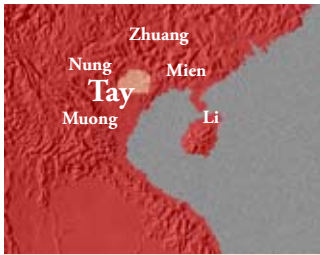


# Tay



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 1,800,000

Vietnam: 1,650,000

China: 150,000

**Language Group:** Central Tai

**Location:** Cao Bang, Lang Son

**Religion:** Ethnic

**Believers:** 0.006%

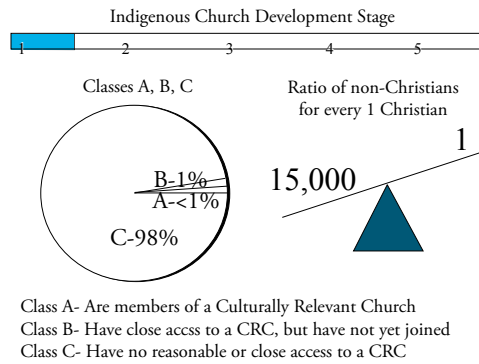
**Scriptures:** Portions

**Ministry Tools:** RGT

**Church Status:** 1

**Mission Status:** 1

**MS Subgroups:** 5



**Identity:** The Tay are a Central Tai people, related to the Nung, who migrated from China around the 13th century in the wake of the Mongol invasions. They are scattered throughout North Vietnam due to their resistance to Hmong rule in the late 1800s, in which thousands of Tay were killed.

**Lifestyle:** The Tay were once great hunters and trappers, and would obtain much of their protein through this means. Today, most have abandoned this tradition, with the exception of those living in remote mountainous regions. The rest of the population is engaged in subsistence farming, including small-scale animal husbandry and rice cultivation. Tay villages consist of about 15-20 homes, and are usually located in the foothills near a stream. Villages often have a trench built around it with a hedge as protection.

**Customs:** The Tay are fond of singing, poetry recitation, and dancing. The

*luon* is an ancient love song sung as a duet, where lovers take turns singing stanzas to one another. Tay young people are free to choose their own marriage partner, though a young man will usually work for his fiancée's family for a period of time as part of the bride-price.

**Religion:** The Tay ethnic religion has been influenced by Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism. A large number of gods and spirits are worshipped, including those associated with nature as well as important ancestors. Traditionally, each village had a temple for making offerings to the gods, though many of these structures were destroyed or abandoned during the Hmong-led massacres. Every home has an altar for the ancestors placed in a central location. Guests and women who have recently given birth are not permitted to sit before or come near these altars.

**Christian Outreach:** Although there has been little long-term church plant-

ing efforts to reach the Tay, the positive response to Christian radio broadcasts indicates that the Tay are ready to enter the Kingdom in large numbers. Unfortunately, there has not been enough personnel to conduct follow up. At least two organizations are now attempting to establish discipleship groups among the Vietnamese Tay, with two fellowships now ongoing.

## How to Pray:

☞ Viet Nam is opening up more and more to the outside world, resulting in greater access to the Tay for missionary work. Pray for continued open doors and favor with local officials.

☞ The evangelical Church in Viet Nam is growing rapidly and developing a missionary vision. Pray for those God has called to reach the Tay that they would be equipped and sent with his love, power and wisdom.

☞ The Vietnamese government is actively attempting to jam Christian radio signals coming into the country. Pray that this would cease, and for creativity in bypassing all jamming.

☞ Pray for those working to complete the Tay Bible, and for its full acceptance.

**Every year 16,000  
Tay die  
without Christ.**