

The Makuri Naga People of Myanmar



In Layshi Township, there are about 2,560 Makuri people. The majority of the Makuri people group is Christian; the Gospel message has been preached to them by missionaries since 1950. There are also Makuri animists and Buddhists.

The Makuri people live in 12 villages in Layshi Township. They also live in a few villages in Homalin and Lahe Townships. There are also some living across the border in India.

The Makuri language seems to have high language vitality. All the people interviewed seem to have positive attitudes toward their mother tongue. The children are learning the village mother tongue as their first language, and the mother tongue is the only language used in most situations within the village. There is no indication of the Makuri Naga language being endangered or in the midst of a language shift.

There are three main routes by which the Makuri Naga came into Myanmar from India. Those routes are the Makhwale route, the Amimi Khuula route north of Mount Sarameti, and the Phukhuri, Ahwa Chaung and Chera route north of Nantalet Stream. This stream was previously called Ah Sarti in the Makuri language. The word Ah Sarti in Makuri means “the water which we drank in our birth-place”. The stream was also known as Sarti, because, as the years went by, people gradually dropped out the word “Ah” and simply called it Sarti.

There is some dialectal variation within Makuri. The main sub-groups include Makhwale, Saingphule (Saingpuri), Arale, Kyile, Kyaungphuri (Shu), and Shera. There has been some recent Makuri language development. Primers and Bible portions have been produced in recent years, based on the Shera dialect.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

90%

Churches:

many

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

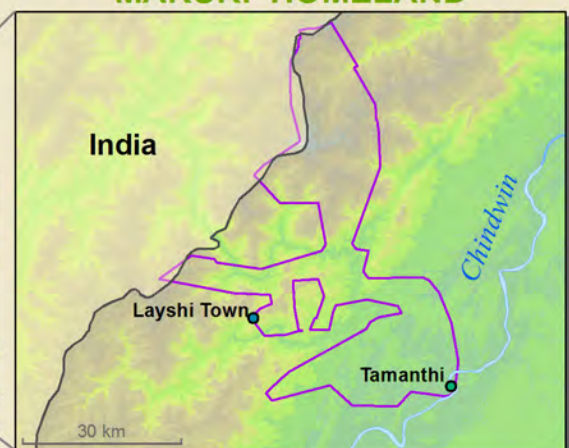
In progress

Population (date):

2,500 (2011)



MAKURI HOMELAND



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Have They Heard the Gospel?

Number of Pastors	
Comment	There are many Makuri Naga pastors.
Call Themselves Christians	90%
Believe in Jesus As Their Savior	
And Only God	90%
Believe in Traditional Religion	5%
Have Not Heard Who Jesus Is?	0%
Attitude to Christianity	Very receptive
Attitude to Religion Change	Very receptive
How They Respond to Gospel	Receptive
Number of Churches	
Comment	The majority of the Makuri are Christians, and most of them belong to the Baptist and Revival denominations.
History of Christianity: Year Began	1950
Is the Word of God Translated?	Not yet; language development, literacy, and Bible translation activities are currently in progress. Large portions of the NT have been consultant checked.
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations	
Available	Recordings: No Literature: Yes Radio: No Video/Films: No TV: No
Comment	Some Makuri literature development work has been done on the Myanmar side of the border. There is a translation of some parts of the Bible and other materials, based on the Shera dialect. In addition, there are a wide variety of materials available in Burmese [mya] that could be used among the Makuri Naga, although not all of them can understand Burmese well.
Hindrances to Scripture Distribution	There are some community disagreements about which dialect the Bible translation should be based on; this is currently hindering the translation work

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Group Description

Geography and Environment

Comment

The land is rugged and rocky with deep valleys and swift streams. Due to the mountainous terrain, transportation and communication are a challenge in the Naga Hills

Literacy

Literacy Attitude

Somewhat receptive

Active Literacy Program

Yes

Comments

Primers and initial materials are being produced and literacy training is starting to happen in the community.

Economics

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalists

Education

Language of Instruction Early Years

Burmese

Language of Textbooks Early Years

Burmese

Language of Instruction Later Years

Burmese

Language of Textbooks Later Years

Burmese

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Status of Christianity

Religion 1

Adherents

Buddhism

5%

Religion 2

Adherents

Ethnic religions

5%

Religion and Response

Resistance/receptivity

Very receptive

Scripture

Scripture Use

Comment

Currently using the Burmese Bible [mya] in their churches.

Reason for Urgent Need

There is a definite need for Bible translation among the Makuri Naga for use in evangelism, discipleship, teaching, and church planting work. However, further research is needed to confirm a central dialect for Makuri.

Missions and Churches

Organization 1

Country of Origin

Baptist Church

Myanmar and India

Organization 2

Country of Origin

Revival Church

Myanmar