



Cameroon - 101118

Literacy for a Transformed Life - *Bible Engagement in Cameroon*

Overview

This project will teach illiterate Podoko and Mafa people in Cameroon to read, write and engage in Scriptures through Bible-based literacy classes.

Through these classes, many will be spiritually fed and equipped to improve their family and community life.

The Need

Translations of the Bible for the Podoko and Mafa people in Cameroon are well underway. Yet most of them cannot read or write. While literacy rates in Cameroon are estimated at 77% in the official languages, the literacy rate of the Podokos and Mafas is far lower, at 30.7%. This percentage is even lower in their native languages.

The proximity of the Podoko and Mafa communities to the Nigerian border exposes them to attacks by terrorist group Boko Haram.

Estimates suggest Boko Haram has victimized over 600,000 people in Cameroon, looting villages, abducting villagers or killing at random. Many have left their villages to find refuge in camps away from the borders.

The church in Cameroon wants to encourage the Podoko and Mafa people to stand firm in God despite these challenges, and reach out to them with the word of God. Therefore, the church has identified improving literacy rates as an important step in helping the communities deepen their relationship with God.



Project Goals

This project aims to impact 8,000 people from 230 literacy classes to better engage with the Bible and improve their living conditions.

In 2021, the plan is to create an additional 64 literacy classes to run a cumulative total of 150 classes in the year. This goal will require three new training sessions for new teachers to better equip them with the skills to teach the classes effectively.

Impact

The Bible Society literacy classes will integrate a general knowledge element that include respect for others, human rights, the harmful effects of violence, as well as health and sexuality information. This will offer holistic learning to help Podoko and Mafa communities improve their way of life.

This program makes a great contribution to participants, and not just by teaching them to read and giving them access to the Bible. Testimonies reveal significant benefits across personal, family, professional and social parts of life.

Testimony

"I am already a source of blessing to others today. I could neither read nor write, nothing! Now I read, I calculate, I write. Every evening, we get together with my family and my neighbours. I read the Bible in Mafa, I explain it and we pray together. There is a big change in my life on all levels. Really, thank you." - **Guimi Emade**

Prayer Needs

- Pray for good implementation of the project and for the spiritual growth of the participants.
- Pray for the teachers, that they will teach effectively and passionately.
- Pray for a climate of security so implementation of the program is not hindered.