pidgin, 50% speak English to some degree. There is a continuum between pidgin and English	
Linguistically Related Languages	AMBELE	
Linguistically Related Languages	ATONG	
Linguistically Related Languages	MENKA	

The Busam of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Active Language Programs	No	
Language Stability	Stable	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	<5%	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Publications In Vernacular	1: A prayer booklet has been printed (Catholic).	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	<\$400	
Occupation	farmers	
Income Sources	cash crops and local produce markets	
Products / Crafts	unknown	
Trade Partners	Trade with Fulani and other neighboring ethnic groups	
Modernization / Utilities	Electricity in one large village close to the main road.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Good	
Diet (Quality)	Good	
Water (Quality)	Good	
Shelter Description	Mud-brick walls, thatch roofs, some aluminum roofs.	
Electricity	only in one village close to the main road	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Good	
Clothing	women wear wrap around cloth called 'pagne' and shirts or blouses. Men wear mainly western clothing. Traditional ceremonies are accompanied by traditional dress.	
Transportation	some bush taxis (Toyota vans or 4 door cars) but mostly on foot in the area.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	extended family	
Neighbor Relations	apparently good relations	
Authority / Rule	powerful traditional village and ethnic leaders submitted to elected government officials.	
Social Habits/Groupings	no clans or classes or castes	
Cultural Change Pace	Medium	
Identification With National Culture	Similar	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive	
History Of People Group	Busam say they are from the Widikum ethnic groups, along with many other small ethnic groups in the area.	
Comment (Culture)	The Busam Cultural and Development Association (BUCUDA) repairs roads, digs wells, and has built a church.	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	working in the fields, taking care of younger siblings, carrying water, cooking.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	good education, primary health, good food	
Education		Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note
Primary Schools	unknown; likely more than two
Primary School Enrollment	unknown
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Pidgin, Cameroon
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English

Church Growth

Reached Status	Verified
Reached Classification	Unreached
Bible Schools	0
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1 in neighboring town of Widikum
Christian Literacy Centers	0

Status of Christianity

Religion & Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	gifts to ancestors, appeasing of spirits, jujus, death celebrations, funerals
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive
Resistance / Receptivity	Many people are receptive on the outside.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	One creator God, transcendent, made the spirits, created relationships.

Status of Christianity

History Of Christianity In Group

By Whom	Roman Catholic Church
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Status of Christianity

Scripture

Translation Status	Probable
Available Scripture	None
Form Of Scripture Available	None
Uncertain Need Explained	only one village visited during impromptu survey. Needs rapid appraisal survey.
Reason For Urgent Need Of Translation	people are dying without Christ, and translation would make Christ so much more real to them, even the believers. Hard to establish and grow a church without scripture in the local language.

Status of Christianity

Missions and Churches

Organization Name	Presbyterian Church of Cameroon
Organization Name	Apostolic
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church
Denominational Type Of Organization?	Yes
Number Of Adherents	500
Number Of Local Workers	3

Status of Christianity

Christian Literature And Media Status

Audio Recordings Available	None
Films Available	Gospel audio recordings available
Radio Programs Available	None
Videos Available	None
Audio Visual Available	None

Status of Christianity