



Cameroon

The Kwakum

Who are the Kwakum?

The Kwakum are a small agricultural people group amidst the 250+ people groups of Cameroon. The typical day for most Kwakum people consists of long hours of manual labor in their fields, coming home to clean up, prepare meals, 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 bushmeat.

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 few women are literate.

Location

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

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 in order to be blessed.

While there are many churches in the region, few Kwakum attend regularly. For those who do go to church, most have been influenced by the prosperity gospel, which calls them to manipulate God as they would the spirits of their ancestors. They have a desperate need to know the true God and the meaning of grace.

World Team

us.worldteam.org

mobilize.us@worldteam.org

800.967.7109

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

In addition to their spiritual needs, their physical needs are also 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 a literacy program.

Ministry Overview

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| People | The Kwakum |
| Language | Kwakum |
| Location | Cameroon, Africa |
| Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Education• Bible Translation (OT focus)• Literacy• 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!

US.WorldTeam.org

Mobilize.US@WorldTeam.org

