

# HMONG

More than 650,000 Hmong live in 11 different provinces in the north of Vietnam. They are invariably located at the top of the highest mountains in the areas they live. A Hmong proverb states, "Fish swim in water, birds fly in the air, Hmong live on the mountains."

In China the Hmong are one part of the large Miao nationality, which numbered 7.4 million people in 1990. In China about 1.5 million Miao people call themselves 'Hmong'. Some writers have urged that all 'Miao' people be called 'Hmong' because the name 'Miao' has derogatory connotations. The name 'Hmong' however, cannot be applied to most 'Miao' in China. The Hmong have little cultural or linguistic relation to the Miao groups further east in China,

such as the *Hmu* and *Ghao-Xong*.

In Vietnam there are more than half a dozen distinct Hmong groups. Each group wears its own clothing, speaks a distinct dialect or language, and generally does not interact with other Hmong groups. The groups in Vietnam include the White Hmong, Hmong Leng, Green Hmong, Black Hmong, Hua Hmong and Han Hmong. The Hmong are also found in Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, and in western countries where some have settled as refugees.

The historical roots of the Hmong is intriguing. Some scholars have suggested they originated in Persia or Babylon, migrating north into Siberia for a time before entering northern

China. Hmong legends and Chinese records support some of these claims. The Hmong claim they once lived in a homeland where "days and nights lasted six months, the water was frozen, and snow hid the ground. Only a few trees grew and they were small. The people, too, were short and squat, clothed in furs."<sup>17</sup>

As recently as the 20th century it appears many Hmong had Caucasian features. In 1924 Father F. M. Savina of the Paris Society for Foreign Missions published his book *Histoire des Miao*, which caused a sensation in the western world. He wrote, "In appearance [the Hmong are] pale yellow in complexion, almost white, their hair is often light or dark brown, sometimes even red or 'corn-silk blond', and a few even have pale blue eyes."<sup>18</sup>

During intense periods of Chinese persecution, the Hmong were killed because they were easy to single out. An 80-year old Hmong man in Laos, Cher Sue Vue, remembers his childhood when the Chinese crossed into Laos looking for white babies... "At that time there was only one white baby in our village. The infant's parents were warned before the Chinese arrived, and they carried him

into the forest where they hid."<sup>19</sup>

Many Hmong migrated into Vietnam in the late 1700s and early 1800s, as they fled Chinese persecution and attempted genocide. Despite their extreme poverty and hard lives, the Hmong possess a great resilience and love for life. In the 1860s a powerful Hmong army, led by the self-proclaimed Hmong king, Sioung, raided Buddhist temples in northern Vietnam and seized large tracts of land.

Today there are believed to be anywhere between 50,000 to 330,000 Hmong Christians in Vietnam. The higher number is considered extremely unlikely by Christian workers in the area. What is known however, is that multitudes of Hmong have come to Christ in recent years after listening to Gospel radio broadcasts in their language.

Unfortunately because of massive persecution from the Vietnamese authorities, lack of Bibles and teaching for the new believers, and the influence of pseudo-Christian cults, many of those who professed to follow Christ have fallen away from the faith.

The Hmong have a legend of a Hmong Savior who will one day reveal himself, throw off the yoke of opposition, and establish an independent Hmong homeland. Because of this belief the Hmong are especially susceptible to being deceived by strong, charismatic figures.

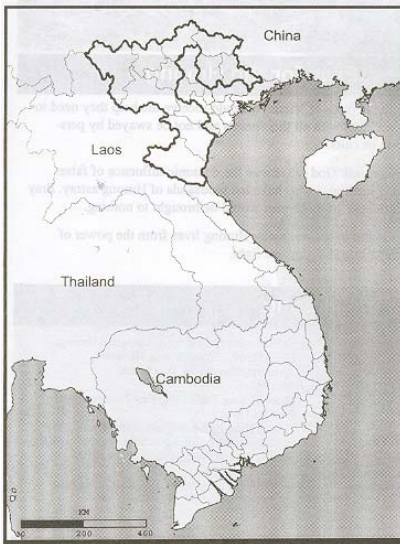
In recent years a man called Yang Shong Meng, who claims to be Christ, has gathered tens of thousands of followers. Yang's reputation is enhanced by many false healings, predictions that come true, and other satanically inspired miracles.<sup>20</sup>

The Bible is available in White Hmong, while the New Testament has been translated into Green Hmong (Hmong Njua).



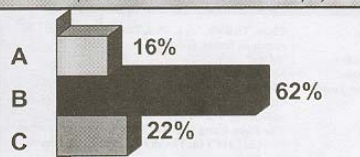
## Pray for the Hmong

- 1 Pray the Hmong of Vietnam would receive the help they need to follow Christ with all their hearts and not be swayed by persecution or cults.
- 2 In prayer, ask God to remove the demonic influence of false Hmong messiahs, who have led thousands of Hmong astray. Pray the influence of these men would be brought to nothing.
- 3 Ask God to transform many Hmong lives from the power of darkness into His glorious light.



<b>Population:</b>	558,053 (1989) 693,100 (2000) 845,600 (2010)
<b>Language:</b>	Hmong-Mien
<b>Religion:</b>	Animism
<b>Christians:</b>	150,000

## Status of Evangelization (Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the name of Christ  
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians  
C = Adherents to any form of Christianity

## Overview of the Hmong

<b>Countries</b>	: China, Vietnam, Laos, USA, Thailand, Myanmar, Australia, France, Guyana	<b>Subgroups (6)</b>	: Green Hmong, Red Hmong, Variegated Hmong, Black Hmong, White Hmong, Na Miao
<b>Pronunciation</b>	: "Mong"	<b>Religion</b>	: Animism, Christianity, Polytheism
<b>Other Names</b>	: Miao, Mong, Meo, Mieu Toc, Man Trang	<b>Christians</b>	: 150,000
<b>Population Source</b>	: 558,053 (1989 census) more than 1.5 million Hmong in China, part of the Miao nationality, which numbered 7,398,035 (1990 census) Cap Bang, Lang Son, Bac Thai, Ha Giang, Yen Bai, Son La, Lai Chau, Thanh Hoa, Lao Cai, Nghe An, Hoa Binh	<b>Scripture</b>	: White Hmong: Bible 1998; New Testament 1975; Portions 1922. Hmong Njua: New Testament 1975; Portions 1955 : available in White Hmong-Hmong Njua (combination)
<b>Location</b>		<b>Jezus film</b>	: Hmong: Blue #00492; Hmong: White #00491
<b>Language</b>	: Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Chuankiangian	<b>Gospel Recordings</b>	: available (FEBC)
<b>Dialects (6)</b>	: White Hmong, Green Hmong, Black Hmong, Blue Hmong, Hua Miao, Han Miao	<b>Christian Radio</b>	: available
		<b>ROPAL code</b>	: MWW00 (White Hmong); BLU00 (Hmong Njua)