

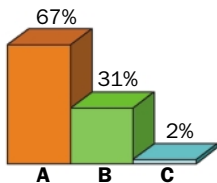


Population in China:
 2,000 (1998)
 2,110 (2000)
 2,720 (2010)
Location: Hainan Island
Religion: No Religion
Christians: 40

Overview of the Vietnamese

Countries: Vietnam, USA, Cambodia, Norway, Laos, Germany, Canada, Australia¹
Pronunciation: "Vee-et-nahm-ees"
Other Names: Viet, Annamese, Kinh
Population Source: 2,000 (1998 Christian Far East Ministry); 65,051,000 in Vietnam (1993); 859,000 in USA (1993); 600,000 in Cambodia; 99,000 in Norway; 76,000 in Laos (1993); 60,000 in Germany; 60,000 in Canada; 35,000 in Australia; 22,000 in United Kingdom²
Location: Hainan Island: Pyng Chu San
Status: Unidentified; Possibly included under Han Chinese
Language: Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Viet-Muong, Vietnamese
Dialects: 0
Religion: No Religion, Daoism, Buddhism, Christianity
Christians: 40
Scripture: Bible 1916; New Testament 1914; Portions 1890 (Not available in China)
Jesus film: Available
Gospel Recordings: Vietnamese: North #00680
Christian Broadcasting: Available (FEBC, TWR)
ROPAL code: VIE00

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
C = Are adherents to any form of Christianity

Location: More than 2,000 Vietnamese people live in Pyng Chu San Village in the central part of Hainan Island. More than 70 million Vietnamese are scattered throughout numerous nations of the world.

Identity: The official classification of the Vietnamese people on Hainan is a problematic one. They have not been included under the Jing nationality, although the Jing are fellow Vietnamese who have earned official status as one of China's 55 minority groups. This profile refers only to ethnic Vietnamese in China and not to the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Chinese who have fled from Vietnam to China since the late 1970s. As one commentator explains, "During outbreaks of racial hostility in Vietnam in 1978, thousands of Vietnamese of Chinese descent fled in confusion to their home country which they had left many years, sometimes generations, earlier.... About 100,000 went to Guangxi, and another 110,000 settled elsewhere in China."³ Because those refugees are ethnic Han Chinese, they have easily assimilated back into China. "Since these refugees can no longer return to Vietnam, the aim of the Chinese government is to repatriate them as Chinese citizens. The teaching medium in schools is therefore Chinese. After several years of hard work, the residents are now no different from other Chinese."⁴ The Vietnamese profiled here, however, are ethnic Vietnamese who speak the Vietnamese language. Their official classification is uncertain.

Language: Although many of the Vietnamese on Hainan have now learned Chinese, Vietnamese remains their mother tongue and is used in their homes.

History: The Vietnamese came to Hainan in 1986 by accident. They had set out as refugees onboard fishing vessels bound for Hong Kong, but only managed to reach Hainan Island. Hong Kong — which at one point housed almost 100,000 Vietnamese refugees — offered escapees the chance for repatriation to Western nations. Not all of the refugees who made it to safety in Hong Kong, however, came by sea from Vietnam. Many crossed the border into China, traveled by train to Guangdong Province, changed their appearance to look as if they had endured great hardship at sea, and then boarded vessels to take them the few miles into Hong Kong waters.⁵

Customs: Because of the exorbitant amount of money charged by the owners of the fishing vessels, most of the refugees came from wealthy families in northern Vietnam. They were willing to give up all they had in the hope of gaining entry to the United States or another Western nation.

Religion: Most Vietnamese on Hainan Island are nonreligious, although there are some who follow Daoism, Buddhism, or Catholicism.

Christianity: Only about 2% of the Vietnamese refugees on Hainan claim to be Christians. Because they originated in northern Vietnam where there are few churches, most have little awareness of the gospel. One missionary dropped off a few hundred Vietnamese gospel tracts and a *Jesus* film in 1997, but no organizations are known to be specifically targeting this group.



Paul Hattaway