

The Makyan Naga of Myanmar

The combined population of all the Naga people in Lahe Township is estimated at 43,322 people, split among nine Naga groups. Lahe Township is located in the Naga Hills in northwest Sagaing Division. The Leinong Naga group has a population of 8,000.

The Naga are one of many Tibeto-Burman groups. They are said to have migrated from Tibet and entered Myanmar through what is now Kachin State. They moved along the Chindwin valleys and scattered throughout Manipur, Assam and even into eastern Bangladesh. From these locations, some Naga later returned to Myanmar. Today, many Naga also live in Nagaland in Northeast India. Naga people comprise various tribes spread throughout the Naga Hills. Today, there is a population of approximately 200,000 Nagas in Myanmar.

In general, the people in Lahe Township practice slash-and-burn cultivation, growing rice, corn, maize, yams, and beans. Due to this kind of cultivation, the mountains are barren. The people cultivate two to three years in an area and then move to another place. They leave the soil for about ten years and when the soil is again ready for cultivation, they come back to the previous fields to cultivate. They live this way all year round. The Naga men enjoy hunting and fishing while the women collect edible leaves and cultivate the fields. The Naga also go down to Lahe Town to sell their collected items, and buy or exchange groceries in return. Due to the availability of vegetables at cheap prices from nearby villages, the people in Lahe Town do not grow anything at their homes.

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Primary Religion:
Buddhist

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
Unknown

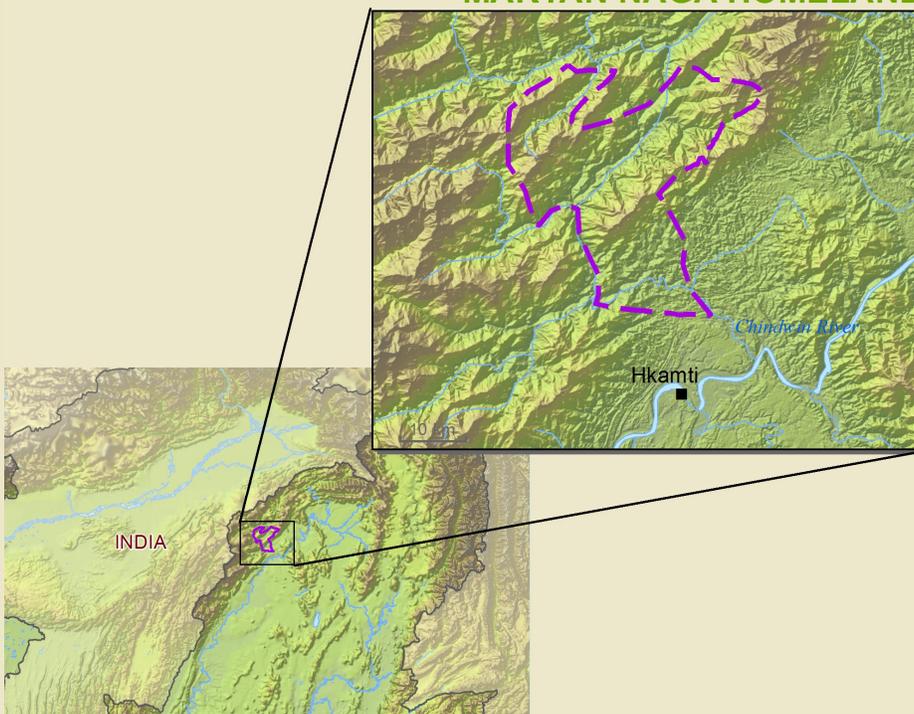
Churches:
Unknown , >2%

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
No Scripture

Population (date):
3,000 (2007)



MAKYAN NAGA HOMELAND



The Makyan Naga of Myanmar

Have They Heard The Gospel?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Number Of Communities | 13 |
| Is The Word Of God Translated? | No |
| Hindrances to Scripture Distribution | No access for foreigners, but nationals may be able to distribute. |
| Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed | Cross-cultural national missionaries would be most appropriate in the area. Potentially with support/training from expatriates. |

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Group Description

Environment

Comment

The land is rugged and rocky with deep valleys and swift streams. Due to the mountainous terrain, transportation and communication are a challenge in the Naga Hills. Lahe Township is 4,303 feet above sea level, with an area of 1,555 square miles.

Literacy

Literacy Attitude

Comment

Somewhat receptive

In general, it's reported that they would like to have materials written about history, culture, education, agriculture, anthropology, property rights, traditional songs and dance, as well as Bible stories.

Economics

Subsistence Type

Hunter-gathers

Occupation

Agriculturalists

Society/Culture

Family Structures

They live together as joint families of unilateral descent. The society is patrilineal. Though it is said to be a monogamous society, a man is sometimes allowed to have another wife.

Education

Language of Instruction Early Years

Burmese

Language of Textbooks Early Years

Burmese

Language of Instruction Later Years

Burmese

Language of Textbooks Later Years

Burmese

Comment

Number unknown, but primary education is available. Secondary education only available in towns.

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Status of Christianity

Religion Population Percent

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Religion #1 | Buddhism |
| Percent Adherent | 66% |
| Comment | Largest religion among group. |
| Religion #2 | Animistic |
| Percent Adherent | 9% |
| Comment | Smallest religion among group. |

Scripture

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Scripture Use | Majority of the churches |
| Comment | The Burmese Bible is used in all the churches. However, there are many that express difficulty understanding it. |
| Urgent Need for Translation | For use in evangelism, discipleship, teaching, and church planting work. |