

Location: Approximately 1,000 members of the Hmong Be tribe live in a compact community in Luzhai Village near Babao Township. The area lies within Dafang County in the northwestern part of Guizhou Province. This part of southern China is a hilly region with lush forests watered by numerous rivers and streams.

Identity:¹ Chinese linguistic and anthropological literature in the past frequently mentioned the Hmong Be, despite their small population. The Chinese call them *Luzhai Miao* after the name of their village. They call themselves *Hmong Be* (Mountain Hmong).² The neighboring Hmong who live in Dananshan Village refer to them as *Hmong Nzhil* (Peppery Hmong), or *Hmong Drout Raol* (Six Village Hmong). They are one of several dozen ethnic groups combined to form the official Miao nationality in China. Although the Hmong Be speak the same language as the Hmong Dou, they claim a different ethnic identity. In addition, Hmong Be women wear their own unique style of dress.

Language: The Hmong Be speak a variety belonging to the Chuanqiandian (Western) Miao language group. Chuanqiandian is the most cohesive of the Miao language groups. Speakers from diverse places such as northwest Guizhou and southern Yunnan have little trouble communicating with each other. Farther east — in Guizhou, Guangxi, and Hunan — Miao languages show much greater variation.

History: In China many of the branches of the Miao do not accept each other as members of the ethnic group. This is because the Chinese have used the name *Miao* as a generic cover term to refer to the original inhabitants of Guizhou for more than 2,000 years. Today, centuries after they have splintered into numerous separate entities, they are still called *Miao* by the Chinese. In comparison, the former great Mon-Khmer race was never called by one generic name. They have splintered into today's groups such as the Lahu, Wa, De'ang, and Bulang, each acknowledged by the government as distinct nationalities. Today's Miao groups show just as much ethnolinguistic variety as the Mon-Khmer groups, but they are all officially included in the same nationality.

Customs: The Hmong Be celebrate several regional festivals, including an annual gathering when the youth come together to find partners.



Dwayne Graybill

Religion: Animism is the primary religious belief system among the Hmong Be. Although animism is not technically an organized religion, the people's lives and communities reflect their bondage to the spirit world that surrounds them.

Christianity: Many Hmong Be have heard something of the gospel, mostly through the temporary witness of Christians passing through the area. As a result, few Hmong Be today have a full understanding of the concepts of grace and salvation. It is unknown whether there are presently any active believers among the Hmong Be.



Population in China:
1,000 (1998)
1,050 (2000)
1,360 (2010)

Location: Guizhou
Religion: Animism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Hmong Be

Countries: China

Pronunciation: "Hmong-Beh"

Other Names: Hmong; Luzhai, Luzhai Miao, Mountain Hmong, Hmong Nzhil, Peppery Miao, Hmong Drout Raol, Six Village Miao

Population Source:
1,000 (1998 AMO);
Out of a total Miao population of 7,398,035 (1990 census)

Location: NW Guizhou: Luzhai Village in Babao Township, Dafang County

Status:
Officially included under Miao

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

Dialects: 0

Religion:
Animism, Ancestor Worship

Christians: None known

Scripture: None

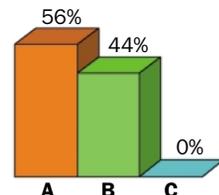
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: None

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