

Quick Facts

Population: 1,200,000

Myanmar: 1,080,000

Thailand: 120,000

Language Family: Mon-Khmer

Location: Rangoon Delta

Religion: Buddhism

Believers: 0.03%

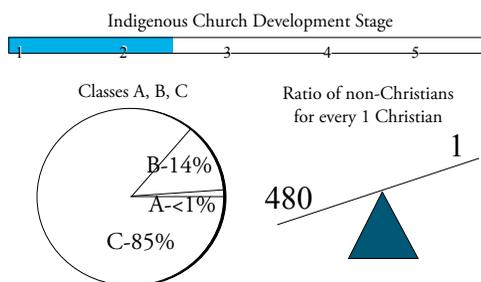
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 2

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 4



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: The Mon are the progenitors of the Mon-Khmer people cluster, and founded the first great kingdom in the Rangoon delta region. As many as 8 million people in Myanmar claim Mon ancestry, though only a fraction of this number retain their language and culture, the rest having been assimilated into Burmese society.

Lifestyle: The Mon introduced wet-rice farming to the region, and this is still their principle crop today. Buffalo and oxen are used to draw the plows. Women grow home gardens consisting of vegetables, pineapples, and sugar cane, and also engage in basket-making and weaving. When they are not cultivating rice, men spend time engaging in blacksmithing, brick-making and carpentry. Their homes are wood-framed with thatched roofs and woven bamboo mats for walls and floors.

Customs: The Mon have no formal wedding ceremony in their cultural

tradition. Young men and women are free to choose who will be their life-partners, and when they have done so, the friends of the young man will tell the girl's parents. Upon acceptance, the groom will go to live with the bride's family for three years. After this the couple will set up their own household.

Religion: The Mon were the first ethnic group to convert to Buddhism in South East Asia and were influential in spreading the faith throughout the region. Every village has its own monastery in which short-term service is compulsory for males at the age of 10 and later at the age of 20. Monks and nuns also serve as shamans, astrologers, and doctors. When a person is sick it is due to a lack of good *karma*, thus requiring offerings to Buddha and exorcism through spirit-dances, which are mostly conducted by women shamans.

Christian Outreach: Burmese-speaking Mon were some of the first Buddhist

background converts in Myanmar in the early 1800s. Churches were established among them which still exist today. However, among the non-Burmese speaking Mon little progress has been made and pioneer work is still required.

How to Pray:

☞ Though the Scriptures were completed over a century ago, and the New Testament in 1847, they were written in the ancient Mon script which is no longer understood by most Mon today. Pray for the adaptation of this translation, and for its publication and wide distribution.

☞ Ask God to move upon the hearts of those Burmese-speaking Mon believers to go as evangelists and church planters among their people, both in South Myanmar and Thailand.

☞ After years of repression and shunning the outside world, the Burmese government is beginning to open up. Pray for this open door to continually widen, and for a sufficient number of personnel to be allowed entry to work among the Mon.

☞ Pray for God's blessing on FEBC's broadcast in the Mon language, and that every village might tune-in.

**Every year
11,000 Mon die
without Christ.**