

The Haka Chin of Myanmar

The Haka are one of many Chin groups in the Chin state in western Burma (Myanmar). There are about 500,000 Haka that are spread across a large area, from Chin state in western Burma, to eastern Bangladesh and eastern India. Most Haka are rural slash-and-burn subsistence farmers, who make some money selling produce and livestock in township markets.

Though formerly animists, they are now overwhelmingly Christian, having been evangelized since 1899, the year American Baptist missionaries first came to the area. There is a thriving Christian community among the Haka that is well organized with Bible schools, pastors and churches. The Haka church is self-supporting. There is a complete Bible translated into the Haka language, completed in 1978. There is also a hymnal that was completed in 1970.

Though the church is self-supporting among the Haka people, it is quite poor. They often need outside assistance when erecting church buildings. Pastors are also sometimes paid by Christian organizations outside of the Haka people. Bible education for Haka Christian workers is usually in English, due to lack of materials in Haka.

Image
 Unavailable

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

50%

Churches:

300

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Bible (1978)

Population (date):

100,000 (1983)



The Haka Chin of Myanmar

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>90%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	50%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	10%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	0%%	
Number Of Pastors	333	
Comment (Pastors)	Estimated, and thought to be higher	
Response To The Gospel	In great numbers. Since 1899, when missionaries first came, and there were no Christians among the Haka, now more than 90% of the Haka profess to be Christians.	
Number Of Communities	There are at least 300 communities.	
Number Of Churches	300	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes. Bible in 1978.	
Translation Medium	Printed	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	None except many people can't afford it.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Portions in audio format.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	There is a need for medical work among the Hakas. Also, foreigners sometimes teach at Haka Bible schools (colleges). Access to Chin state is difficult for foreigners to obtain. The pastor we interviewed said there is a need for financial assistance in paying for church buildings and paying salaries for Haka evangelists (church planters).	
Who Will Sponsor Translation?	Translation not needed. A revision may be needed.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	545,000	
World Population (Date)	1983	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	India	
Country Name	Myanmar	
Country Name	Bangladesh	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	They occupy the Chin State in Myanmar.	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain, Slope	
Elevation	6,128 feet	
Longitude	94E	
Latitude	23N	
Climate	It is a tropical climate with a rainy monsoon from April–October, and a dry season from November–March.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Comment (Subsistence Type)	Slash & burn farming	
Occupation	Mostly farmers. Some work in ruby, jade and gold mines.	
Income Sources	Selling produce and pigs in town markets.	
Modernization / Utilities	There is electricity in the townships. In villages, there is none, and therefore few modern conveniences. Some people in villages use small hydroelectric turbines to generate power during the rainy season, when streams run high.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	

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Comment (Health Care)	No health care in villages. There is a hospital in Haka, the capital city.
Electricity	None in villages. A few hours in the evening in towns.
Transportation	Walking, and riding ponies outside of towns.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Very receptive

Education

Group Description

Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	Compulsory, so high percentage.
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	<20%
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Hakö
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Hakö
Language Of Instruction Later Years	Burmese
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	Burmese

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Reached
Reached Classification	Evangelized
Lay Leaders	300
Bible Schools	2
Comment (Bible Schools)	One in Haka and one in Falam
Comment (Church Growth)	There are Bible schools, pastors and self-governing, self-supporting churches. There are two Bible schools—one in Haka, one in Falam. Classes are in English, because that is the language of the materials available.

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Items For Prayer	Finances made available to purchase Bibles for the people.

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Year Began	1899
By Whom	American Baptist
Significant Events	1899, arrival in Chin state of Arthur and Laura Carson (American Baptist missionaries) with six Karen school teachers. Hymnal completed in 1970. Bible in 1978. There is a lengthy history of the Chin becoming Christian written by Robert Johnson—History of the American Baptist Chin Mission.

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status	Scripture
Available Scripture	Bible
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed and Audio
Scripture Published When	1978
Scripture Use	Majority of churches
Comment (Scripture Use)	Many Haka cannot afford to purchase the scripture.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	Yes
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Yes
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No

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Item Name

Item Note

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Baptist
Main Ministry	Evangelism
Organization Name	> UNLISTED Organization #1
UNLISTED Organization Name	Gospel for Asia
Main Ministry	Evangelism
Organization Name	Pentecostal
Organization Name	Methodist
Organization Name	Presbyterian
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church