



Population in China:

282,900 (1999)
290,100 (2000)
364,100 (2010)

Location:

Guizhou, Yunnan, Guangxi

Religion: Ancestor Worship

Christians: 5,000

Overview of the Panxian Nasu

Countries: China

Pronunciation:

“Nah-soo-Pan-sheun”

Other Names: Nasu, Nasupo, Xiaohei Yi, Panxian Yi, P’an-hsien Yi, Panlong Yi, Panbei Yi, Pannan Yi

Population Source:

282,900 (1999 AMO);
Out of a total Yi population of 6,572,173 (1990 census)

Location: *W Guizhou:* Panxian, Shuicheng, Xingren, Xingyi, Pu’an, and Qinglong counties; *E Yunnan:* Fuyuan (44,000), Luoping (25,000), and Qujing (17,000) counties; *NW Guangxi:* Longlin County (3,422)

Status:

Officially included under Yi

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo, Northern Lolo, Yi, Eastern Yi

Dialects (2): Panbei, Pannan

Religion: Ancestor Worship, Animism, Christianity

Christians: 5,000

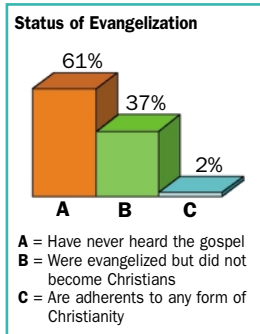
Scripture: None

Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: None



Paul Hattaway

Location: Approximately 290,000 Nasu people speaking a distinct language live in western Guizhou Province and in adjoining parts of eastern Yunnan Province. In Yunnan, where 86,000 are located, the Panxian Nasu live in Fuyuan, Luoping, and Qujing counties.¹ In Guizhou their villages are distributed in Panxian, Shuicheng, Xingren, Xingyi, Pu’an, and Qinglong counties. The Panxian Nasu are also found in Longlin County of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. They are the largest group of the 6,000 Yi people in Guangxi.

Identity: The Panxian Nasu are officially considered part of the Yi nationality in China. Their culture, ethnicity, and language are different from other Yi groups however. *Panxian* is the name of a county in Guizhou Province. The county includes the large Lupanshui Municipality. This loconym has been added to the name of this group to distinguish it from the several other Nasu groups in southern China.

Language: Panxian Nasu is part of the Eastern Yi branch of Tibeto-Burman. Panxian Nasu contains two dialects: *Panbei* (Northern Panxian) and *Pannan* (Southern Panxian). In areas where the two dialects overlap, speakers can understand each other because they have had prolonged

contact with each other. In other areas, however, speakers of Pannan and Panbei cannot understand each other until they have had a few weeks exposure to each other’s vocabulary and accent. Panbei Nasu is primarily spoken in the northern part of Panxian County and in parts of Qinglong and Shuicheng counties in Guizhou, and in Yunnan Province. Pannan Nasu is primarily spoken in the southern part of Panxian County and in parts of Xingren and Pu’an counties in Guizhou.

History: The Panxian Nasu have lived in their present location for numerous centuries. Over the past three hundred years, under pressure from an

influx of Han Chinese into their areas, many Panxian Nasu living near the townships have lost the use of their language, traditional dress, and culture.

Customs: The traditional dress of Panxian Nasu women consists of “a long gown in black or blue with buttons on the right side.... The headscarves are usually white in color. The waist is girded with a black apron with two floral streamers hanging down on the front.... Women of Longlin [County in Guangxi] look more plain and graceful.... They wear black headscarves, earrings, bracelets and embroidered shoes with a hawk head on the top.”²

Religion: Ancestor worship is the main religion of the Panxian Nasu today. Only in mountainous areas do they still practice spirit worship.

Christianity: There are at least 5,000 Panxian Nasu believers. In Longyin Township of Pu’an County, where the Nasu have met in three large house churches since 1980, “the Christians are held in high esteem by their neighbors because of their constant display of public spirit.”³ The Panxian Nasu of southern Guizhou, Yunnan, and Guangxi have had less exposure to the gospel.