

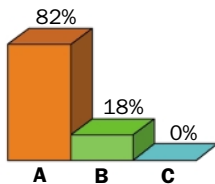


Population in China:
 5,000 (1982)
 7,610 (2000)
 9,810 (2010)
Location: Guizhou
Religion: Animism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Northwestern Guiyang Miao

Countries: China
Pronunciation: "Gway-yung-Meow"
Other Names:
 Hmong: Northwest Guiyang
Population Source: 5,000 (1985 Wang Fushi – 1982 figure); Out of a total Miao population of 7,398,035 (1990 census)
Location: *Guizhou:* Qianxi, Pingba, Luzhi, and Qingzhen counties
Status:
 Officially included under Miao
Language: Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Western Hmongic, Guiyang
Dialects: 0
Religion: Animism, Polytheism, 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

Location: In 1982, 5,000 speakers of the Northwestern Guiyang Miao language were reported in China. At that time, Chinese linguists began to investigate the numerous Miao languages and dialects, assigning them to their various classifications. The Northwestern Guiyang Miao live in Pingba, Qianxi, Luzhi, and Qingzhen counties, west of Guiyang City in Guizhou Province.

Identity: At the completion of studies based on the 1982 census findings, there were still eight unclassified Miao languages that did not fit into any of the government's recognized categories. One of these was a language labeled *Qianxi, Pingba, Qingzhen* after the names of three counties where it is spoken. In 1993 Chinese linguist Li Yunbing arrived at the conclusion that it was a part of the Guiyang Miao language cluster.¹ It has subsequently been called *Northwestern Guiyang Miao* by the Chinese authorities. None of the other seven Miao languages has yet been classified.

Language: Because of their relatively recent inclusion as a part of the Guiyang group, the Northwestern Guiyang Miao language has appeared in few linguistic studies.

History: The Northwestern Guiyang Miao have been forced from the best and most fertile land into the mountains by Han Chinese settlers. Organized and brutal attacks on the Miao were launched at regular intervals by the Chinese during the 1700s and 1800s when hatred for the

Miao reached a fever pitch. Hundreds of thousands of troops were mobilized from all over China to attack the Miao. The official Chinese policy was one of genocide and complete extermination of the Miao race.

Customs: Linguists have ascertained that more than 5,000 people speak the Northwestern Guiyang Miao language. Within that number, however, there may be several ethno-socio subgroups, each wearing distinct dress and practising slightly different customs from the others.

Religion: The Miao believe that the gods are invisible unless they choose to reveal themselves. Among them, *Ntzi* is the highest god. He is kind, just, and powerful, controlling heaven and earth. Stories recount

how he sent his daughter to earth to help the poor and unfortunate. Some Miao groups believe there was once a ladder that connected the earth with heaven, but the ladder was broken. Since that time no Miao have been able to visit heaven.

Christianity: Most of the Northwestern Guiyang Miao have never heard the gospel and live hidden away from any Christian influence. Those few who have heard the good news in Mandarin have found it interesting, but because it was not presented to them in their own language, it has proven to be something abstract or foreign. Specific cross-cultural evangelism will need to occur before the gospel takes hold in the hearts and minds of the Northwestern Guiyang Miao people.



Dwayne Graybill