

## The Oy of Laos



Peoples of Laos, Paul Hattaway ©  
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Some of the Oy live in 21 villages on the fertile Boloven Plateau region of southern Laos and others live at the foot of the plateau. Many of the Mon Khmer groups in the south are grouped together so that the Oy live intermingled with Brau and Ngae peoples. In some ways the Oy are adopting the culture of their neighbors they still cling to ancestor worship rather than accepting Buddhism. Except for the more isolated communities, they do not practice animistic ceremonies except in times of crisis. Then the rituals resume.

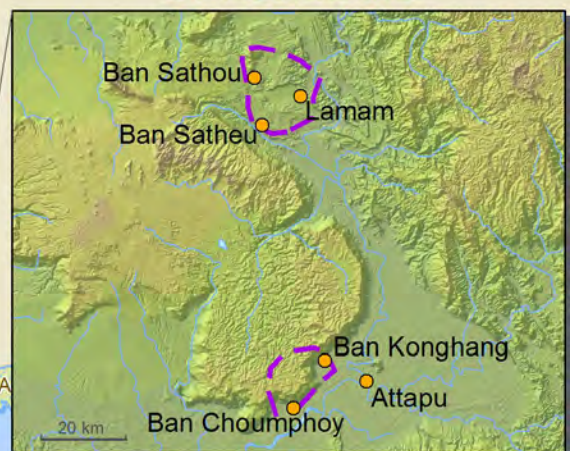
There are more than 200 believers today meeting in several churches. The Laos government has persecuted the believers greatly including imprisonment for their pastors.

The Oy say they originated in China and have lived in their present location for 150 years. Their principle farm crop is rice.

The Overseas Christian Fellowship were the first mission to minister to the Oy. Part of their work was a leprosy clinic for 700 lepers in the area. The first believer was a Shaman. After converting to Christ he was murdered by his own people. They gouged out his eyes and dumped his body in the forest.

[information taken from Asia Harvest profile, by permission]

### OY HOMELAND



**Primary Religion:**

Ethnic religion

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

0.02%

**Churches:**

Several

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

None

**Population (date):**

21,020 (2010)



## The Oy of Laos

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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	0.018% (1998) but IMB reports they are no longer unreached
Believe in Jesus as God & Only Savior?	No longer unreached
Believe in their traditional religion (%)	99%
Have not heard who Jesus is (%)	Unknown
Number of Pastors	Unknown
Number of Missionaries Working	None
Number of Communities	21 villages (1995 census)
Number of Churches	There were several in 1999. The data is old. The number today is unknown. It is not known in what language the believers worship in their churches.
Response to the Gospel	The first Oy person who became a Christian died a martyr. There are about 200 believers among the Oy today.
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Nothing in their language
Translation Medium	n/a
Any Hindrance to Scripture	The Oy do not have the Scriptures written yet in their heart language.
Other Forms Of Gospel Presentation	Jesus Film: Not Available Gospel Recordings: Available in 5 dialects Radio Broadcast: Not Available
Kind of Missionaries Needed?	Cross-cultural missionaries would have a hard time obtaining visas to work in this area.
Bilingualism	Of 11,200 (Bradley 2007) population. 8,960 or 80 percent are monolinguals, meaning that their own language, Oy, is the only language they speak.

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### General Description

#### Geography & Environment

Location	Samakhhixai and Sanamxai Districts of Attapu Province and Pakxong District of Champasak Province
Elevation	plateau: 3,500 feet

#### Language & Linguistics

Primary Language	Oy
Alternate Language Names	Huei, Oi, Thae, The , Lao Theung (upland)
Dialects	Inn Tea, Kranyeu, Riyao, Tamal Euy, Khen Sang. Konghang, La-Nyao, The
Percent Monolingual	80%
Linguistically Related Languages	Jeng [jeq], Sapuan [spu], Sok [skk]
Neighboring Languages	
Northern group	Laven, Alak, Mal and Sapuan
Southern group	Lao, Lave and Sou

#### Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	50% (men 69%, women 34%)
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#### Education

Comment:	47% have never attended any level of school
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