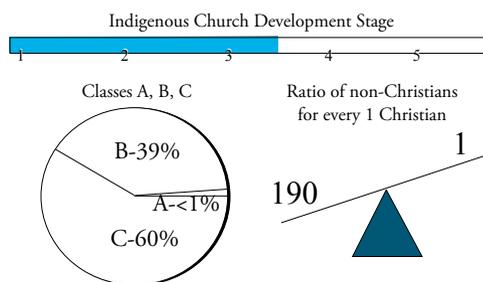




Quick Facts

Population: 3,400,000
 Myanmar: 3,350,000
 Thailand: 40,000
 China: 500
Religion: Buddhism
Believers: 0.52%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRT
Church Status: 3
Mission Status: 3
Organizations: 2
MS Subgroups: 5+



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 Shan are a Tai people which migrated from China's Yunnan mountains in the 13th century to present-day Myanmar. They are closely related to the Tai and Lao, and the Ahom of Assam, India.

Lifestyle: The Shan live primarily on the Shan Plateau. They prefer to live in either the plains or the valleys, and seldom create settlements in upland areas. Slash and burn cultivation has resulted in large deforestation in the region. Rice is the major crop, though other cash crops include peanuts, coffee, tea, soybeans and opium. The Shan Plateau supplies over 40% of the world's opium. The revenue from this trade has fueled an ongoing civil war with the Burmese government. So many young Shan have died in this war, families have been forced to hire tribal outsiders during harvest time.

Customs: Every Shan village has a headman who has great responsibility

for governing the village, including settling disputes, protecting the village from criminals and wild animals, transferring land ownership, and creating new farm areas. He is elected by nomination of the village elders, and then approval at village meetings, which are compulsory for every family to attend.

Religion: The Shan converted to Theravada Buddhism in the 5th century A.D. They are considered very devoted to their faith, with each family sending at least one son to the temple for religious training at seven years of age. They take the counsel of monks very seriously, and one of the primary jobs of a village headman is to convey the instructions of the Abbot to the village. He is also responsible for making sure the community participates in Buddhist rituals, takes care of the monastery, and feeds the monks and novices

Christian Outreach: There has been a significant turning to Christ among

the Shan in the last decade, though missionary work among them has been limited and largely inadequate. Two factors brought about the delay of this breakthrough, the first being the publication of the Bible using the Burmese orthography, which the Shan dislike. The second being the response of the surrounding despised tribal peoples to the gospel, which prejudiced the Shan towards Christianity.

How to Pray:

☞ Praise God for the 100+ churches which have been planted among the Shan. Pray for continued growth and expansion throughout the entire Shan Plateau.

☞ The 19th century Shan Bible translation has finally been updated. Pray for favor with both Burmese and Shan authorities to print and distribute this new version.

☞ Many Shan refugees in Thailand have come to faith in Christ and are receiving training as leaders. Pray for their effective deployment as church planters and evangelists back in Myanmar.

☞ Pray for more agencies and churches to take seriously the opportunity for Kingdom Harvest now present among the Shan.

**Every year 30,000
 Shan die
 without Christ.**