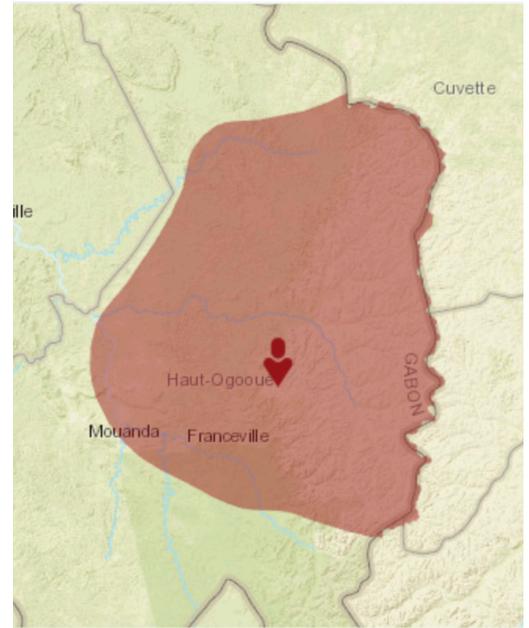


PRAY FOR THE NORTHERN TEKE OF GABON



Have you ever heard of the game King of the Mountain, or King of the Hill? Maybe you've played it before. It's pretty simple. The object of the game is to stay on top of a small hill that stands a bit taller than the other players, which makes you "king." The other players try to knock the king off the hill then take his or her place as the new king. As you can imagine (or perhaps have experienced), it can get pretty rough. But despite the risk of a black eye or a kicked shin, it's exhilarating being king of the mountain, if only for a minute.

There is an unreachd, unengaged people group in the West African country of Gabon called the Northern Teke. The name of this people group gives a clue about who they were in former times. The word teke means "to buy," which means they were once traders. Now they are mostly farmers, hunters, and skilled fishermen. For the Teke, a large family is very important as the head of the family gains respect as family members increase. The Teke practice African traditional religion, which involves worshiping ancestors and using figurines and masks as items believed to have spiritual power. There is usually one tribunal chief who is believed to have the right over life and death of all family members. This chief also decides the fate of those who do wrong or break the law.



Pray that the gospel would go forth among the Teke. Pray that whole families, large and small, will turn away from the ways of the world and turn to Jesus. Pray especially for the head of those households to hear the gospel and lead their families to repentance and faith in Christ. Pray that the Teke will come to know that there is only one who holds the right over life and death-the one true God. The Bible says, "The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it." (Nahum 1:5) There is no one like our God. No man or woman can ever take His place as king. He will never be moved from His holy hill. May the Teke tremble before this Holy God, and find grace in Christ, who in the gospel makes a way for us to stand declared righteous before Him.



Don't forget to pray for the Teke children, too! Maybe they have a game that's similar to King of the Mountain that they play. Or maybe they grow up hoping that one day they might be chief or head of their large household. Pray that as they do, they will come to know God as their loving Father, and those who are in Christ as their brothers and sisters-the ultimate, largest family ever!