Raglai

Raglai is a Malayo-Polynesian language, related to hundreds of languages in the Austronesian region including Malaysian, Indonesian, Cham, and other varieties. It is spoken by about 30,000 people. The Raglai people are described as "considerably different from other Raglai dialects." The Cucgia speakers live in communities northeast of Phan Rang. Northern Raglai is generally spoken in areas west and south of Nha Trang, with some in Daklak.

A population of 71,096 (1999), 89,500 (2009) and 108,640 (2010) Raglai people is recorded. The Raglai society remains strongly patriarchal. The oldest woman makes all family decisions. Children take the family name of their mother, and inheritance is passed down to the daughters. The youngest daughter of the family is responsible for performing the worship of her parents.

The Raglai worn cloth is dressed in new clothing, rolled up and buried in a coffin, a single piece of fabric. A shroud is used to assist the soul to the afterlife. Images of the moon, sun, birds, and flowers are adorned on the side of the coffin. Several items of property that were owned by the deceased are placed in the coffin, then the grave is covered with a mound of dirt.

Later, at set times, age-old rituals are held to present offerings to the dead person's soul. These include the "naming of the tomb" and the "abandoning the tomb" ceremonies. The former ceremony is the most important by the Raglai. It can be very expensive to conduct, and it may plunge a family into heavy debt for years to come.

The number of Christians among the Raglai is uncertain. Works among the Raglai claim there are 2,750, while some sources state there are as many as 20,000—mostly among the Northern Raglai. Missionaries translated part of the Scriptures into Northern Raglai in 1966.

Pray for the Raglai

1. Pray against the spiritual blockages that have prevented the advancement of the Gospel among all Raglai. Pray that there would be a strong church founded in every Raglai community.
2. Adonai to make the Raglai believers like flames of fire. Pray that their witness would compel many unsaved Raglai to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Pray the Raglai church would become a missionary church, sending evangelists to the most unreached parts of Asia.

Overview of the Raglai

- Location: Vietnam
- Languages: Vietnamese, Raglai, Xinh, and other dialects
- Religion: Animism
- Christians: 2,750
- Literacy: 25-30%