

## Quick Facts

**Population:** 1,000,000

Vietnam: 820,000

China: 150,000

Myanmar: 20,000

**Lang. Family:** Central Tai

**Religion:** Ethnic

**Believers:** 0.025%

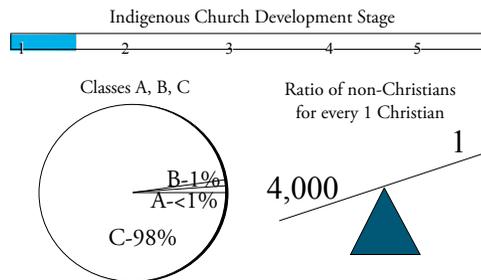
**Scriptures:** Portions

**Ministry Tools:** JGRT

**Church Status:** 1

**Mission Status:** 2

**MS Subgroups:** 2



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 Nung are a Central Tai speaking people, closely related to the Zhuang and the Tay. In the 11th century they were defeated by the Chinese and forced to flee south to Guangning. Later during the 13th century Mongol invasion they fled further south into present-day northern Vietnam.

**Lifestyle:** The Nung are well known for their expertise in horticulture, especially tangerine and persimmon orchards. They also cultivate sweet potatoes, corn and peanuts. Nung homes are often enclosed with a hedge around the property to fence in their chickens, geese, and ducks. They may also have a pond in the yard where they breed fish and shrimp. Monkeys, tigers, and deer are hunted for their bones, which are sold to the Chinese for use in traditional medicine.

**Customs:** Nung marriages requires three steps. The first is to procure a mediator, who negotiates between the

two families. If the girl's parents approve the match, the second step is for the girl to give her ascent to the arrangement. Finally a Taoist priest must examine their zodiac signs to ensure the marriage will be prosperous. If their signs are compatible, he will then arrange the proper date for the ceremony based on astrological readings.

**Religion:** Nung religion is a mixture of Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism and Shamanism. Although the Vietnamese government has attempted to eradicate all "superstitious" beliefs and practices among them (and many young people have now become atheists or secularists), there are still around thirty known practicing Shamanist priests. Every Nung home has an ancestral altar, above which is typically an altar to Buddha. Outside the home is an altar dedicated to the "earth spirit" called Kwan Yin.

**Christian Outreach:** Before the Communist revolution in China, missionar-

ies operated two "mission stations" in Guangxi which brought them into contact with the Nung. Though marginally impacted, a cluster of believers among the Nung is known to have survived. In Vietnam, two missionaries worked among the Nung in the 1960s, and translated portions of the Bible. Their efforts helped facilitate the production of a shortwave radio broadcast from the Philippines through FEBC, which is having significant impact.

## How to Pray:

☞ Pray for effective follow-up and discipling of Nung believers in China and Vietnam, and for the creation of a dynamic church planting movement with strong indigenous leadership.

☞ A cluster of local churches in the United States have adopted the Nung for prayer and outreach. Pray for a successful partnership between these churches and the Vietnamese church that would significantly impact the Nung. Ask God to give a vision to believers in Vietnam for reaching the Nung with the love of Christ.

☞ Pray for the completion of the Nung Bible translation in Vietnamese script, and for its adaptation for Chinese Nung believers.

**Every year  
 9,000 Nung die  
 without Christ.**