

Paul Hattaway

**Location:** Biao-Jiao Mien is a distinct Yao language described as “spoken by about 40,000 people”<sup>1</sup> in an area straddling the Guangxi-Hunan provincial border. The majority of Biao-Jiao Mien are found in Quanzhou and Guanyang counties in northeast Guangxi, as well as in Shuangpai, Lingling, and Daoxian counties in southern Hunan.

**Identity:** Officially considered part of the large Yao nationality in China, the Biao-Jiao Mien group is not the same as the Biao Mien — another Yao group which has been profiled separately in this book.

**Language:** A Yao script based on the Roman alphabet was introduced by the government in 1983 but has never caught on in the

hearts of the Biao-Jiao people, due in part to the lackluster efforts of schools to teach the script. Also, the linguistic diversity between the dozens of different Yao languages and dialects does not enable a common script to be used over a widespread area. Some sources list Ao Biao as a dialect of Biao-Jiao Mien.

**History:** The Biao-Jiao Mien migrated to their present locations in Guangxi and Hunan at least several hundred years ago. They found the best land had already been taken and were forced to locate near the summits of mountains. Although most Yao people acknowledge some historical affinity with each other, there are ethnic tensions between some of the groups. Some groups like

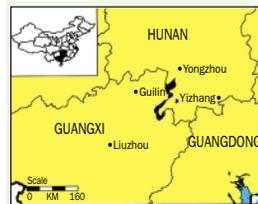
the Biao-Jiao Mien have little to do with other Yao groups and would never consider intermarriage with them.

**Customs:** The Biao-Jiao Mien are extremely poor people. Some families have walked off their farms in recent years to join the mass of unemployed workers seeking jobs in China’s major cities. The Biao-Jiao Mien construct their villages on flat land near river banks. Their homes are built with brick and wood. Most villages contain 20 to 50 households.

**Religion:** The Biao-Jiao Mien are one of a small number of non-Han Chinese peoples in China who predominantly adhere to Daoism. Daoism, called *Dao-Jiao* in Chinese, is the only true “home-grown” religion of China. Founded around 604 BC by a mystical figure named *Laotzi*, Daoism is a belief that spiritual power is the force of the universe and the order behind all life.

**Christianity:** The Biao-Jiao Mien, and all other Yao groups in China, are unreached and unevangelized. There are no Scriptures available in a language that the Biao-Jiao Mien can comprehend. The situation in Guangxi seems to have remained unchanged since the 1920s, when one observer lamented, “If we draw a line across the map... we will find by far the greater half of the province, has, as yet, no established Christian work. In these neglected regions there are 58 cities, 700 market towns, and over 17,000 villages, all teeming with human lives for whom no effort whatever is being

put forth. The great majority of the inhabitants of these unoccupied sections are aborigines.”<sup>2</sup>



#### Population in China:

40,000 (1991)

50,400 (2000)

65,000 (2010)

**Location:** Guangxi, Hunan

**Religion:** Daoism

**Christians:** None Known

## Overview of the Biao-Jiao Mien

**Countries:** China

**Pronunciation:**

“Beeaw-Jeeow-Mee-en”

**Other Names:**

Biao Chao, Dongshan Yao

**Population Source:**

40,000 (1991 Pan Chenqiang);

Out of a total Yao population of

2,134,013 (1990 census)

**Location:** NE Guangxi: Quanzhou

and Guanyang counties;

S Hunan: Lingling, Shuangpai,

and Daoxian counties

**Status:**

Officially included under Yao

**Language:** Hmong-Mien, Mienic,

Biao-Jiao

**Dialects:** 0

**Religion:** Daoism, Animism,

Polytheism

**Christians:** None known

**Scripture:** None

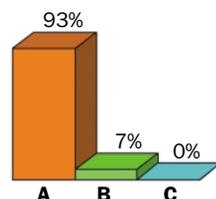
**Jesus film:** None

**Gospel Recordings:** None

**Christian Broadcasting:** None

**ROPAL code:** BJE00

#### 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