

# HRE

More than 110,000 Hre (pronounced 'H-ray') people live in the central highlands of Vietnam. Most of their villages are located in the western parts of Quang Nai and Binh Dinh provinces; in addition there are small communities of Hre who have migrated to Gia Lai and Kon Tum provinces.

The Hre are known by a host of local names, such as Cham-re, Chom, Kre and Moi Luy. They are ethnically and linguistically related to the Bana and Sedang people who live in the same region.

The Hre build their homes on stilts. The floor of the house is raised about one meter (three feet) off the ground, to protect the people and their food

from dampness and animals. Animal horns are fixed to both ends of the roof. These horns are called *ki nem* (horns of the house) and are believed to protect the inhabitants of the house from evil spirits.

Inside a Hre home are three main sections. On the left-hand side is a room reserved for men, called *inh chin*. It doubles as a socializing room. Men welcome visitors there and engage in card playing, drinking alcohol, and basket making. The right-hand section of the house (*inh doong*) is reserved for women and their housework. In between these rooms is a general area called the *ta nem*, where the food is prepared and the ancestral altar is located. It also serves as the bedroom for the entire family.

Both Hre men and women like to wear their hair tied into a bun, which is traditionally decorated by a hair-pin or bird feather. These days most Hre dress identically to the Vietnamese, although their ethnic costumes are still worn during ceremonies and other special occasions.

Hre women also like to wear bracelets, necklaces and anklets made of copper, silver or glass beads.

The Hre have a long history of armed conflict and warfare. In addition to their continual enmity with other tribes and clans, the Hre participated in the Tay Son Movement in the late 1700s and also joined the resistance against the French in the late 1800s.

In the past all Hre families adopted the name of *Dinh*. Today, as well as Dinh, family names such as Nguyen, Ha and Pham have been adopted.

Unlike many of the other people groups in central Vietnam, Hre society is traditionally patriarchal; the men are the leaders. After marriage a Hre couple can either move into the husband's family's home, or they can start their own home by themselves if they choose.



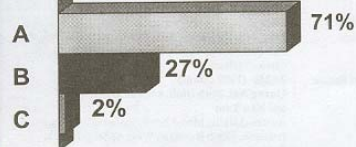
**Population:**  
94,259 (1989)  
117,000 (2000)  
142,800 (2010)

**Language:**  
Mon-Khmer

**Religion:**  
Animism

**Christians:**  
1,800

## 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

No dowry needs to be paid to a bride's family when a couple gets married.

Inheritance rights are simple among the Hre. No preference is made between male and female children. The property and assets are simply divided evenly, although often a larger share is given to the youngest child, as it is his or her responsibility to take care of the parents in their old age.

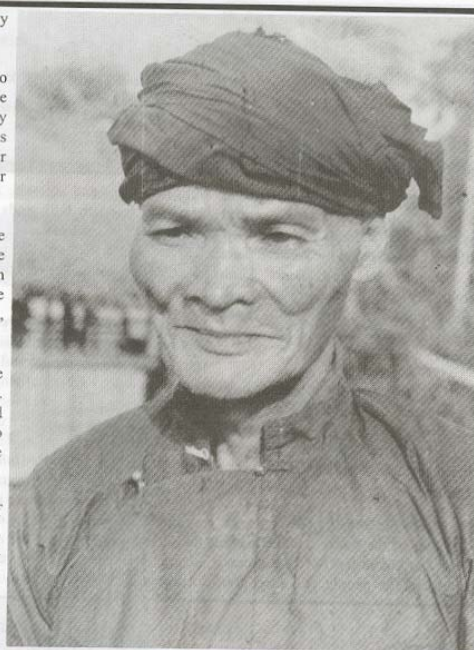
The Hre love to play music and sing. It is the heart-beat of their communities. They compose songs and poems and sing them alternately with men singing one line and women the next. The lyrics usually involve such topics as romance, the struggle between good and evil, and humor.

Musical instruments used by the Hre include the *ling la* (a type of flute), drums, gongs, and harps. Some of these instruments are centuries old and have been handed down from one generation to the next. Sometimes five or six sets of gongs are played in rhythm by different village members.

The Hre are animists. They rely on a number of supernatural forces to protect them from harm, disease and death. Sacrifices of buffaloes and poultry are offered to make peace with the spirits of the harvest, water and soil.

About 1,800 Hre are reported to be Christians. A recent visitor claimed there was 2,500 to 3,000 Hre believers. The Christian & Missionary Alliance, who traditionally dominated Protestant missions work in Vietnam, worked among the Hre prior to 1975. Bible portions were translated into Hre in 1967, although with only 15-25% literacy, still relatively few Hre are able to read.

Although neither the complete Old or New Testament has been translated into Hre, the Psalms, Old Testament stories, Gospel of John and the Book of Acts are available.



## Pray for the Hre

- 1 Pray Bible translation projects would be commenced to help the Hre get more of the Bible in their language. Pray literacy programs would also be conducted to teach more people how to read.
- 2 Ask God to strengthen the 2% of Hre who follow Christ. Pray they would be light and salt to those animistic Hre who don't know Jesus Christ.
- 3 Pray the unique musical instruments and love for singing would be retained by the Hre and used to worship God.

## Overview of the Hre

Countries	: Vietnam	Subgroups	: 0
Pronunciation	: "H-ray"	Religion	: Animism, Christianity
Other Names	: Hrey, Moi Da Vach, Cham-re, Moi Luy, Thach Bich, Moi Son Phong, Davak, Davach, Moi Da Vach, Moi, Chom, Tachom	Christians	: 1,800 to 3,000
Population Source	: 94,259 (1989 census)	Scripture	: Portions 1967
Location	: Quang Nai, Binh Dinh, a few in Gia Lai and Kon Tum		: Psalms, OT stories, John, Acts and hymnals are available. Work in progress
Language	: Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Eastern Mon-Khmer, Bahnaric, North Bahnaric, West, Sedang-Todrah, Sedang	Jesus film	: none
Dialects (3)	: Rabah, Creq, Hre	Gospel Recordings	: Hre #01926; Son Ha #03328
Literacy	: 15-25%	Christian Radio	: available (FEBIC)
		ROPAL code	: HRE00