

## The Western Pwo Karen of Myanmar

The Western Pwo Karen live in Myanmar, in the Irrawaddy Delta region. Mostly they are rural rice farmers. There are many Buddhists as well as Christians. Generally, the Buddhists continue to practice traditional Karen religion, that is, making sacrifices to various spirits. Burmese culture and language has a significant influence among Western Pwo Karen. Some Western Pwo Karen have even given up their language in favor of Burmese, while maintaining their Karen identity. Many Western Pwo Karen were affected by the devastation of Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Image Unavailable

Through Pwo Karen survey work, we found that the Bible we called the “Western” Pwo Karen Bible was actually translated for Eastern and Western, and likely was more suitable to Eastern than Western. This information comes from Womack (2005) and Eastern Pwo Karen interviewees. The reason that this translation is today known as the “Western” Pwo Karen Bible is that the Western Pwo Karen converted in larger numbers and use this Bible more. However, the Eastern Pwo Karen Christians do use this Bible as well and consider it to be their own language. Therefore, we now know that the Eastern Pwo Karen have their “own” Bible

**Primary Religion:**

Buddhist/Animist

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

Perhaps 30%

**Churches:**

Unknown

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

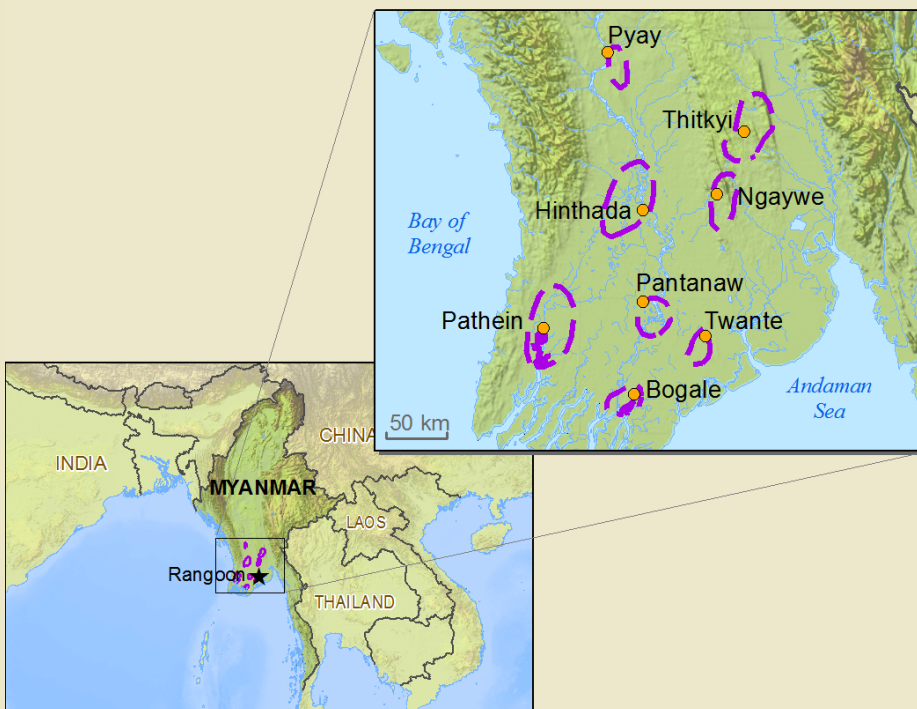
1884 Bible/revision in progress

**Population (date):**

Unknown



### WESTERN PWO KAREN HOMELAND



## The Western Pwo Karen of Myanmar

---

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian  
Comment

unknown  
But some have estimated 42 % and this seems about right.

Believe In Jesus As God And  
Only Savior

All I can say for sure is greater than 10 %, maybe as much as 50 %

Is The Word Of God Translated?

The first translation of the Bible into Pwo Karen was finished in 1884. There is also a Western Pwo Karen revised translation in progress.

History of Christianity  
By Whom

Unknown  
Baptist missionaries