



Population in China:
 60,000 (1990)
 77,400 (2000)
 99,800 (2010)
Location: Guizhou
Religion: Animism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Luobohe Miao

Countries: China

Pronunciation: "Luo-bo-her-Meow"

Other Names: Hmong: Luopohe, Xiamaha Miao, Luopohe

Population Source: 60,000 (1995 Wang Fushi – 1990 figure); 40,000 (1985 Wang Fushi – 1982 figure);

Out of a total Miao population of 7,398,035 (1990 census)

Location: *Guizhou:* Fuquan, Weng'an, Guiding, Longli, Kaiyang, and Kaili counties

Status: Officially included under Miao

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

Dialects: 0

Religion: Animism, Polytheism, Shamanism

Christians: None known

Scripture: None

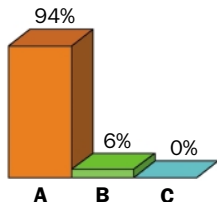
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: HML00

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: Approximately 77,000 speakers of the Luobohe (Luobo River) Miao language live in southern China. They inhabit parts of Fuquan, Weng'an, Guiding, Longli, Kaiyang, and Kaili counties in central Guizhou Province. Visitors to the region are often overwhelmed at the enormous variety of different Miao subgroups.

"Along the roads of central Guizhou, one cannot fail to notice a great variety of Miao. Every 50 kilometers or so we found that the women's dress and appearance varied. There were those with long skirts, those with short skirts, hair done in a knot, hair done in a more elaborate coiffure."¹

Identity: Although considered part of the Miao minority, the Luobohe Miao speak their own language, making them a "mission-significant" people. The Chinese include the Xi people as part of the Luobohe Miao language group,² but the Xi have been profiled separately in *Operation China*.

Language: Luobohe Miao is part of the Chuanqiandian (Western) Miao language family and the Luobohe Miao is different from the large Hmu group they live among.

History: The long-standing enmity between the Chinese and the Miao continued during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736–1795). Chinese spies were sent to Miao territory pretending to be traders and merchants. There they led the Miao into evil activities and deliberately incited riots. As the Han Chinese population multiplied and land became

a more valuable commodity, many Chinese peasants forcibly took land from the Miao along the Guizhou-Hunan border in the early 1790s. This led to yet another Miao uprising in 1795.³

Customs: Many Luobohe Miao homes are three stories high. Constructed of wood, they are often built on stilts against the hillside. The top room is used to store grain — keeping it as far away from rats and dampness as possible. The middle level of the house is reserved for the use of the family, while the bottom floor is reserved for the family's animals. Luobohe Miao women wear their own distinctive dress, which is noted for the intricate and skillfully embroidered patterns which decorate the hemline of the skirt.

Religion: Although the Luobohe Miao worship no gods and have no idols, in most of their villages

shamans, or spirit priests, are summoned to mediate in all matters pertaining to the spiritual world. The Miao have great respect for the shamans who, in addition to warding off evil spirits, serve the people as doctors, counselors, and mediators of disputes between families.

Christianity: Few Luobohe Miao have any awareness of Christ at all. Most live their lives completely ignorant of the good news of the Christian faith. There are approximately 1,000 Miao believers in and around Kaili city, all from the Hmu and Ge groups. The majority of Luobohe Miao, however, live where there are no visible Christian communities. Most Luobohe Miao are illiterate, and there are currently no gospel recordings in a language they are able to understand easily. The Luobohe Miao are a desperately needy, unreached people with little access to the gospel.



Pauli Hattaway