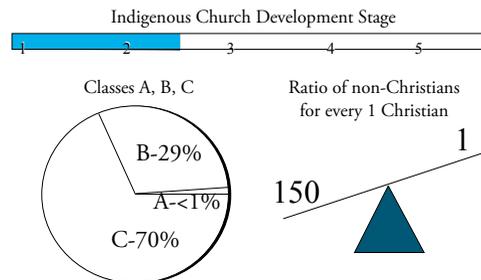




Quick Facts

Pop. in China: 3,000,000
Location: Sichuan Province
Language Group: Yi
Religion: Ethnic
Believers: 0.66%
Scriptures: Portions
Ministry Tools: JGT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
Churches: 180
Mission Organizations: 8
MS Subgroups: 50+



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 Nosu are a Tibeto-Burman people and the largest ethnicity in the Yi cluster. There are numerous dialects, subgroups, castes and clans among them. The name Nosu means “black people,” a self-designation that refers to their nobility among the Yi.

Lifestyle: Until the coming of the Communists, the Nosu were a stratified feudal society, and many of the wealthy were actually slave owners. The Communists seized the lands of the ruling elite and forced them to pay compensation to thousands of liberated slaves. They put an end to the inter-tribal warfare that kept Nosu regions from developing. Since then hundreds of schools have been set up, roads built, and electricity grids installed. The prospects of the average Nosu have increased significantly.

Customs: Traditionally the Nosu have been divided into four major classes: Nuo, Tunuo, Gajia, and Gaxi.

Although the Nuo were only 3% of the population they dominated the lives of the others, and frequently took slaves of the Gajia and Gaxi. Today, these class tensions still exist as the Communists “honored” the former slaves with leadership positions in the party. A former slave group, the Bai Yi, mockingly refer to the Nuo as “princes and princesses.”

Religion: The Nosu believe in a supreme Creator they call Mo’m Apu, who controls the universe. His son is named, Gee Nyo, and he is credited with bringing rain and happiness. The Nosu live in fear of the dead and elaborate rituals are performed to ensure that the deceased are not devoured by evil spirits, or become devourers themselves. For this reason the dead are cremated to ensure their full departure into the community of protective spirits that watch over the living to guard and prosper.

Christian Outreach: Until recently, the Nosu have been largely resistant

to the gospel. However a breakthrough among the Shengzha sub-group with thousands coming to faith in Christ has been an encouragement to those working among still unresponsive areas. This breakthrough came about when 18 leaders of an indigenous cult-group (Mentu Hui) heard the gospel, responded, and immediately began to evangelize with great zeal.

How to Pray:

✞ Missionaries have labored among the Nosu for over one hundred years. Praise God for the harvest he is bringing into his Kingdom! Pray that these new believers will be effectively disciplined and integrated into communities of faith.

✞ Pray that the Church might demonstrate the reconciling power of God to heal the wounds of the past caused by injustice and prejudice. Pray for unity in the Church and equality among all its members.

✞ As many as five Bible translations may be needed among the Nosu. Pray for their completion, and for more adequate ethnographic and linguistic research to identify every Nosu sub-group. Pray for missionary teams to be sent to each.

**Every year 27,000
 Nosu die
 without Christ.**