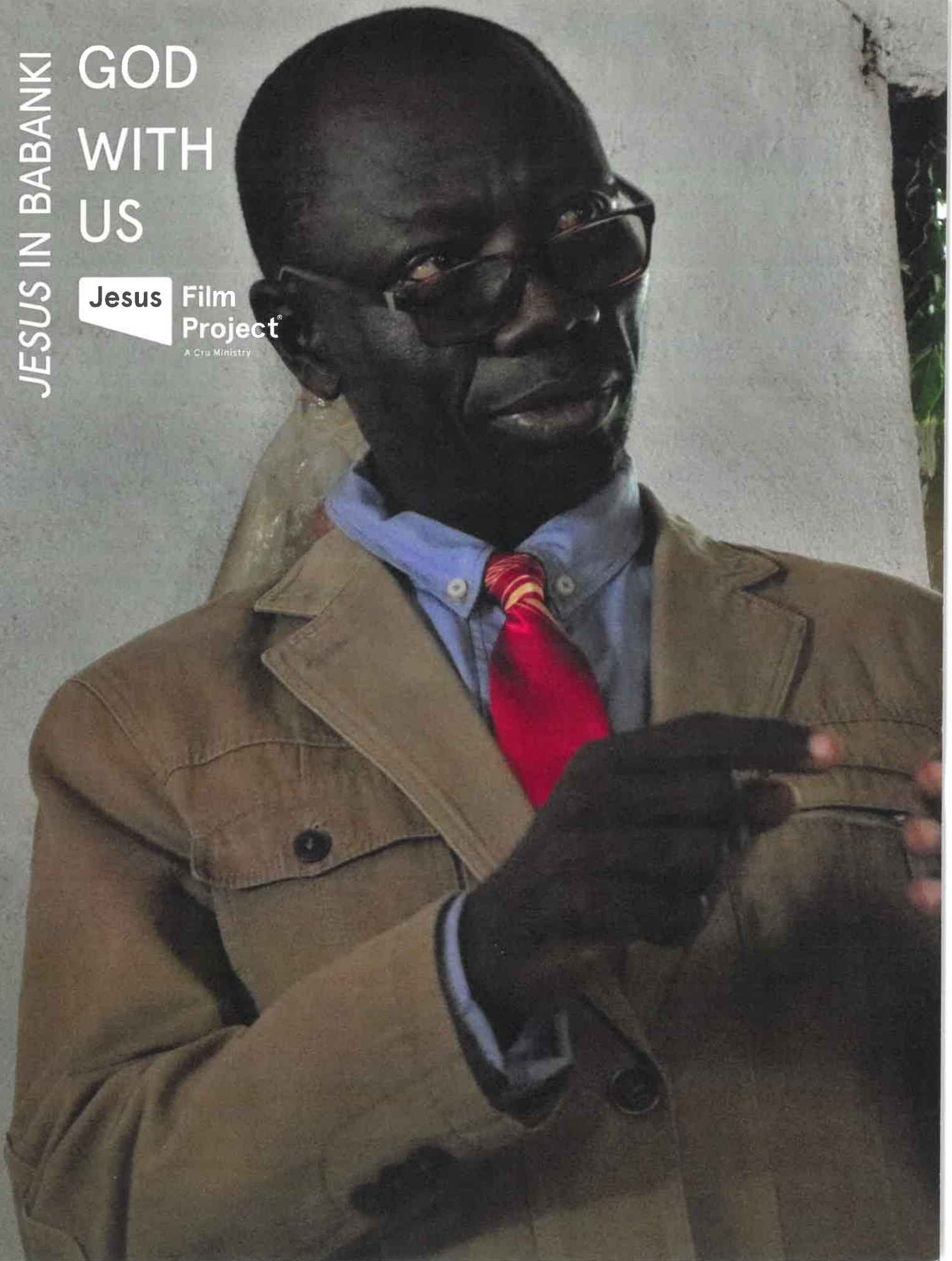


JESUS IN BABANKI

GOD
WITH
US

Jesus Film
Project[®]
A Cru Ministry



God With Us

JESUS in Babanki

Language Name:
BABANKI

Recording Dates:
OCTOBER 4-11, 2017

Target Country:
CAMEROON

Recording Team:
LEO*
MICAH

Film Version:
JESUS

WES (*Author of Report*)



Smiling on Us From the Start

Traveling with the equipment we do can make going through customs difficult. As we anxiously waited for our luggage and recording equipment, an airport attendant showed up in the midst of the crowd. He helped gather our bags and walked us right past the immigration security checkpoint. Every bag but ours was opened and thoroughly searched by military officials. Once outside, the airport attendant introduced himself as Emmanuel—“God with us.” From the start God was smiling upon this recording project.

Our greatest personal challenge was finding a studio location. God turned this challenge into a blessing. We were the only guests at the hotel. This allowed us to spend a lot of quality time with the hotel staff. They excitedly talked with us about Jesus and Christianity. Many of them requested Bibles in their heart and trade languages. The hotel manager reverently held the French Bible we gave him and said, “As your brother, your protector and a man of God, I am so happy you are here. And I know this place will be different because of what you are doing.”

Access to the Gospel

The Babanki people comprise a small group of devout Christians and many families living in poverty who are persuaded to follow Islam by wealthy Muslims able to pay for their needs. Christians live in fear of the oppression and devastation this pervasive culture could bring upon them.

With the written language being less than 10 years old, much of the population can't read the translated New Testament. But now the *JESUS* film provides another means of gospel access for those who will listen and watch. Hearing the gospel in their heart language will be a light in the midst of the darkness that surrounds the Babanki people.

After the scheduled film showings, church leaders will go into cities and villages to train believers and plant churches, multiplying the film's impact many times over.

**Some names and/or locations have been changed for confidentiality.*

CONFIDENTIAL

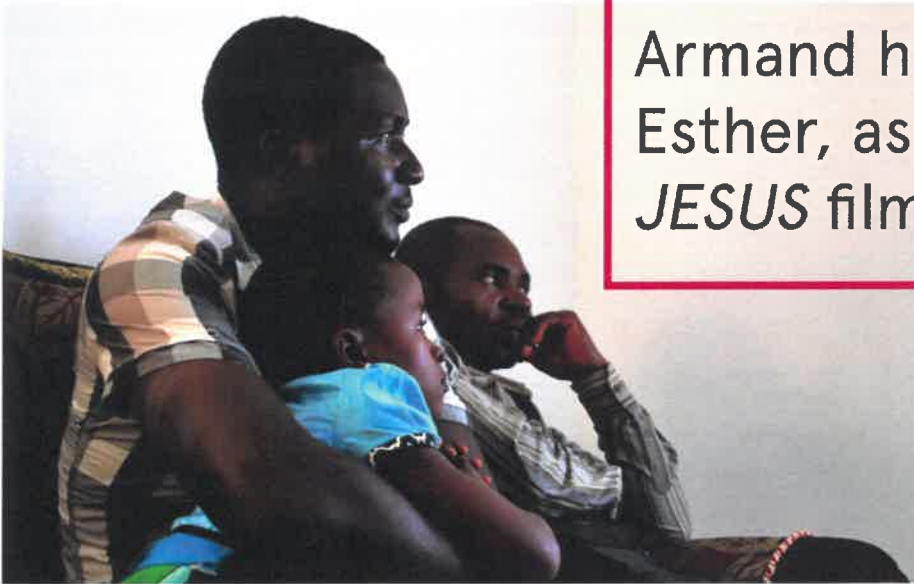
The Fruit of Courage

Developing the script for the Babanki *JESUS* film was an incredibly difficult process. We humbly understood our role—to help the Babanki church leaders complete a project they had sacrificed so much for.

Every day in the studio we counted it a privilege to work with Armand, our hardworking dialogue director and narrator. He radiated pure joy as he saw long years of work creating this film come to fruition. Less than 10 years ago, Babanki was not even a written language. Five pastors undertook the challenge of creating a Babanki alphabet so they could translate the New Testament into their language. However, during the course of the project, each pastor mysteriously passed away. As word spread of their deaths, people were afraid to continue the work.

Finally, two courageous men picked up where the first team left off. Armand and Martin worked hard to translate the New Testament into Babanki, and with it, the *JESUS* film.

During the film review we sat in a room full of reverence and joy. These courageous men heard Jesus speak their language for the first time. Afterward, various review committee members spilled forth their gratitude. One church leader said, “We are impressed. We are happy. We know that the community will understand this.”



Armand holds his daughter, Esther, as they take in the *JESUS* film for the first time.

Personal Thoughts

I’ve found that being on a recording trip brings much deeper meaning to certain Bible passages. Psalm 16:8 says, “I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken” (New International Version). Growing up in a secure environment has made me ignorant of the trials believers around the world face on a daily basis. I didn’t know what it looked like to be in a situation where I’d be terrified if God didn’t show up. That is a daily occurrence for Babanki Christians. It seems, though, that this reality has also brought them a deeper joy and sense of security in the provision and sovereignty of the Lord.

Our coordinator in this region, Moses, is a solid rock. He’s helped record more than 50 translations of *JESUS* and shown the film over a thousand times! He’s faced his own mortality as he met resistance from numerous groups. But as a reward for his perseverance, he’s seen thousands of men, women and children accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Prayer Requests

Jesus

- ➔ **Pray** believers share the *JESUS* film in Babanki with boldness, even as they face both physical and spiritual oppressors.
- ➔ **Ask** God to bring forth much fruit from training programs and newly planted churches in Cameroon.
- ➔ **Ask** God to protect ministry leaders among the Babanki. They are potential targets for religious extremists who seek to hinder church growth.



Often when people hear Jesus speak their heart language for the first time, they listen. Even those formerly closed to the gospel take notice. That is the hope for the Babanki *JESUS* film, created uniquely for them.

Thank you for making this possible.

Duplicating, emailing or posting this information on the internet may result in believers being persecuted or even killed. The safety of many depends on your discretion.

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