

Population in China:
 500 (1997)
 540 (2000)
 700 (2010)
Location: Yunnan, Tibet
Religion: Animism
Christians: 300

Overview of the Rawang

Countries: Myanmar, India, China, Thailand

Pronunciation: "Ra-wong"

Other Names: Qiuce, Kiutze, Chiutse, Chiutzu, Kiutzu, Khanung, Chopa, Zerwang, Nung Rawang, Ganung, Hkanung, Krangku, Taron, Serwang

Population Source:
 500 (1997 AMO);
 Out of a total Derung population of 5,816 (1990 census);
 57,000 in India (1995 Joshua Project);
 80,000 in Myanmar (1992 R. Morse);
 A few in Thailand

Location:
 NW Yunnan – SE Tibet border

Status:
 Officially included under Derung

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Nungish

Dialects: 0

Religion: Christianity, Animism

Christians: 300

Scripture: Bible 1986; New Testament 1974; Portions 1952

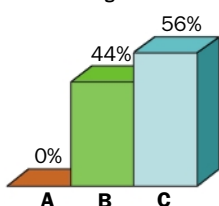
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings:
 Rawang #00285

Christian Broadcasting:
 Available (FEBC)

ROPAL code: RAW00

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: Several villages of Rawang are located in an extremely remote area on the Yunnan-Tibet border in China. The Rawang, who are a collection of related dialect groups and clans, number more than 80,000 in northern Myanmar and 50,000 in northeastern India. The Rawang in China often visit their relatives in Myanmar by walking across the mountains, but "the way is difficult. They must follow trails through the mountains all night."¹ The Rawang area in China can only be accessed by hiking three days from the nearest village. They are isolated most of the year because of snow.

Identity: The Rawang have been officially included as part of the Derung nationality in China. Although the Rawang and Derung are related, their languages are inherently unintelligible. The Rawang consist of between 75 and 100 dialect groups in Myanmar, each with a different name. The Derung are the largest subgroup found in China, and so they were granted status by that name. The particular Rawang group referred to in this profile call themselves *Zerwang*.² The Zerwang in Myanmar are located in the Mondam area.

Language: The Rawang "language" is more a collection of languages, containing between 75 and 100 dialects.³ Most of the dialects have some mutual intelligibility, although the closer a group is located to Tibet the more difficult it is for other Rawang to understand them. "When speakers of different Rawang varieties meet, they

can often understand each other's speech, but cannot speak each other's language."⁴ The Bible was translated into the Matwang dialect. This has made Matwang the *lingua franca* among the Rawang. The Kungliang dialect of Rawang is spoken in India, but they have been cut off from the Rawang in Myanmar since the 1950s.

History: When Rawang and Nu people greet each other they say, "In the remote past, we were brothers." They believe that they were separated by the river and then evolved into different groups. In the past, each Rawang clan had a shaman who directed warfare and settled disputes. The clans were "politically separate entities, which formed political alliances in times of danger from other communities."⁵

Customs: Many of the Rawang in China have intermarried with Tibetans

and formed mixed communities. Rawang men are renowned for their hunting skills.

Religion: The mass movement of the Rawang in Myanmar to Christ is one of the great mission stories of the twentieth century. It is said that when the Morse family started ministering to them there were no Rawang Christians, but by the time they were forced to leave Burma in the 1960s there were just a few old men who were not believers.⁶

Christianity: Today 98% of the Rawang in Myanmar, and at least 50% in China, are Christians.⁷ They have proven faithful to Christ and have taken the responsibility to send evangelistic teams to other groups in the Tibet-Yunnan-Myanmar border region. Largely because of the Morse family's labors, the Rawang have the full Bible in their language and their own gospel radio broadcasts.⁸



Midge Conner