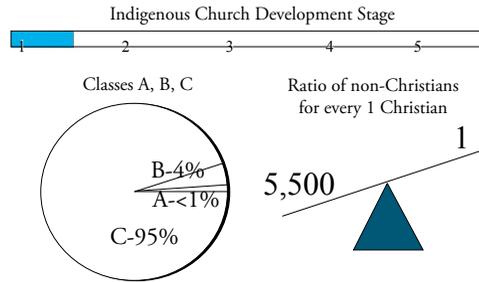


Pingdi



Quick Facts

Pop. in China: 1,100,000
Location: Guangxi Province
Lang. Group: Unclassified
Religion: Ethnic, Daoism
Believers: 0.00%
Scriptures: None
Ministry Tools: None
Churches: 0
Organizations: 1
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
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 Pingdi are a subgroup of the Yao people-cluster who speak a language that is considered a form of Chinese. Their dialect has seven tones and characteristics of nearby Daic languages. This suggests that the Pingdi may originally be a Thai-related group that intermarried among both the Yao peoples and the Chinese. They are divided into two groups, one that is more Sinicized and one that is more linguistically and culturally like the Yao.

Lifestyle: The Pingdi have a long history of being mistreated by other peoples, which has forced them into remote mountainous regions. They prefer to live on high mountain summits. Their land is criss-crossed by numerous rivers and streams, inhibiting travel and development. They are known for their expertise in embroidery, dying cloth and weaving.

Customs: The communist Chinese government has attempted to eradicate

many of the ancient customs of the Pingdi, such as the expensive brideprice required to get married, and the special privileges given to maternal uncles in important family matters. The Communists felt these practices were “unrevolutionary” as they lent themselves to a class system based on economic status.

Religion: The Pingdi have been influenced by Daoism. This philosophy stresses the importance of the “three treasures” or jewels, which are compassion, moderation, and humility. By seeking these treasures and living by them, one can ascend to join the pantheon of gods. Their traditional legends contain stories of a Creator God, who they call Tin Zay. He is characterized as holy, and set apart from all other gods. The communists have attempted, mainly through the education of children, to eradicate these “superstitious” ideas.

Christian Outreach: The remoteness of the Pingdi has left them without

a Christian witness. The Chinese house-church movements in Guangxi have only just begun to impact some of the more Sinicized Pingdi. Relatively speaking, as a province, Guangxi has one of the lowest percentages of believers in China, and there are few Han believers in the region where the Pingdi reside. There is further no record of any foreign missionary activity among the Pingdi throughout the last century.

How to Pray:

✞ Though the Pingdi have yet to be engaged by a Church-planting team, one organization has made a commitment to work in a “catalytic” role among them. Pray for effective networking with local believers to see the Pingdi fully evangelized.

✞ More linguistic and anthropological research needs to be conducted among the Pingdi to determine how best to bring the Scriptures to them in a written form. Pray for the right team of qualified researchers to come together and thoroughly assess the situation.

✞ Pray for effective followup and identification of a small cluster of believers reported to exist. Pray for their unity and growth.

Every year 10,000 Pingdi die without Christ.