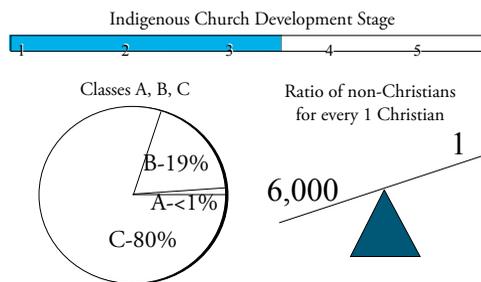




Quick Facts

Pop. in Vietnam: 1,500,000
Location: Da and Ma Rivers
Lang. Group: Mon-Khmer
Religion: Ethnic
Believers: 0.01%
Scriptures: Portions
Ministry Tools: JGRT
Churches: 10
Organizations: 2
Church Status: 3
Mission Status: 2
MS Subgroups: 7



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 Muong are a Mon-Khmer people, closely related to the Vietnamese. These two groups split off from one another 2,000 years ago due to the Chinese invasion into North Vietnam. Those who remained in the hills became the Muong people, and those who migrated south and filled the plains became the Vietnamese.

Lifestyle: Muong villages are located at an average height of 2,600 feet, and consist of anywhere from ten to fifty families. They are rice cultivators, but also depend on the forests for cinnamon, honey, bamboo and mushrooms, which are sold to the Vietnamese to supplement their livelihood. They raise buffalo and cattle by allowing their herds to roam freely through the forests, essentially raising themselves. They are only rounded up when needed for slaughter or sacrifice.

Customs: Muong culture is rich in songs that tell stories of creation, an-

cient heros, and romance. The latter are usually about unrequited love resulting from parentally arranged marriages. Today, arranged marriages usually involve the consent and participation of the girl in the decision. The rights of women have increased dramatically since the Vietnam War, in which thousands of men were killed, forcing women to take more responsibility and leadership.

Religion: The Muong practice their own ethnic religion with influences from Buddhism and Taoism. They believe in a supreme being, or chief spirit, that keeps a record of everyone's deeds and makes a decision upon their death as to their fate in the afterlife. Access to modern-medicine has led to a decline in the role of traditional healers, though shamans acting as exorcists and officiators of life-cycle rites and annual sacrifices are still regularly employed.

Christian Outreach: French Catholic missionaries labored for many years

among the Muong before being forced to leave by the Communists. The government closed down all churches and sought to "re-educate" believers. In the last couple years, renewed work among the Muong has revealed an increasing openness to the gospel with several hundred new believers coming to faith in Christ.

How to Pray:

☞ The Vietnam War created a "lost generation" among the Muong, resulting in broken families, and many disabled and emotionally scarred people. Pray for effective healing ministry with the love of Christ to those in their 40s and above who endured such traumatic loss.

☞ FEBC has been broadcasting readings from the gospel of Mark each day for many years. Pray for the complete translation of the Bible and for the production of new evangelistic and discipleship broadcasts.

☞ Pray for continued open doors to work among the Muong, and for the ability to expand the work. Ask God for favor with both national and local authorities.

☞ Pray for the training and deployment of a sufficient number of Muong evangelists and church planters.

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