



Population in China:

30 (1998)
31 (2000)
40 (2010)

Location: Yunnan
Religion: Christianity
Christians: 20

Overview of the Hkauri

Countries: Myanmar, China

Pronunciation: “Cow-ree”

Other Names: Gaori, Kao-jih, Khauri, Gauri, Kauri

Population Source:

30 (1998 AMO);
“A few dozen speakers” (1998 J. Matisoff);
Out of a total Jingpo population of 119,209 (1990 census);
Also in Myanmar

Location:

W Yunnan: Yingjiang County;
Also in Myanmar

Status:

Officially included under Jingpo

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Baric, Kachinic

Dialects: 0

Religion: Christianity, Animism

Christians: 20

Scripture: None

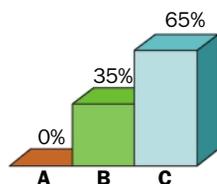
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: CGP04

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: Although the majority of people belonging to the Hkauri ethnic group live east and northeast of Bhamo in Myanmar’s Shan State, a few also spill across the border into the western part of Yunnan Province, China. Only about 30 Hkauri people live within China’s borders. One source states, “the speaking population in China numbers only a few dozen people.”¹ The Hkauri live in one village within Yingjiang County in the Dehong Prefecture of Yunnan Province, immediately on the China-Myanmar border.

Identity: Although the Chinese authorities have placed the Hkauri under the official Jingpo nationality, they possess a different ethnicity and speak a distinct language from other Jingpo groups. In Myanmar, the Hkauri’s claims as a separate tribe have recently been acknowledged. The various branches of the Kachin in Myanmar are encouraged to profess unity as one people. Different claims of ethnicity are seen as a sign of weakness, especially by the leaders of the Kachin Independence Army. The fact remains, however, that the Hkauri have their own name and language. Somewhat surprisingly, the present government of Myanmar acknowledges the Hkauri as one of that nation’s 135 ethnic groups.

Language: Hkauri is related to Jingpo, yet mutual intelligibility between Hkauri and Jingpo is considered difficult. Early Baptist missionaries working among the Hkauri found their speech extremely divergent from other Jingpo varieties.

One report stated, “The Gauris [Hkauri] in the hills east and northeast of Bhamo... speak a dialect so different from the other Jinghpaws [Jingpo] of that district that, in the early years, we favored making a separate dictionary for their language.”²

History: According to Hkauri legends and folklore, their first ancestor was named Ning Gawn Wa. He was also involved with the creation of the earth. Later, he married an alligator. “Their great grandson, Wahkyet Wa, became the progenitor of the Jingpos. Of Wahkyet Wa’s numerous sons (traditions as to the number of his wives vary from three to thirty), the five eldest sons of his first wife... became the founders of the five major Jingpo clans,”³ including the Hkauri.

Customs: The Hkauri claim they migrated to their present location from a place far to the north known

as Majoi Shingra Bum (Naturally Flat Mountain). A number of researchers have suggested all the Jingpo peoples once lived on the Tibetan or Qinghai Plateau in China. The Hkauri are a hardy, warrior type of people, yet are extremely friendly to outsiders.

Religion: The majority of Hkauri in both Myanmar and China today are Christians. Before their conversion they were animists, worshiping and appeasing a host of different deities and gods.

Christianity: Baptist missionary Josiah Cushing started work in the Hkauri area in 1876, although missionary Eugenio Kincaid had first passed through northern Burma in the 1830s. The Jingpo Bible is used by Hkauri Christians, but there may be a need for them to have the Scriptures in their own language. The *Jesus* film and gospel recordings are also unavailable in Hkauri.



Paul Hattaway