



# SURAM CAMEROON

## SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

A gathering about Scripture use in the Merey community. Learning to engage with God's Word is where transformation truly begins! (L)  
Thank you for supporting the SURAM Cameroon team as they have conducted Scripture engagement surveys and research. (R)



## STORIES OF IMPACT

### The team's perseverance and impact

The past six months have been very busy for the SURAM Cameroon team! Last quarter, the team finally finished surveying target communities across Cameroon. Praise the Lord! This is very encouraging progress, and means the data analysis team can begin studying survey results. As they do so, they will be able to determine recommendations for churches to increase and sustain Scripture engagement in their communities.

The team faced significant challenges working with the last surveyed communities in the North and South of Cameroon. There, locals were quite skeptical of team members and unwilling to participate in surveys. However, the team persevered and attempted to build trust and mobilize community members. The project coordinator explains, "It was challenging to work with the communities of the Northwest and Southwest, but with a little innovation of our methods, we were able to still collect data from these communities. . . God has been faithful."

The team's impact on these communities is worth celebrating. Not only have they been compiling data but also ministering to locals! After a Scripture engagement workshop in Northwest Cameroon, inspired community members immediately went to work in their respective churches, to establish Scripture use activities.

After visiting his family in the Nooni community, one man shared with the team:

*"...What have you done to my Nooni community? I went to the village and I could not recognize it! Every church is now involved in using translated Scripture. No one wants to be left behind. I was so happy when I saw this fire."*

### Surveys highlight real hunger for God's Word

Results from SURAM Cameroon surveys and Scripture engagement workshops have blown the team away. People are truly hungry for God's Word. They desire to engage with its words more deeply! These are but some comments the team received:

- *"[God's Word in the] mother tongue is proof that GOD is the GOD of the Oku people because he can speak to me in Oku. Hearing Jesus speak in Oku makes me feel like Jesus was born in Oku, and this is proof to me that my language was created by Him [God]."*
- *"Using the Bible in the Merey language really strengthened me spiritually and I became a leader in my church."*
- *"Listening to the word of God in my language pushed me first to accept Christ, then to compose songs that are integrated into the Merey hymnal. Finally, I became a deacon in my church."*

You have made these testimonies possible with your support. Thank you!



## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Completed all Scripture engagement surveys!** By God's grace, the team has finished surveys in 28 different Cameroonian language groups.
- **Shifted project goals.** Surveys were executed in all targeted communities except in the Ewondo and Bulu language groups. Unfortunately, all attempts to work with the Ewondo were met with resistance, and the Bulu did not meet the predetermined requirements for the research. As a result, these two communities were excluded from the project.
- **Continued to share preliminary Scripture use recommendations with target communities.** Initial ideas for Scripture engagement activities were given after each visit and through workshops. It is wonderful to see such excitement about Scripture engagement throughout Cameroon. More thorough recommendations will be shared once survey analyses are complete.
- **Completed data entry.** Once surveys were completed, data was compiled before the team could study results and identify survey findings. Data from nearly all communities was deemed adequate for evaluations! The leader of the data analysis team shares, *"We are happy with the data that we have been receiving... I am optimistic that these analyses will allow us to deliver on the things that the project aims to produce: a set of conditions to aim for before starting a translation project, and a results-based management plan for translation projects that is informed by the data from the SURAM project."*
- **Began drafting the final report.** The Scripture Engagement team is currently evaluating ministry done in the SURAM Cameroon communities. They are identifying recommendations for local churches to bolster Scripture use in their communities.
- **Presented the SURAM project at a conference in Nairobi.** The hope is to see many more communities involved in the ministry of Scripture engagement worldwide.



## UPCOMING GOALS

- Complete the final report, based on survey findings. This scientific research paper will identify key recommendations for Scripture engagement based on visits and surveys throughout Cameroon. The hope is to be done by the end of June 2024.
- Embrace more opportunities to share about the SURAM Cameroon study approach through the final report.



## PRAY WITH US

- Praise God for his provision throughout all project phases, and his protection of the team during travels.
- That the Lord would help the team finish the SURAM Cameroon well, and prevent any technical issues or delays.
- For the health, strength and well-being of team members.
- For Cameroonian believers in communities that are hostile to Christianity. The project coordinator shares of one particular language, *"Many of them have resolved to live out their faith even if they have to hide. Some were encouraged just by our presence; others were afraid to be seen speaking with us."* May engagement with God's Word bring peace and strength to these communities.
- That SURAM Cameroon would encourage many individuals and communities to dig deeper into God's Word in their language. May research findings and recommendations transform lives as people encounter Jesus through translated Scripture!