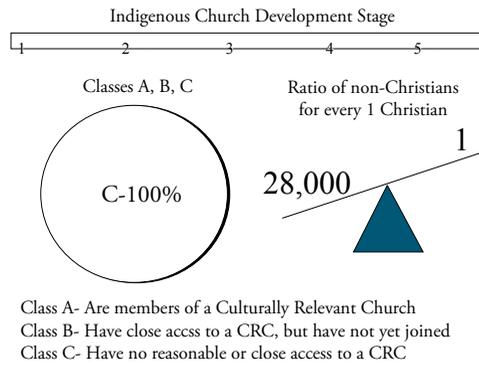




Quick Facts

Pop. in China: 1,400,000
Largest Counties in Hunan:
 Mayuang: 240,000
 Suining: 175,000
 Huayuan: 175,000
 Fenghuang: 165,000
Religion: Ethnic
Believers: 0.003%
Scriptures: None
Ministry Tools: None
C Status: 0 **M Status:** 1
MS Subgroups: 2



Identity: The Ghao-Xong are the third largest ethno-linguistic sub-group in the Miao people cluster. Although, they were misnamed as the Red Miao (a Miao sub-group in Vietnam) by early missionaries, Ghao-Xong continues to be their autonym. Their language is divided by two distinct geo-dialects.

Lifestyle: The Ghao-Xong live in moderately inaccessible regions of China's northwest Hunan province. Their three story homes are usually constructed on stilts along hillsides. The bottom floors are used for animals, the top floor for storing grain, and the middle floor for living space. Children are needed for their labor, and are thus discouraged from attending school, which can be quite a distance from their village. They are known for the production of mulberries and silk and for their fine woven cloth and embroideries.

Customs: Marrying within one's own clan is forbidden, which makes

inter-clan festivals important occasions for courtship, and they are structured as such. Festivals usually commemorate important persons in Ghao-Xong history through dance and song, such as the two brother-warriors, Yayi and Yanu, who led a rebellion against the Chinese during the Qing dynasty.

Religion: The Ghao-Xong are led by traditional shamans who offer sacrifices on stone altars to various dieties. Like other peoples in the Miao cluster, they worship Pan Hu, the dog-dragon god who they believe is their progenitor. Front doors are considered sacred, even to the point of being deified, and annual sacrifices of pig's blood are made to them that their homes might be protected from evil. Death and disease are the work of curses and evil spirits, always requiring animal sacrifice in proportion to the severity of the situation.

Christian Outreach: Only recently has there been renewed effort to reach

out to the Ghao-Xong, and work is just in the beginning stages. Although, there are a few undisciplined believers from an incomplete work that commenced 80 years ago, it remains to be seen what their spiritual condition is, or how receptive they are to being organized as a Kingdom community of faith and practice.

How to Pray:

✞ Pray for a sufficient number of full-time evangelists and church-planters to fully engage the Ghao-Xong, and ensure that every family, village and clan has access to the gospel and to a disciple-making fellowship.

✞ The Chinese government is working on an orthography for the Ghao-Xong language. Pray that God would raise up a Bible translation team to seize this moment of heightened ethnic-awareness by publishing the Scriptures in Ghao-Xong, using the newly released orthography.

✞ Pray for special outreach to Ghao-Xong children who are unable to attend school. Ask God to raise up a Christ-centered education program that will bring an entire generation into the Kingdom of God. Pray also for an oral discipleship program for the illiterate.

Every year 12,000 Ghao Xong die without Christ.