

# Bouyei



## Quick Facts

**Pop. in China:** 3,300,000

### Major Counties:

Dushan: 162,000

Duyun: 161,000

Wangmo: 153,000

Luodian: 144,000

**Religion:** Ethnic

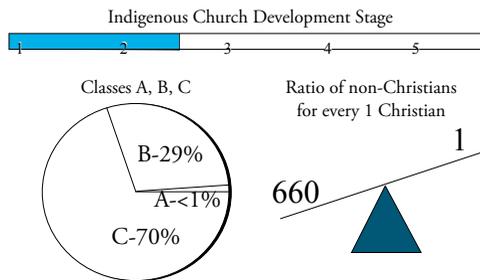
**Believers:** 0.15%

**Scriptures:** None

**Ministry Tools:** JRG

**C Status:** 2 **M Status:** 2

**MS Subgroups:** 4+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

**Identity:** The Bouyei are a Northern Tai people that broke away from the Zhuang, and were regarded as a separate ethnicity by about the 10th century A.D. They have inhabited the Guizhou plains for at least 2,000 years.

**Lifestyle:** The Red River valley where many Bouyei villages are located is a fertile, tropical environment. Paddy rice harvests occur twice a year and are complemented by wheat, maize, millet and sorghum. Cash-crops include cotton, tobacco, tung oil, tea, silk and bananas. The surrounding forests are a rich source of lumber as well as medicinal herbs. The government has done much to build infrastructure among the Bouyei, including roads, schools and medical facilities. At one time, malaria affected 58% of the population, but with development this has been significantly reduced.

**Customs:** In the past, marriages were arranged, but today, young people

usually choose their own partners. For example, if a girl is attracted to a boy, she may throw him an embroidered ball which she has made during a Bouyei traditional festival. If the boy is agreeable, they will meet together to sing love songs to one another. Shortly after, they may announce their engagement.

**Religion:** The Bouyei follow their ethnic religion, which involves ancestor worship, shamanism, and spirit festivals. Their ancient exorcist techniques (*nuo*) are elaborate, involving climbing knife ladders, or walking on fire or glass. While giving birth, an altar is erected to the spirits to ensure smooth delivery, after which, the placenta is buried under the bed. During the Ox King Festival, special cakes are made and offered to the ancestors and to their cattle, which are given a day of rest to honor their hard work throughout the year.

**Christian Outreach:** Over 30 churches have been established thus far among

the Bouyei. Several mission agencies are involved in church planting efforts among them, and the work is progressing at a slow but steady pace. There are undocumented reports of tens of thousands of believers in certain areas, which if true probably indicates that a Chinese-style house church movement is underway.

## How to Pray:

🙏 Pray for a team of Bouyei believers to oversee the rapid and efficient translation of the Bible into their language within the next several years.

🙏 An estimated 75% of the Bouyei have never heard the gospel even once. Pray for the training and deployment of dozens of indigenous evangelistic teams.

🙏 About 500,000 urbanized Bouyei no longer speak their language, but have adopted Mandarin as their mother-tongue. Pray for specialized outreach to these by Han believers, and for the organization of an urban house-church network.

🙏 Praise God for the completion of the Jesus Film, though few have seen it. Pray for its use as powerful evangelistic tool. Pray also for creative use of FEBC's radio broadcast in Bouyei.

**Every year 30,000  
 Bouyei die  
 without Christ.**