



Population in China:
 21,600 (1990)
 26,200 (2000)
 31,700 (2010)
Location: Yunnan, Tibet
Religion: Polytheism
Christians: 4,000

Overview of the Nu

Countries: China, Myanmar

Pronunciation: "Noo"

Other Names: Nusu, Nutzu, Nung, Anong, Anu, Noutzu, Lutz, Lu, Lutze, Kwintang, Khupang, Kwingsang, Fuchye, Anong, A-nung, Nuzu, Nu-tsu, Luzi, Nuzi

Population Source:
 27,123 (1990 census);¹
 23,166 (1982 census);
 15,047 (1964 census);
 Also in Myanmar

Location: NW Yunnan: Fugong, Gongshan, Lanping, Lushui, and Weixi counties;
 SE Tibet: Changdu District in Zayu County (349)

Status:
 An official minority of China

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo

Literacy: 35%

Dialects (3): Northern Nu (2,000), Southern Nu (3,000), Central Nu (4,000)

Religion: Polytheism, Christianity, Tibetan Buddhism

Christians: 4,000

Scripture: New Testament 1991

Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings:
 Kwintang #00972

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: NUF00 and NUN00



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Location: The majority of the 26,000 Nu live primarily in Gongshan, Fugong, and Lushui counties in northwest Yunnan. Small numbers are also found in Weixi and Lanping counties.² The Nu live high in mountainous jungle-like areas. In addition, Nu communities are also found in the southeastern corner of Tibet, although the Nu people there speak only Derung, and many are an ethnic mixture of Nu and Tibetan. Nu speakers are also located in northern Myanmar where they are called *Kwintang*.

Identity: Those Nu living in the upper reaches of the Nujiang River call themselves either *Nu* or *Anu*. Those living in the lower reaches call themselves *Nusu*. Together, they have been combined with several smaller tribes to form the official Nu nationality.

Language: Approximately 8,000 people, (35%) of the Nu nationality, can speak the Nu language.³ More than 5,500 ethnic Nu speak Derung as their first language.⁴ Others speak Chinese, Lisu, or Tibetan. The Nu language has no traditional written form, although in recent years a Roman script has been introduced. In the past the Nu kept records by carving notches on wood.

History: Before their conversion to Christianity, the Lisu often bullied the Nu in the Salween Valley. The Lisu would

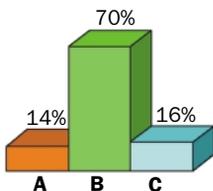
frequently place a corpse on Nu land and claim the Nu had committed murder. "The demand for compensation, called *oupuguya* ('the ransom for a corpse') was imposed. This tyrannous annual exaction would be paid continuously for several generations. Each Nu village usually would have to pay six to eight such iniquitous taxes each year."⁵

Customs: Nu men are dangerous in the use of the crossbow and are skillful hunters. "Every little boy carries his bow and arrow and every living creature, from the smallest bird to the bear or traveler, serves as target. Their arrows are very strong and the points are poisoned with the root of aconite."⁶ In the past the Nu made all their clothing from hemp; Nu in more remote areas continue this practice. "Almost all women adorn themselves with strings of coral, agate, shells, glass beads, and silver coins on their heads and chests.... In some areas, women adorn themselves in a unique way by winding a type of local vine around their heads, waists and ankles."⁷

Religion: Most Nu are polytheists. There are also significant numbers of Christians among the Nu, although they have never embraced the gospel en masse as the neighboring Derung and Lisu minorities have. A small number of Nu, mostly those living in mixed marriages with Tibetans, follow Tibetan Buddhism.

Christianity: Estimates of the current number of Nu believers range from 1,000⁸ to 4,000.⁹ J. Russell Morse and his family worked in the Upper Salween area for 25 years prior to 1949. Their mission base was described as "one of the most isolated stations in the world."¹⁰ The family's zealous evangelism converted 6,900 Lisu and Nu and established 74 churches.¹¹ Today the Morse family continues to reach out from their base in Thailand.¹² Father André escaped the 1905 massacre of French Catholic missionaries in Deqen¹³ to work single-handedly among the Nu for many years.

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