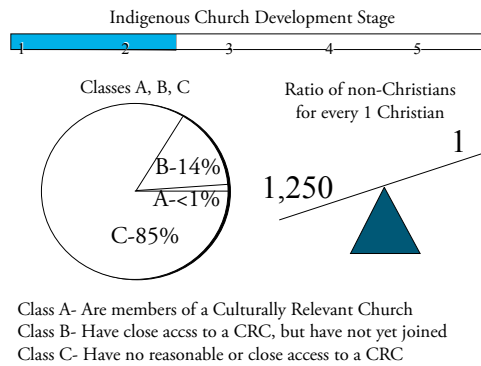


Hmu



Quick Facts

Pop. in China: 3,100,000
Location: Guizhou Province
Language Group: Hmongic
Religion: Ethnic
Believers: 0.08%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
Churches: 40
Mission Organizations: 9
MS Subgroups: 10



Identity: The Hmu are the largest ethnic group in the Miao cluster. Their language is related to the Hmong, though influenced by the Dong and the Zhuang in the south. There are numerous Hmu dialects, some of which are mutually unintelligible with one another.

Lifestyle: The Hmu are an industrious people, and have developed a diversified economy. Though many live in mountainous regions they have labored to build the necessary reservoirs and irrigations systems to create new farmland. Starch and grain crops, along with medicinal herbs are produced in sufficient quantities to barter or sell as cash crops. Sheepherding has a long history among the Miao peoples. With the introduction of new breeds and veterinary care, the herds have been rapidly increasing.

Customs: The Dragon Boat festival held in May celebrates the heroics of

an old man who destroyed the palace of an evil dragon which was located at the bottom of the Qingshui river. As part of the festival, glutinous rice is wrapped in mugwort leaves and thrown into the river. Special dragon boats up to 17 meters in length are designed for this festival and raced.

Religion: The Hmu follow an ancient ethnic religion, which was codified by a tribal leader named Chi You. They have an extensive origin mythology, including a 1,000 line poem which tells of how a heavenly king and his son created the heavens and the earth and mankind. Many rituals are kept to protect themselves from evil spirits. The annual Door Festival involves the sacrifice of a young pig whose blood is drained under the door. The father and oldest son will stay up all night to ask the door to protect the house from disease and slander.

Christian Outreach: The gospel had a rough start among the Hmu. The first

believers were all executed, along with the missionary who had converted them. However, missionary work continued and today there are a few small fellowships of believers, though they are unevenly represented in the various sub-groups. On the whole the Hmu have been the most resistant Miao people, and are the least reached with the gospel.

How to Pray:

☞ There is a lack of strategic missionary presence among the Hmu. Pray for the deployment of a sufficient number of teams to initiate disciple-making movements among the regions that have shown the greatest response.

☞ At least two dialect clusters of the Hmu (Southern and Eastern) are in need of their own unique Bible translation. Pray for the updating and adaptation of the Bible produced for the Northern Hmu.

☞ The Hmu are part of a cluster of over 100 peoples grouped under the Miao, among which they are the most influential. Pray for a missionary vision to be built into the foundation of the emerging Hmu church, and for reconciliation between Miao peoples with historical grievances and blood feuds.

**Every year 28,000
Hmu die
without Christ.**