

# Miju-Mishmi



Population: 18,000

Literacy: 40%

Scripture Status: New Testament translation is in progress.

The Miju people are inhabitants of two Indian states, namely Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, and are found in China as well. They live in high altitudes where temperatures come down to 4 degrees centigrade during winter, making life really difficult for the colourful tribes who live in these regions. Lohit district in Arunachal Pradesh is the birthplace of the

The Miju region is very much in need of electricity and communication facilities.

river Lohit that joins the mighty Brahmaputra in the plains of Assam. This region is fertile and rich in natural beauty. But at the same time the people of the land lack proper basic necessities. For example, only a few primary schools are found in this region. To pursue higher education one needs to travel to Assam. Miju culture itself is rich in oral tradition, having plenty of folk songs to mark every occasion, but there is no printed literature. Recently missionaries have taken the initiative to analyse their language and create a language dictionary.

Mijus are animistic by faith, revering everything in nature, such as the sun, the moon, mountains and rivers, as gods. In addition to these natural elements, there are hosts of other malevolent and

benevolent deities who are believed to be either protectors or causes of various ailments and problems. All these deities are appeased from time to time to keep the family and community safe from problems.

Mijus consider Christianity a foreign religion and also a threat to their tradition and identity. About twenty years ago, when missionaries came to this region, a group of Miju people became Christians upon receiving miraculous healing. However, now there seems to be no significant growth among their numbers. So far, no Scripture is available for these Miju Christians, but New Testament translation work has just begun.

Pray for:

1. The ongoing translation into the Miju language.
2. More churches to be established among the Miju.
3. More trained evangelists and pastors to go among the Miju.
4. The Miju church to use the Scripture portions that are being translated into their language effectively.

