the Truong Son mountain range in there. Each house is surrounded by a sweet potatoes, cassava, melons and central Vietnam near the border with large hedge that has two gates. The bananas. They also raise animals such Laos. Members of this ethnic group are hedge is designed to protect the as water buffaloes, pigs and chickens. also located within Laos, where they occupants from wild beasts that still may be known as the Phuong.

In Vietnam the Katu inhabit the Hien

situated in the middle of the village. major problem in the past. The rong is a magnificent building that

roam the isolated mountains and Traditionally the Katu are renown for

Nang Province, and the A Luoi and agriculture. They clear land by Nam Dong districts of Thua Thien- burning it, then use it for several years scale hunting expeditions for several Katu houses are built on stilts and they again try to plant crops. This of other ethnic groups, but now they arranged in a semi-circular pattern technique has yielded poor harvests use money. around the rong-a communal house for the Katu, and famine has been a

towers over all other homes. All The Katu living in Hieng and Giang gatherings of the community, social districts number about 12,000. They activities, religious ceremonies and have settled down and practice rice-

More than 40,000 Katu people live in weddings and funerals take place cultivation. They grow corn, beans,

their skills as hunters. They use crossbows with poisoned arrows. and Giang districts of Quang Nam-Da Most Katu practice slash-and-burn spears, and rifles to kill animals. Often the men of the village leave on largeuntil it is exhausted. They customarily days at a time. Until recently the Katu let the land lie for a few years before bartered for goods with the members

their young boyfriends.

Most Katu families are monogamous, but some wealthy men have taken several wives. They choose the voungest and most beautiful women, and offer the girl's family many possessions and enticements for allowing them to give up their certain kind of plant or animal as long as they live. The Katu with the same family name are tightly-bound to each other, even if they live in different areas and have never met before. Because they share the same ancestors, they believe they are spiritually related because of the particular totem or taboos they share. The majority of Katu are animists. They believe

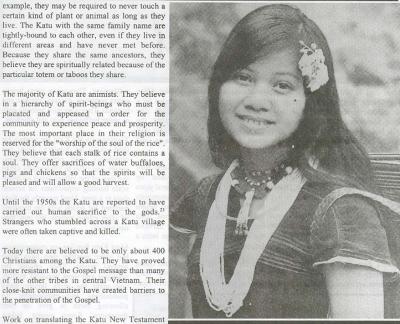
in a hierarchy of spirit-beings who must be placated and appeased in order for the community to experience peace and prosperity. The most important place in their religion is reserved for the "worship of the soul of the rice". They believe that each stalk of rice contains a soul. They offer sacrifices of water buffaloes, pigs and chickens so that the spirits will be pleased and will allow a good harvest.

Until the 1950s the Katu are reported to have carried out human sacrifice to the gods.21 Strangers who stumbled across a Katu village were often taken captive and killed.

Today there are believed to be only about 400 Christians among the Katu. They have proved more resistant to the Gospel message than many of the other tribes in central Vietnam. Their close-knit communities have created barriers to the penetration of the Gospel.

Work on translating the Katu New Testament was commenced by missionaries prior to their expulsion from Vietnam in 1975. The work was continued outside the country and completed in

Today Gospel Recordings are available in five different Katu varieties. It is uncertain if these represent five different dialects, or were recordings made of Katu in five different locations. Gospel radio broadcasts are available in Katu, albeit for only 15 minutes per week.

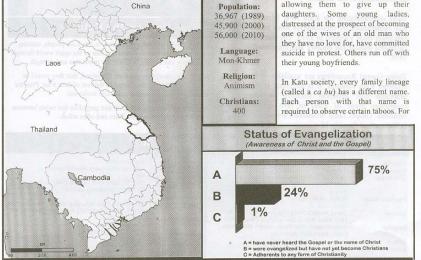


## Pray for the Katu

Pray the Spirit of God would move on the Katu people, causing them to forsake their devotion and fear of the spirit world through repentance and turning to Christ for protection and strength.

Ask God to strengthen the Katu Christians, that they would be faithful in spreading the Gospel to the rest of their tribe. Pray the message would not appear culturally irrelevant.

Pray against centuries-old strife and prejudice that exists between Katu clans and between the Katu and other tribes.



## Overview of the Katu

Vietnam, Lans Countries Co-Tu, Ca Tu, Cao, Ha, Ca-tang, Moi, Attouat, Attouat, Kado, Cao, Kao, Thap, Teu, Khat, Kotu, Phuong, Other Names 36,967 (1989 census): Population Source Quang Nam-Da Nang: Hien and Giang districts; Location Thua Thien Hue: A Luoi and Nam Dong districts Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Eastern Mon-Khmer, Language Katuic, East Katuic, Katu-Thap Dialects Literacy 5-15%

ubgroups (2) Christians lesus film

Gospel Recordings Christian Radio ROPAL code

Phuong, Kantua Animism, Christianity, Non-Religious New Testament 1978; Portions 1969;

NT and OT stories are available Katu #01929; Katu: Ban Aling: #01800; Katu: Ban Atak #01818; Katy: Pilu #01801; Katu: Quang Nam #03167

KTV00 (Katu); PHG00 (Phuong)