



Population in China:
 1,500 (1991)
 1,890 (2000)
 2,400 (2010)
Location: Guanzhi
Religion: Polytheism
Christians: None Known

Overview of the Kiong Nai

Countries: China

Pronunciation: "Chee-ong-Nai"

Other Names: Hwa Lan Yao, Hua Lan Yao, Jiongnai, Jiongnaihua, Kion Nai, Flowery Blue Yao, Qiongnai, Kiang Nai

Population Source:
 1,500 (1991 EDCL);
 822 (1982 census);
 Out of a total Yao population of 2,134,013 (1990 census)

Location: *E Guanzhi*: Jinxu Yao Autonomous County

Status:
 Officially included under Yao

Language:
 Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Kiang Nai

Dialects: 0

Religion: Polytheism, Animism

Christians: None known

Scripture: None

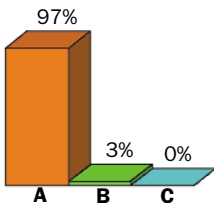
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: PNU00

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
C = Are adherents to any form of Christianity

Location: The small Kiong Nai tribe, which numbered 1,500 people in a 1991 study,¹ are one of five distinct Yao groups living in the Dayaoshan (Big Yao Mountains) in eastern Guanzhi's Jinxu County. The 1982 Chinese census listed only 822 Kiong Nai, but later research placed the number higher. The Kiong Nai are the smallest and most different of the five Yao groups, who together total 36,000 people.² The various groups "speak different languages and each has its own peculiar customs and living habits."³ The Kiong Nai inhabit the nine villages of Longhua, Nanzhou, Dajin, Liuxiang, Mentou, Gubu, Ludan, Liutian, and Chang'e.

Identity: Although they are officially (and ethnically) considered part of the Yao nationality, the Kiong Nai speak a language related to Miao. *Kiong Nai* is the self-name of this small tribe. The Chinese call them *Hualan Yao* which means "flowery blue Yao." It can also mean "Yao with baskets of flowers."

Language: Kiong Nai is totally unintelligible with the speech of the surrounding Yao communities. Although it is considered part of the Bunu linguistic group, Kiong Nai has only 52% lexical similarity with Bunuo, the main Bunu language.⁴ Kiong Nai is considered one of the intermediary languages between Miao and Yao.⁵

History: The Kiong Nai live alongside the Lu Mien and Lakkia in the Dayaoshan Mountains. These groups migrated into the area at different times. The Kiong Nai's homes are "built with

brick and wood.... The Pan [Lu Mien] and Shanzi Yao [Kim Mun], however, had no land in the Dayaoshan, suggesting that these two groups were later arrivals in the area. They had to ask to use land from the three established Yao groups, and had to pay rent and render manual labor to them. These two groups could not settle down, but lived in rustic bamboo sheds."⁶

Customs: Kiong Nai women wear beautiful dress, which is "embroidered with fine lace and consists of three wraps, one large, one smaller, and one a medium size.... A small bamboo basket is carried on the back and a long knife at the waist. A pair of short pants and a puttee completes the outfit."⁷ The Kiong Nai are renowned throughout the area for their skill in making silver ornaments.

Religion: The Kiong Nai are polytheists. They worship a variety of gods and spirits. Their religion has made them indifferent to the sanctity of human life. "It is their custom... to control the size of their population. They plan their families according to their wealth and the size of the land they will till. Generally, there will be one or two children in a family. In order to maintain their living standard, they do not hesitate to resort to abortion if and when their planning goes wrong."⁸

Christianity: The Kiong Nai are completely untouched by the gospel. They have never had a known believer or Christian fellowship among them. There are geographic, cultural, and linguistic barriers that prevent the Kiong Nai from hearing the message of salvation from other people groups.



Paul Hattaway