



NDOP CLUSTER CAMEROON

SPRING 2021 UPDATE



STORIES OF IMPACT

New Testament drafts in four related languages in Cameroon should be completed this year, and in three more related languages soon after!

Despite ongoing conflict and a global pandemic, Scripture translation is progressing at a strong pace in Cameroon. Years of work will be avoided for three New Testament translations by adapting completed New Testaments and through collaboration between translators for different languages using new software.

Audio Scripture awakens a desire to read in the Mother Tongue

One woman was listening to the recordings of the Chrambo New Testament, and approached Emmanuel, a translation project manager. She said "You have helped me! I don't think I have ever experienced God the way I do now. I have listened to most of the audio Scripture you gave me and now I really want to learn how to read and write Chrambo."

Emmanuel was surprised, as he had heard her read. "Yes," she admitted, "but what I was 'reading' was just something I

memorized. . . Now I really need to learn because I have my Bible and I want to read it for myself!" She persisted in her requests until Emmanuel invited her to join a literacy class.

The Word is better than wine

The Literacy Supervisor was showing the Bamunka Luke film in Mr. Patrick's compound. Mr. Patrick said he hated the church, but joined to watch the film later that day. Mr. Patrick is a palm wine tapper, and would have typically left to go tapping by 4pm. Instead he sat, keenly watching the film. His wife was amused and laughed, "You watched about the things of God today, and forgot to tap your wine!" Mr. Patrick responded, "Everybody in this compound should go to church!"

After the film screening, the team played a clip of a mother tongue choir dancing. Mr. Patrick saw how the youths were dancing and turned to his four daughters to, "You can't watch this in a bar." One of the daughters responded, "But you have been the one stopping us from going to church!" Mr Patrick became silent for a while and then repeated, "Everybody in this compound will go to church!"



STORIES OF IMPACT (CONTINUED)

In the midst of conflict and a pandemic, productivity has increased!

Cameroon is among the top 10 countries with the highest Bible translation needs. And this is a strategic moment: there is incredible productivity in this project, even in the midst of a pandemic and open conflict.

With the dangers of travel in the Northwest Region, a joint office has been set up in Mbouda, a safe town away from

the conflict. Since all the mother-tongue translators work together, collaboration and the lack of distractions means that translation is ahead of schedule.

Through your partnership, you are also addressing the biggest bottleneck to Bible translation in the country by training four translation consultants. Once these projects are complete, the trained consultants can continue to offer their services throughout Cameroon and Africa.



Recent Highlights (In The Past Six Months)

- The Acts Film project has been approved for Bambalang and Bamunka and there has been good progress on preparing the film scripts.
- The Ndop Cluster currently has the equivalent of two full New Testaments awaiting checking by a translation consultant.
- A translation consultant recently committed to checking the Bamunka New Testament. This will bring the New Testament nearer to completion!



Upcoming Goals

- The Bangolan New Testament is on track to be fully drafted by August 2021.
- The Bamunkumbit anticipate completing their New Testament draft by the end of 2021.
- Babessi and Baba candidates will be trained to adapt closely related Ndop languages into a first draft of the New Testament in their own languages. This will be followed by the standard process of church- and community-testing, revision and consultant-checking.
- After some delays due to the civil upheaval and Covid-19, the Bamunka New Testament is scheduled to be consultant-checked and ready for typesetting by the end of 2021.
- Pastor Pius is working to complete his master's degree in May 2021 and Pastor Novethan anticipates being done by the end of this year. Lord willing, they will officially become translation consultants shortly thereafter.



Pray with us

Father God, thank you for protecting your people in Cameroon, even though travel is dangerous. We pray for peace, strength and safety for all the translators and literacy workers. Please provide reliable phone and mobile Internet service, to improve communication and reduce the need for travel.

Lord, we ask for your help to resolve the consultant backlog and enable the two full New Testaments to be checked and published soon. We also pray for the provision of a media specialist to record audio tracks for the Acts Film in Bambalang and Bamunka.

Thank you for those who have been touched by Scripture in their language, and through the trauma healing workshops. We pray for them to be encouraged, and for their faith to grow. In Jesus' name, Amen.