

MNONG

Approximately 80,000 Mngong people live in southern Vietnam. The majority are concentrated in the southern part of Dac Lac Province, while a smaller number live in Lam Dong Province.

In keeping with many of Vietnam's officially recognized minority groups, the Mngong are comprised of many smaller subgroups and tribal affiliations. As many as 12 smaller groups of Mngong have been identified, each with slightly different customs. About 19,000 speakers of the Eastern Mngong language also live in Cambodia.

Different Mngong subgroups construct their homes in different ways. The *Nong, Gar, Prang, Preh* and *Si To* build their homes on level ground.

while the *Rlam* and *Chil* prefer to build their homes on stilts. This is probably the result of these latter two groups being influenced by their close neighbors, the E-De, who have stilted houses.

Mngong villages are invariably located near a stream, river or other water source. A system of bamboo pipes is constructed to channel the water down into the community. Inside their homes the Mngong have a storage room for rice, and a common room for socializing and family gatherings.

Until recently the Mngong ate with their fingers, and placed their food in bamboo containers. Now most Mngong use plates, knives and forks.

The Mngong raise water buffaloes, dogs, horses and pigs, but are perhaps best known among Vietnam's people groups for their capturing and training of elephants. The Mngong living in E Sup and Ban Don are particularly renowned for their skill with elephants. The beasts are used for logging work, clearing trees and fields, and for plowing rice paddies.

For centuries the Mngong have had a matriarchal and matrilineal society. This means that not only do the woman have leadership of their families, but the family names and family possessions are handed down the female side of the family. Mngong children take the family name of their mother.

The Mngong like to have as many children as possible. This is important because having many children available to work in the fields may help the community avoid famine and starvation. Girls are particularly adored by the Mngong. Later in life when they are aged, the Mngong custom is for the parents to go and live with their oldest daughter, who will receive the inheritance when they die.

The Mngong, both men and women,



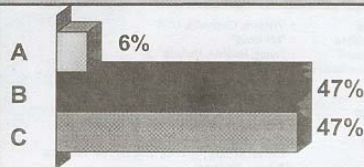
Population:
67,340 (1989)
83,600 (2000)
102,050 (2010)

Language:
Mon-Khmer

Religion:
Christianity

Christians:
39,000

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

love to adorn themselves with copper bracelets around their wrists. These bracelets may represent a commitment between two lovers, an oath of friendship, or an allegiance to a protective spirit.

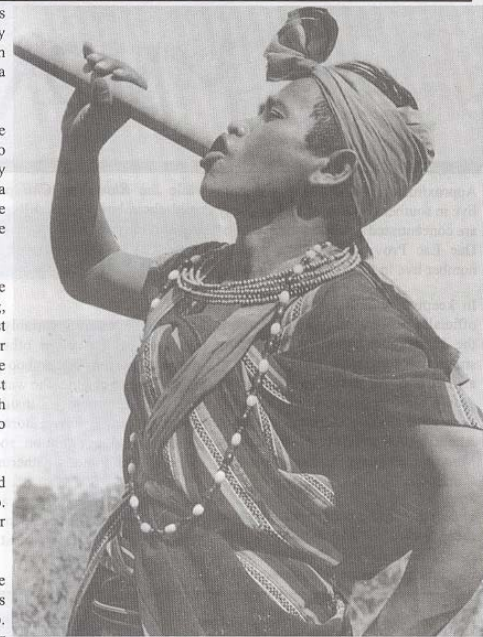
Alcoholism is a major problem among the Mngong. People of all ages are encouraged to drink the powerful wine that is brewed in every Mngong village. Smoking tobacco is also a common practice. Even children as small as five or six years old can be seen with a pipe protruding from their mouth.

There are three distinct, mutually unintelligible languages among the Mngong. Central Mngong, which has six dialects, is spoken by the largest number of people. Eastern Mngong has four dialects and Southern Mngong has two. These languages are so different that speakers must revert to Vietnamese in order to understand each other. Separate translations of the Bible are also required in each Mngong language.

When a Mngong person dies, the corpse is placed in coffin that resembles the shape of a buffalo. The deceased person's relatives build a hut over the grave and place wooden carvings on it.

Christianity is now the major religion among the Mngong, but the penetration of the Gospel has been inconsistent within each Mngong subgroup. The Central Mngong language groups, for example, contain 36,500 Christians, while the Eastern Mngong have only 2,210.

Missionaries translated the entire New Testament into Central Mngong, but the original copy was tragically lost in 1975 when the missionaries were forced to leave the country. Some New Testament stories, the Gospel of John, and hymnals have since been re-translated. The Gospel of Mark and the Life of Christ have been translated into Eastern Mngong.



Pray for the Mngong

- 1 Pray the Life of Christ would penetrate into all 12 subgroups of Mngong people in Vietnam. Pray the Gospel would go forth with great authority and life-changing power.
- 2 Ask God to help Bible translators redo the Mngong New Testament, which was tragically lost in 1975 after it had been completed.
- 3 Pray there would soon be strong churches in every Mngong village in both Vietnam and Cambodia.

Overview of the Mngong

Countries	: Vietnam, Cambodia, USA	Subgroups (12)	: Gar, Nong, Chil, Dip, Kuenh, Bhiet, Prang, Preh, Rlam, Si To, Bu-dang, Bu-deh
Pronunciation	: "Mh-nong"	Religion	: Christianity, Animism
Other Names	: Mngong, Budong, Budang	Christians	: 39,000
Population Source	: 67,340 (1989 census); 19,000 Central Mngong in Cambodia; a few in USA	Scripture	: Mngong, Bunong: Portions 1977 NT stories, Gospel of John and hymnals are available. Mngong, Ralam: Portions The Gospel of Mark and Life of Christ are available
Location	: Dac Lac, Lam Dong	Jesus film	: none
Language	: Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Eastern Mon-Khmer, Bahnaric, South Bahnaric, Sre-Mngong, Mngong	Gospel Recordings	: Mngong: Bunor #00764, Mngong: Gar #00767; Mngong: Lam #03168
Dialects	: 12 dialects in 3 distinct Mngong languages: Central Mngong (6): Preh, Biat, Bu Nar, Bu Rang, Dhi Bri, Bu Dang; Eastern Mngong (4): Mngong Rolom, Mngong Gar, Mngong Kwanh, Chil, Southern Mngong (2): Bunong, Prang	Christian Radio	: available (FEB-C) - 15 minutes per week
		ROPAL code	: MNC00 (Central Mngong), MNG00 (Eastern Mngong), MNN00 (Southern Mngong)