

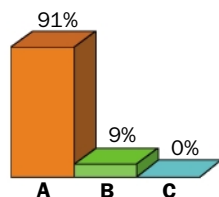


Population in China:
 12,226 (1995)
 13,400 (2000)
 16,050 (2010)
Location: Yunnan
Religion: Polytheism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Yongchun

Countries: China
Pronunciation: “Yong-choon”
Other Names:
 Yungchun, Yungshun
Population Source:
 12,226 (1995 GEM);
 Out of a total Zhuang population of 15,489,630 (1990 census)
Location: SE Yunnan
Status:
 Officially included under Zhuang
Language: Daic, Tai, Central Tai
Dialects: 0
Religion: Polytheism, Animism, Ancestor Worship
Christians: None known
Scripture: None
Jesus film: None
Gospel Recordings: None
Christian Broadcasting: None
ROPAL code: YUG00

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: The Global Evangelization Movement listed a 1995 population of 12,226 members of the Yongchun tribe in southern China. The Yongchun live in the southeastern part of Yunnan Province, but their exact location is uncertain. It is known that they live close to where Yunnan borders the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The Han Chinese, Miao, Yi, Buyang, Lati, Giay, Nung, Cao Lan, Tho, and Southern Zhuang are also located in the region.



Dwayne Graybill

Identity: The Yongchun applied for status as a separate nationality in the 1950s. When their application was rejected — along with more than 350 other groups in China — the Yongchun leaders met and agreed to be combined into the official Zhuang nationality.

Language: The Yongchun language has simply been described as “a variety of Zhuang spoken in Yunnan Province.”¹ The 1992 *Ethnologue* listed Yongchun as a separate language, but the 1996 edition did not mention them at all. Yongchun is a member of the Central Tai linguistic affiliation and is related to Southern Zhuang. There are more than 50 dialects of Zhuang in China,² many of which are mutually unintelligible. Speakers from different Zhuang groups often greet each other in their respective Zhuang dialects before conducting business in Mandarin or Cantonese.

History: After centuries of isolation, the various Tai peoples of southern China, including the Yongchun, gradually splintered

and became distinct ethnolinguistic people groups.

Customs: During holidays and festival times the Yongchun like to make multi-colored eggs, which they use to find partners. “Chicken, duck, or goose eggs are boiled and then dyed red, yellow, orange, blue and purple.... When a young man spots a woman he likes, he takes an egg and smashes it on the egg she is carrying in her hand. If the woman is interested, she allows her egg to

be smashed and then the two of them wander away from the crowd to talk in private.”³

Religion: The Yongchun are polytheists. They are enslaved and tormented by the demands of evil spirits, to whom they offer regular sacrifices.

Christianity: There are no known Christians among the Yongchun people. In the 1800s, famous missionary statesman Hudson Taylor motivated thousands to prayer and action for China’s lost by his heartfelt challenges. Taylor once asked: “Shall not the low wail of helpless misery arising from one-half of the heathen world pierce our sluggish ear and rouse us, spirit, soul and body, to one mighty, continued, unconquerable effort for China’s salvation?... that strong in God’s strength and in the power of His might, we may snatch the prey from the hand of the mighty; that we may pluck these brands from the everlasting burning, and rescue these captives from the thralldom of sin and Satan; to grace the triumph of our Sovereign King, and to shine forth forever as stars in His diadem.”⁴