



Miao Messenger

Location: The Northern Huishui Miao language is spoken by more than 90,000 people south of Guiyang Municipality — the capital of Guizhou Province. They live in the Gaopo District of Guiyang Municipality, and Huishui and Guiding counties.

Identity: The Northern Huishui Miao are defined as a group purely on the basis of a linguistic classification within the Miao nationality, which contains “30–40 languages in China.”¹ The Northern Huishui Miao language group may consist of several ethnic subgroups.

Language: Northern Huishui Miao is inherently unintelligible with the Eastern, Central, or Southwestern Huishui Miao languages. Speakers from the different groups must use Mandarin to communicate.

History: According to legend, in about 2550 BC a Miao chief, Jiyou, was defeated by the Han race. The Miao were forcibly exiled to the inhospitable mountains in southern China. Military campaigns were launched against the Miao for centuries. Throughout the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), more than 80 fierce attacks were made against the Miao — an average of one every three years.² In 1832 another Miao rebellion was directed by the self-appointed “Golden Dragon King,” who dressed in yellow robes. He declared that the government of China had lost its “mandate from heaven” and, therefore, no longer had a right to rule over the Miao people.³ He mobilized a large army with his promise to overthrow the Qing Dynasty, but without the arms or means to pose a threat, he was soon captured and

executed, and the rebellion was crushed.

Customs: Music is always at the center of Miao celebrations and social gatherings, whether it involves singing, instrument playing, or leaf-blowing. Traditional love songs are handed down from generation to generation. Two young lovers may sing to each other in question-and-answer form to express their mutual feelings.⁴ Many annual Miao festivals are held which offer a chance for young people from different villages to mix and for romance to blossom.

Religion: Most Northern Huishui Miao live in fear and bondage to evil spirits which harass them continually. Some Miao stories tell of a dark place inhabited by demons and ruled by a demon king. To the Miao, demons are the souls of humans, birds, or animals. If a deceased person had no descendants to continue his family line, or if his descendants do not make proper offerings, he becomes a demon and causes harm to people.⁵

Christianity: Few of the early missionaries targeted the Miao groups in southern Guizhou. As the great people movement to Christ unfolded in northwest Guizhou and in Yunnan among the A-Hmao and Gha-Mu, many of the missionaries placed among other Miao groups were summoned to lend a hand to disciple these new believers. This is one of the reasons why the gospel has never taken a firm foothold among most of the Miao groups in China. Most

Northern Huishui Miao are completely unaware of Christ or the claims of the gospel.



Population in China:

70,000 (1990)
90,300 (2000)
116,500 (2010)

Location: Guizhou

Religion: Animism

Christians: 50

Overview of the Northern Huishui Miao

Countries: China

Pronunciation: “Hway-shway-Meow”

Other Names: Hmong; Northern Huishui

Population Source: 70,000 (1995 Wang Fushi – 1990 figure); 50,000 (1985 Wang Fushi – 1982 figure); Out of a total Miao population of 7,398,035 (1990 census)

Location: *Guizhou:* Gaopo District of Guiyang Municipality; Tangbao, Yangchang, and Pingfa districts of Huishui County; Guiding County

Status: Officially included under Miao

Language: Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Western Hmongic, Huishui

Dialects: 0

Religion: Animism, Polytheism

Christians: 50

Scripture: None

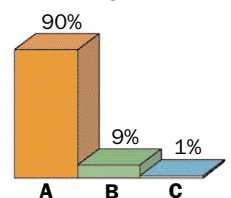
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: HMN00

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