



Population in China:

244 (1982)
370 (2000)
480 (2010)

Location: Guizhou

Religion: Polytheism

Christians: None Known

Overview of the Beidongnuo

Countries: China

Pronunciation: "Bay-dong-nuoh"

Other Names: Pei-Tong-Nuo, Changsha Yao, Long Shirt Yao

Population Source:

244 (1982 census);
Out of a total Yao population of 2,134,013 (1990 census)

Location: S Guizhou: Libo County

Status:

Officially included under Yao

Language: Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Bunuic, Naogelao

Dialects: 0

Religion: Polytheism, Animism, Daoism, Ancestor Worship

Christians: None known

Scripture: None

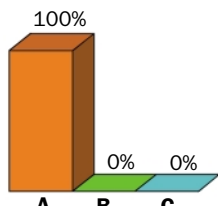
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: None

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: When the 1982 Chinese census was conducted, people were asked to name their ethnic group and language. Two hundred and forty-four people answered that they belonged to the Beidongnuo ethnic group. The later 1990 census did not include this question, as people were told to list the official *minzu* that had been assigned to them by the government. The Beidongnuo live in one or two villages in the mountains of Libo County in the southernmost tip of Guizhou Province.¹ Libo is close to the Guizhou-Guangxi provincial border.

Identity: Although they were initially noted in the 1982 census, the Beidongnuo were not granted status as a separate people group. They have since been buried under several artificially constructed layers. Chinese scholars came in and found that the Beidongnuo speak the same language as the Numao, another ethnic group living in Libo County. The Numao (now including the Beidongnuo) were then counted as one of 11 groups of Bunu people. Finally, the Bunu were placed under the Yao nationality, one of China's 55 official minority groups. Because of the government's methods, very few people have ever heard of the Beidongnuo. Even local people in Libo County are not familiar with their name. Although the Beidongnuo may speak the same language as the Numao, they claim they are a different people group and are upset by the government's official classification.

Language: The Beidongnuo language is part of the Naogelao branch of the Bunuic group. Bunuic is part of the Miao (Hmong) language family, distantly related to Miao languages in western Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. Most Beidongnuo women and children cannot speak any Chinese. Most men however, especially those under the age of 40, can speak the local Chinese dialect.

History: The Beidongnuo are believed to have migrated to their present location at least 300 years ago. The remote mountains of Libo County are home to several small unofficial groups including the Mo and the Numao.

Customs: The few Chinese people in the area who are aware of the existence of the Beidongnuo people call them by the nickname *Changsha Yao*, meaning "long shirt Yao." Terms that

reflect the clothing of minority groups are commonly given by the Han. The nearby Numao people, for example, are commonly known as the *Heiku* (Black Trouser) Yao.

Religion: The Beidongnuo are polytheistic animists. They worship numerous spirits and deities. Their religious ceremonies also include rituals borrowed from Daoism, including elements of ancestral worship.

Christianity: The tiny Beidongnuo people group have absolutely no knowledge of the gospel or of the existence of Christianity. They are a people who have been effectively hidden away from the outside world for centuries. Pre-1949 missionaries in Dushan (to the north) once listed the *Pei Tong Nuo* as one of the groups in the region, but no outreach was ever undertaken to reach them.



Yao Update