# Miao, Lupanshui 苗(六盘水)

their homeland

Location: More than 50,000 Miao people living in the Lupanshui and Qinglong areas of western Guizhou Province form their own ethnolinguistic group, which we have labeled *Miao*, *Lupanshui*. Lupanshui (also spelled *Liupanshui*) is an amalgamation of several towns and districts, combined to form a municipality which contains 2.5 million people. Qinglong County, farther to the south, contained a total of 51,555 Miao people in the 1990 census, of which about 30% are part of the Lupanshui Miao group.

Identity: The Lupanshui Miao are a peculiarity. Scholars have found that although they are ethnically members of the Miao nationality, they speak the Xiang (Hunanese) Chinese language. Their dialect is similar to the Xiang language spoken in Dongkou County in western Hunan Province, at least 400 kilometers (247 mi.) from their present location. Today the Lupanshui Miao are linguistically distinct from all of the other Miao groups in western Guizhou. Other Miao people view the Lupanshui as a different group and usually do not intermarry with them.

Language: Lupanshui Miao speak a dialect of Xiang Chinese that is only spoken in three counties of Hunan Province: Dongkou, Suining, and Longhui. The Lupanshui Miao probably lost the use of their original Miao speech at least 300 years ago. Their homeland in Hunan is near the home of today's Ghao-Xong ethnic group.

**History:** The precise reason why the Lupanshui Miao migrated away from

in Hunan Province is uncertain. The 1990 Chinese census listed only 304 Miao people still living in Dongkou County in Hunan, suggesting that almost the entire people group were transplanted across the province to their present-day location in Guizhou. Chinese military campaigns against the Miao are a likely reason for

their migration. On certain occasions, the authorities uprooted whole communities and forced them to move to sensitive areas as guards and soldiers, and to spy on other Miao groups.

**Customs:** Since the mid-1980s there has been a growing desire among young people to move to Lupanshui City or one of the other economically thriving towns in the area, to find work in a factory or on a construction site.

**Religion:** The Lupanshui Miao are not a particularly religious people. Most of them are hardworking agriculturists

certain occasions, who do not center their lives around

who do not center their lives around religion. Many older Lupanshui Miao practice animism and still worship spirits and the elements of nature, but many of the youth are atheists.

Christianity: There are no known churches or Christian believers among the Lupanshui Miao. Miao churches do exist among other subgroups in the vicinity, but they speak languages very different from the Lupanshui and have been unable, and perhaps unwilling, to communicate the gospel to them. Christians in the Lupanshui area have experienced severe persecution in the past.

# SICHUAN GUIZHOU Lupanshui Anshun Duyun Huishul Pingtang VUNNAN Scale O MM 150

### Population in China:

40,000 (1990) 51,600 (2000) 66,500 (2010)

Location: Guizhou Religion: Animism Christians: None Known

# Overview of the Lupanshui Miao

Countries: China

## Pronunciation:

"Loo-pahn-shway-Meow"

Other Names: Miao, Liupanshui

# Population Source:

40,000 (1990 AMO); Out of a total Miao population of

7,398,035 (1990 census) **Location:** *W Guizhou:* Lupanshui

Municipality; Qinglong County

#### Status:

Officially included under Miao **Language:** Chinese, Xiang

Dialects: 0

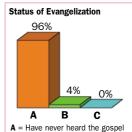
**Religion:** Animism, Polytheism, Ancestor Worship, No Religion

Christians: None known

Jesus film: None
Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: None



**A** = Have never heard the gospel **B** = Were evangelized but did not

become Christians **C** = Are adherents to any form of

Christianity