



Quick Facts

Population: 1,500,000

China: 1,100,000

Vietnam: 300,000

Thailand: 40,000

USA: 23,000

Religion: Ethnic

Believers: 0.16%

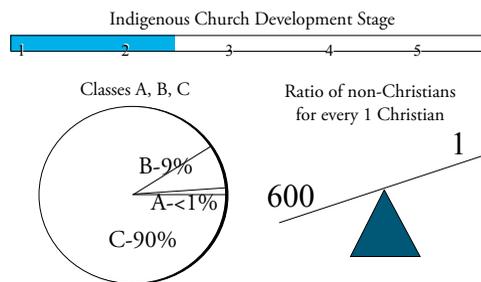
Scriptures: NT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 2

Mission Status: 1

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 Mien are an ethnic subgroup of the Yao people cluster in China. Most can be found in Guangxi province, though due to Chinese persecution many others are scattered throughout South East Asia. They are related to the Hmong and have at least three mutually unintelligible dialects.

Lifestyle: The Mien live in thickly forested and humid mountain valleys, and make their living as farmers and hunters. Their staple foods are rice, taro, sweet potatoes, corn, soybeans, and pumpkins. All mien drink a daily beverage made from fried tealeaves, which are boiled in a salty brew mixed with puffed rice. One of their delicacies is “pickled” meat, which is produced by blending birds, beef or mutton in a mixture of rice flour and salt. Dog meat is considered taboo, and if eaten must be cooked outdoors.

Customs: The Mien are known for their frequent festivals, which occur

about once a month. The most important festival is the Pan Hu, which honors the mythical progenitor of the Mien people. The festivals provide an opportunity for young people, who are free to choose their own life partners, to court one another under a kind of “community chaperoning.”

Religion: The Mien follow a mixture of Daoism and their own ethnic religion. Ancestor veneration is so important to the Mien, their progenitor Pan is worshipped as a deity, and priests are employed to offer regular sacrifices to him. It is believed that a person’s condition in the afterlife is dependant upon one’s son performing the correct rituals. It is thus crucial for parents to have a responsible male heir who can be entrusted with their souls; otherwise it is believed they will spend eternity as strangers isolated in a thick, dark forest.

Christian Outreach: There has been an incredible response among the Mien

in the United States, with over 14 churches having been established already. These fellowships are now partnering with ministries in Thailand and Laos, as well as contributing significantly to the production of radio programs broadcasted by FEBC, which has brought many hundreds to faith in Christ. In China, there are unconfirmed reports of a mass-movement to Christ in Jinping County resulting from the broadcasts.

How to Pray:

☞ The openness of the Mien to the gospel is a sign that the entire people may be in the beginning stages of a group conversion. Pray for wisdom among mission leaders that they would know how to contribute to this movement without hindering its growth.

☞ The Mien churches in the United States have formed an alliance amongst themselves for evangelism and church planting. Pray for continued unity, vision and strategic implementation of long-term plans.

☞ There is concern among Mien leaders that many young people are being influenced by American Christianity. Pray for God’s protection and revival fire to fill and shield their hearts.

**Every year
 13,000 Mien die
 without Christ.**