



Cameroon

The Kwakum

Who are the Kwakum?

The Kwakum are an agricultural people that find themselves one small group amidst the 250+ people groups of Cameroon. The typical day for most Kwakum people consists of working long hours in their fields, coming home to clean up and eat, and then going straight to bed when the sun goes down.

They frequently grow corn, cassava, cocoyam, peanuts, and various types of greens. Nearly every Kwakum meal contains *kaandɔ*, which is translated in French as *couscous* or in English referred to as fufu. *Kaandɔ* is a paste with the consistency of a very thick cream of wheat. They serve it with a side of either peanut sauce or boiled greens, often mixed with various types of bush meat.

All of that work means that few Kwakum have the opportunity to go to school. Few of the men can read in French (the government language in the East region), and almost no women are literate.

Location

It is estimated that there are around 10,000 Kwakum people who mostly live in 20 villages in the East Region of Cameroon, all but two of which are along the main road in the region. There are two main districts: Dimako and Doumé. A new literacy center has been built in Dimako to facilitate the work of Bible translation.

The Kwakum believe many things about God and spirituality, but one of the overarching themes of their religious belief is that the spirits of the dead remain in the village. They believe that these spirits can drastically affect their lives, either blessing or cursing them. The result is that they live in constant fear of angering those who have died, even their own parents. And much of their daily life is directed by a desire to manipulate these spirits to be blessed.

While there are many churches in the East Region, few Kwakum attend regularly. For those who do go to church, most have been persuaded by the prosperity gospel which calls them to treat God no differently than the spirits of their ancestors. They have a desperate need to know the true God and the meaning of Grace.

World Team

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Hope for the Hopeless

No Word for “Hope”

Extensive linguistic analysis has been done to better understand the Kwakum language in preparation for Bible translation. During this analysis, a great lack has been discovered. Words that are vital for communicating the Gospel are missing in Kwakum, including grace, gift, and hope. This is as much a cultural phenomenon as it is linguistic. Most of the Kwakum people have never experienced these life-changing realities.

Literally Dying

As concerned as World Team is with the spiritual state of the Kwakum people, their physical needs are desperate. A lack of information on nutrition and hygiene combined with the absence of quality medical care results in an extremely low life expectancy. The Kwakum people are literally dying every day because of treatable illnesses.

Evangelism and Discipleship

Their physical needs are only exacerbated by their need for the Gospel. Not only are they dying, they are dying apart from Christ. There is a great need for Gospel-believing Christians to share the word of Christ with the Kwakum and lead them to honoring Him with their lives.

Oral Storying, Translation, and Literacy

The Kwakum team is seeking to engage the Kwakum by getting God’s Word to them in any way possible. This includes oral storying, a full Bible translation, and an active literacy program.

Ministry Overview

People	The Kwakum
Language	Kwakum
Location	Cameroon, Africa
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Education• Bible Translation• Literacy• Children and Youth• Church Planting• Discipleship/Leadership Development

The Kwakum need the hope that only Christ can give—hope for their families, hope because they have worth to God, and the hope of heaven.

We are eager to see the Gospel change every aspect of their lives. Our hope is to one day see the Kwakum taken off of the list of Bible-less peoples. With God’s Word we have great hope that we will see Kwakum churches run by Kwakum people teaching with the power of the Holy Spirit.



Join the Team!

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