# BY BUS FROM BAMENDA

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**Category:** Observations

By Bus from Bamenda

John Hamilton... no longer in Ndop, NW Cameroon

He had pills. he had powders, he had little bottles of liquid - he had the cure for virtually every ailment possible among the seventy of us on the Amour Mezam Express bus from Bamenda to Yaounde!

He grounded his spiel in a quasi-Christian context including a reference to Revelation: the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

People took an interest - well, it was a bit of entertainment, or at least diversion, as we faced a six hour plus journey to Yaounde. Some people even bought his products - he promised much!

My companion in the narrow, minimal leg room seats 40 and 41 was not however tempted by the eloquent promotion - nor me, I hasten to add. In fact this lady, a lecturer
in a Yaounde teacher training college, started the trip reading an American Bible correspondence booklet and proved to be an amiable companion for the all day trip. She was from Bakossi territory in SW Province and CABTAL, I was able to tell her, is near to completing the New Testament in her language.

What we want to offer people is not faith in random pills and powders in Chinese packaging. What we want to offer people is language development, the empowerment that literacy brings and the opportunity to hear God's message of love in Christ in their heart language.

Salesmen, like the one I met on the Yaounde bus, confuse truth. On the Ndop Plain traditional religion denies and confronts truth. As Bible translation happens in Bambalang and in Bamunka; as translation starts in the other eight Ndop languages by the end of 2010 - truth will be proclaimed and the truth will set people free.

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