



PROJECT PROFILE

Bakossi

THE PEOPLE

About 60,000 Bakossi people live on the slopes of Mt. Kupe and Mt. Manen-guba in the tropical rainforest and savanna of southwestern Cameroon. Traditionally farmers, hunters and fishermen, the Bakossi now grow coffee and cocoa as their main cash crops. Most families grow a plant that they harvest to make n'weh, or Bakossi tea, a bright red drink that is reported to have medicinal properties.

THE BACKGROUND

The missionaries who first came to the Bakossi people placed a strong emphasis on education. As a result, there are many school-teachers among the Bakossi today, and many Bakossi have moved out of the area to pursue further education. These well-educated Bakossi speakers now live throughout Cameroon.

Although schooling and church services are conducted in English, the heart language of the people is still Bakossi. This is the language they learn at home, the language that conveys their culture, feelings and identity. Bakossi is the language that truly speaks to the people.

THE NEED

A majority of the Bakossi claim to be Christians, but most are very nominal in their faith. They often miss spiritual truths because church services are conducted in English, which they do not understand very well.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Until recently, local Presbyterian Church leaders opposed translation into the Bakossi language. Now they realize that the churches will never flourish without the New Testament in the language people can understand, and Presbyterian leaders have joined the Catholic leadership in support of Bible translation.

The Bakossi people are asking for God's Word in their language! They want to understand what God has to say to them, and they want to be able to share the Gospel with others.



- **Location:** Cameroon, Africa
- **Number of Speakers:** 60,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 1994
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2011



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THE PLAN

In 1995, a team came together to begin Bible translation. They completed some work, but then the enemy sowed seeds of discord, and the project was discontinued for a period of time. However, the people did not lose their desire for the Bakossi Scriptures, and through the perseverance of Bakossi leaders, the translation project has been revived.

The Presbyterian Church now actively supports the translation work and has released one of its pastors to lead the project. He and his team aim to complete the Bakossi New Testament by 2011. They are making good progress so far, with several New Testament books in various stages of drafting, checking and revision.

THE RESULT

The Bakossi Scriptures will be a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship. Christians will be able to study the Scriptures for themselves, helping them to grow and mature in their faith.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Bakossi translators cannot complete their goals alone. They need you. Your financial gift will support national Bible translators by providing quality linguistic training, salaries and travel expenses. Prayerfully consider how God might use your financial gift to translate His precious Word.

The work of Bible translation is also in great need of your prayers. Translators and their families will depend on your prayer support as they sacrifice to see the Scriptures in their language. Commit today to pray for the translation work in Cameroon and the Bakossi speakers who are waiting to hear about the love of Christ. Call The Seed Company at 1-817-557-2121 to express your commitment.

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