

## The Laitu Chin of Myanmar



The Laitu villages are located within three townships within Rakhine State, Myanmar: Myepung, Mrauk-U, and Minpya. Pharpyaw, Pheithapyin, and Nyuan Net Khuasung villages (all in Minpya Township) are the main villages among their tribal group. The landscape of the Laitu area is mountainous and has several rivers. The Laitu subjects estimated that they have 1,745 households in Minpya Township, 600 households in Mrauk-U Township, and 576 households in Myepung Township. The Laitu Chin are related to the Sumtu Chin [csv], and they understand each other to some extent when they have had sufficient contact with each other. There is a lot of dialect variation among the Laitu Chin, and the villages located further away from the main area have difficulty understanding the main dialect. Within Laitu, there is some question whether literature can be shared among all of the varieties. Doing intelligibility testing of a central variety among the more distant varieties would be helpful to learn how well these more distant varieties understand and accept the central Laitu variety. The Laitu Chin have begun a literacy program. However, it seems that the Laitu need to do more mobilization in other villages, especially in the Buddhist villages and the villages that speak a little differently. The survey team also recommends that the Laitu Literature Committee work to include all of the Laitu leaders, including political and religious leaders among both Buddhists and Christians, in their literature program. Farming is the main work of the Laitu. They grow crops such as rice, bananas, and mangos. Fishing, cutting timber, and raising animals are also the main jobs of some of the Laitu people. Many Laitu children go to Sittwe Town for their higher education.

**Primary Religion:**

Buddhism

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

30%

**Churches:**

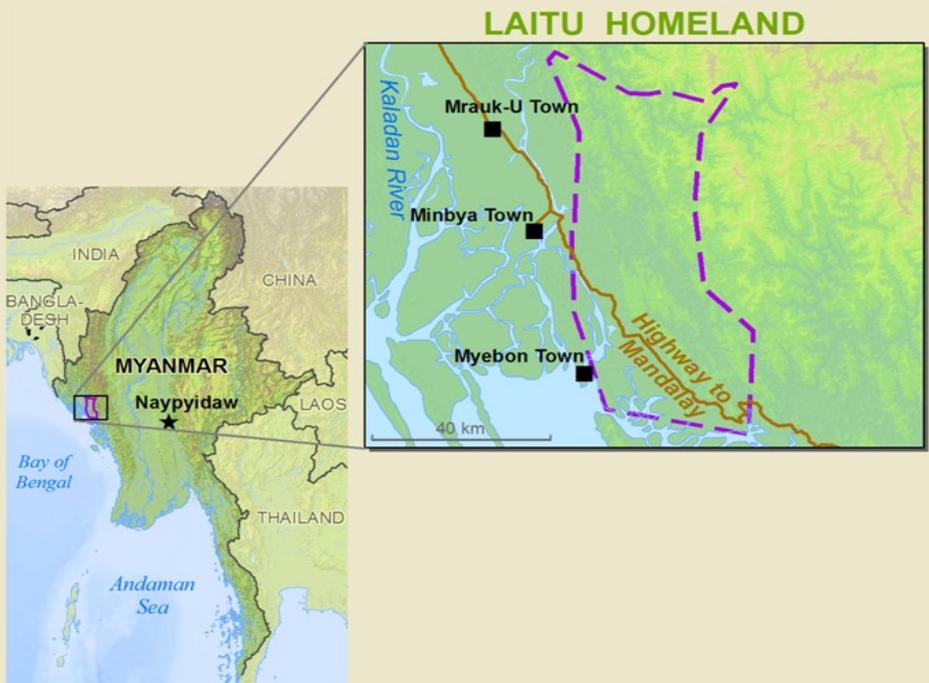
many

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

Second Language only

**Population (date):**

15,000 (2011)



## The Laitu Chin of Mynamar

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian 30%

Believe In Jesus As God  
And Only Savior 30%

Believe In The Local Traditional  
Religion 10%

Have Not Heard Who Jesus is 50%

Number Of Churches 0  
Comment

Among the Christians, there are several denominations: Baptist, Evangelical Free Church of Myanmar, Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, and Independent Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. The Baptists have the most Laitu Chin members.

Is The Word Of God Translated?

In the Laitu churches, they use the Burmese [mya] Bible, and most of the service is also conducted in Burmese. For announcements, they use Laitu. The Laitu have no scripture portions in their language yet. Some Laitu people have attended Bible schools.

Hindrances to Scripture Distribution

The team learned that Buddhists (the majority religion among the Laitu) are suspicious of Laitu literature and fear that it is a ploy to convert them to Christianity. Some steps toward a Laitu orthography have been taken by Rev. Chang Hkaw with consultation with outside partners. The Laitu people (especially those near to Ahongdong and Nyuan Net Khuasung villages) are really excited to receive literature. They are getting frustrated, though, with having to wait so long. They kept asking why there has been no progress. They look at other Chin groups that are working with other missions and see far quicker results. The team learned that another Laitu orthography has been designed by a Mizo pastor (Rev. Lanthala) serving in Mrauk-U. He thinks it is adequate and does not seem open to change. He expressed negative comments toward the orthography that Rev. Chang Hkaw and others have been developing.

Forms Of Gospel Presentation

Available

There are a wide variety of materials available in Burmese [mya] that could be used among the Laitu Chin, although the community's comprehension of Burmese as a whole is not very adequate

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### Group Description

#### Economics

Subsistence type	Fishermen
Comment	Agriculturalist

#### Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment	Cholera and other diseases are a big problem, due to lack of sanitation

#### 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



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### Comment

The team recommends that the Laitu and Sumtu consider how they could work cooperatively in the language development process. The Laitu and Sumtu [csv] literature development efforts would also benefit by making their current efforts more inclusive.

The Laitu Literature Committee needs to do more mobilization and seek to include people from other villages, especially Buddhist villages and the villages that speak a little differently. The Laitu Literature Committee would also benefit by including all of the Laitu political and religious leaders, both Buddhist and Christian, to be involved in the program to ensure that development decisions are made that benefit the whole Laitu community.

### Missions and Churches

Organization 1

Country of Origin

Baptist Church

Myanmar

Organization 2

Country of Origin

Evangelical Free Church of Myanmar

Myanmar

Organization 3

Country of Origin

Presbyterian Church of Myanmar

Myanmar

Organization 4

Country of Origin

Independent Presbyterian Church of Myanmar

Myanmar