

Web Project Cameroon

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A stepping stone to Scripture

For many in the Weh community, engaging with Scripture is not as easy as just finding copies of it in their language. An additional barrier often exists – being unable to read or write.

Literacy supervisor Ejuh Cyprian saw this first hand when he received a call from Teh Peter, a prominent Weh leader. Teh Peter told Ejuh how delighted he was to know that Weh language resources were being developed. He also shared how he had just bought copies of the translated Gospels of Mark and Luke but was dismayed to discover he did not have the literacy skills to read them. He put in a plea to Ejuh:

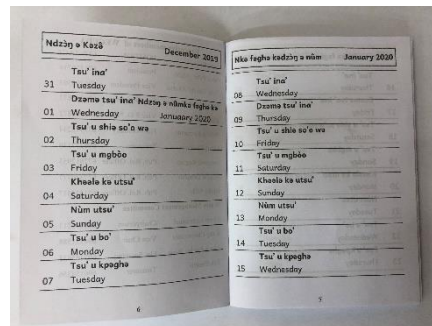
'My son, I have had the zeal to work on the Weh language for so many years I bought the Bible and I am unable to read it. So I want to arrange with my neighbours so that you will come and teach us.'

Ejuh has since been able to teach Teh Peter and his neighbours, and has already seen progress being made, with Teh Peter reading a few sentences from the two Gospels. Literacy classes are a key part of the Weh team's ministry, providing a stepping stone to people being able to engage with the Bible. They are currently expanding the reach of these classes.

Health resources

As in so many parts of the world, Cameroon is seeing the impact of Covid-19 and looking for ways to limit its spread. An important tool in this fight is providing communities with up-to-date health information, which will enable them to take preventative measures.

To increase the reach of this information it is also vital that it is translated into the many different languages across the country. So the organisation which leads Bible translation in Cameroon has been coordinating an initiative to translate health information into 45 languages. The Weh team has been playing a part in this too, by helping put together a booklet in Weh on the preventative measures which need to be taken. This kind of information is particularly important as most people do not have access to the internet and have been relying on word of mouth information, much of which has been unreliable.



One of the Weh language resources the team has developed – a diary



Finding ways to connect

Unrest in Cameroon continues to impact the team, limiting their connections with the community. It has most recently forced translator Christopher to move his family to the city of Bamenda.

Christopher was the last team member to remain in the area and until the move he had been able to meet regularly with people in the community – something which is no longer possible. The team is now on the lookout for a local church leader who will be able to step in. Through this the team will be able to encourage churches and keep up to date with how they are using translated Scripture.

Looking forward

Although the team has faced a number of hurdles due to the ongoing unrest, they have nevertheless been continuing to make progress. They have been particularly encouraged over the last few months by the new language committee which has helped them to coordinate activities

Looking forward, over the coming months the team is hoping to continue working on translation of Jude, Revelation, 1, 2 and 3 John, and Thessalonians. This is alongside exploring the possibility of setting up further literacy classes in the town of Buea and the city of Douala, training more teachers, holding a dictionary workshop and working on a Scripture App.

Praise and prayer

Give thanks for:

- / the successful completion of consultant checking of the book of Acts, and community testing of Timothy and Acts
- / the commitment shown by the new language committee
- / the team being able to translate vital health information
- / the enthusiasm from the local community for more Scripture and resources in Weh.

Please pray for:

- / the team to continue to find ways to work safely within Covid-19 restrictions
- / calm to be restored to the Nchuabu area of Bamenda so the meeting house can reopen for literacy classes
- / the right people to come forward to put together the Weh dictionary
- / the latest consultant checking session to help the team achieve their next translation goals.

Thank you for partnering with the Weh community in prayer and support.