



Population in China:
 6,341 (1997)
 6,890 (2000)
 8,890 (2010)
Location: Yunnan
Religion: Daoism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Yunnan Mongols

Countries: China, language in Laos

Pronunciation: "Mong-gawls-Yoo-nanh"

Other Names: Kaduo, Gazhuo, Yunnan Mongolians

Population Source: 6,341 (1997 *Yuxi Nianjian*); Out of a total Mongol population of 4,806,849 (1990 census); 5,000 speakers of Kaduo in Laos (1981 Wurm & Hattori)

Location: *Yunnan:* Near Jihulu Lake, Hexi District of Tonghai County, in Yuxi Prefecture

Status: Officially included under Mongolian

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo, Northern Lolo, Unclassified

Dialects: 0

Religion: Daoism, Mahayana Buddhism, Polytheism, Islam

Christians: None known

Scripture: None

Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: KTP00

Location: Approximately 6,900 Mongolians inhabit a large village near Jihulu Lake in Tonghai County, Yunnan Province.¹ Intriguingly, an additional 5,000 people in northern Laos speak the same language, called *Kaduo*, although they do not identify themselves as Mongols.

they overthrew the ancient Nanzhao Kingdom in Dali. They ruled Yunnan for 129 years, extracting annual taxes and tribute which were sent north to fill the coffers of the Yuan Dynasty rulers. In 1381, "Ming Dynasty troops routed the Yuan army by the shore of the Baishi River. The Mongol soldiers, their hopes to return to their homeland having been dashed, had no alternative but to settle down in the province."⁵ Their ancestors have today grown to 7,000 people around Jihulu Lake.



Paul Hattaway

Customs: The Yunnan Mongol women's dress is said to resemble the uniform of the original Mongol soldiers. In the milder climate they wore cloth instead of fur and cut off the sleeves. In the early 1980s village elders sent a delegation to Inner Mongolia to learn about Mongolian culture. They immediately adopted customs similar to Mongols in the north. Wrestling became their favorite sport when they saw how popular it was with other Mongols.⁶

Religion: The religion of the Yunnan Mongols is a mixture of Buddhism and Daoism.

Identity: The Yunnan Mongols are a distinct people group. They deliberately separate themselves and refuse to intermarry with people from other nationalities.² Despite having been cut off from their homeland for seven centuries, the Yunnan Mongols proudly retain their ethnic identity as Mongols.

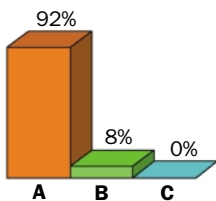
Posters of fierce Daoist deities hang on the doors and gates of their homes to ward off evil spirits. A few Mongol families are Muslims. They were converted to Islam by the neighboring Hui community, located near the entrance to the Mongolian village.

Christianity: There is no Christian church among the Yunnan Mongols. The few efforts to take the gospel to them have met with stubborn resistance and opposition from village leaders and local police. In the 1980s a Mongolian Christian was mobilized from northern China and visited this village, hoping he would be able to influence the Yunnan Mongols to become Christians.⁷ He too was rejected by the locals, who are eager to preserve the Mongolian traditions they had neglected for centuries and who are careful to shun all change to their society.

Language: Over the centuries the Yunnan Mongol's language has evolved to the point that it is unintelligible with other Mongolian languages. Having been influenced by neighboring peoples, the Yunnan Mongols today speak their own distinct Tibeto-Burman language, called *Kaduo* or *Gazhuo*. It is described as having eight tones³ and as being similar to the Lisu and Sani languages.⁴

History: The Mongolian empire gained control over southwest China in 1252 when

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