



Population in China:

564,000 (1998)
596,700 (2000)
769,700 (2010)

Location:

Guizhou, Yunnan, Sichuan

Religion: Animism

Christians: 1,000

Overview of the Hua Miao

Countries: China, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, USA

Pronunciation: “Hwa-Meow”

Other Names: Hua Hmong, Hmong Sou, Hmong Dous, Downhill Hmong, Hmong Ghuad Dus, Shangfang Ren, Zhanjia Ren, Hmong Ndrou, Hmong Nraug, Hmong Bel

Population Source:

564,000 (1998 M. Johnson); Out of a total Miao population of 7,398,035 (1990 census); Also in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, USA

Status:

Officially included under Miao

Location:

Guizhou: Weining, Dafang, Pan, and Hezhang counties; S Sichuan; Yunnan

Language: Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Western Hmongic, Farwestern Hmong, Hua Miao

Dialects: 0

Religion: Animism, Polytheism, Ancestor Worship, Christianity

Christians: 1,000

Scripture: None

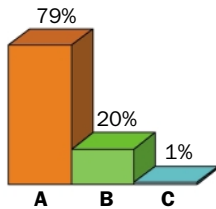
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: HHN00

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: Approximately 600,000 Hua Miao are scattered over a wide area of Yunnan, Sichuan, and Guizhou provinces in southern China. One source lists a figure of 1.1 million Hua Miao speakers,¹ but this includes the Hua Miao outside of China and also groups such as the Chuan Miao, Hmong Njua, Hmong Bua, and Hmong Leng — all of which have been profiled separately in this book.

Identity: Although the Chinese call all members of this group *Hua Miao*, they are not the same as the Big Flowery (Hua) Miao or the Small Flowery (Hua) Miao. Among the Hua Miao there are numerous different self-names, ethnic groups, and dress styles, but all speak one common language. Linguist Michael Johnson has coined the term *Hua Miao* for this large group. They have been called by many other names in the past. Johnson explains, “I have labeled this linguistic grouping by the rather ambiguous term *Hua Miao* because there is no one ‘Miao + modifier’ autonym that is used throughout the group.... Many of the subgroups within *Hua Miao* are in fact called *Hua Miao* ‘Flowery Miao’ by the Chinese. The geographic extent of the group also makes it difficult to use a geographic based name.”²

Language: Johnson further notes, “Within *Hua Miao* mutual intelligibility is generally extremely high, especially when two dialects are in local contact. Intelligibility is hindered between *Hua Miao* in China and those outside of China because of the past 150 years or more of lost

contact and influence from surrounding minority languages.”³

History: Despite their present ethnic divisions, the *Hua Miao* were once one group. “Given the comparatively minor extent of linguistic variation within *Hua Miao* it is feasible that the group formed a single ethnolinguistic group... perhaps only 600 years ago. The present geographical scattering is due mostly to migrations during the Qing Dynasty which were fueled by persecutions and other social unrest.”⁴

Customs: *Hua Miao* probably contains several dozen self-appellations and varieties of dress. Among this collection of groups are the *Hmong Dous* (Downhill Hmong) in southern Sichuan, who are called *Hmong Ghuad Dus* (Buffalo Dung Hmong) by other Miao

groups in the area in reference to their style of turban.⁵

Religion: The *Hua Miao*, being scattered over a large area, have several main religious beliefs, including animism, polytheism, and ancestor worship.

Christianity: There are as few as 1,000 scattered *Hua Miao* Christians in China — only one out of every 600 people. The *Hua Miao* are sparsely populated over a wide geographical area; therefore, their only chance of hearing the gospel comes if they happen to live near one of the few evangelized Miao groups — the A-Hmiao and Gha-Mu in Guizhou or the Hmong Daw in Yunnan, for example. Significant ethnic and cultural barriers, and age-old prejudices combine to prohibit the gospel from spreading easily from one Miao group to another.



Paul Hattaway