

GLOBAL PEOPLES PROFILES: HAZARA OF AFGHANISTAN, TUNG AND PUYI OF CHINA, AND DECCANIS OF INDIA.

By V. David Garrison

Hazara of Afghanistan

There are 1,586,900 clearly identified Hazara people in Afghanistan, though other sources report estimates that go as high as 6,000,000. They are located in the central mountains of Afghanistan between Kabul and Herat (Hazarajat), in Kabul, in the area between Maimana and Sari-Pul, in settlements of north Afghanistan, in Baluchistan and near Quetta in Pakistan. Some have moved to northern Iran. Many are refugees. They are purportedly an Indo-Iranian or Indo-European people. Ethnic names include Berberi, (Central) Dai Kundi, Dai Zangi, Behsud, Yekaulang, (Southern) Polada, Urusgani, Jaguri, Ghazni Hazaras, and Dai Miradad. They call their language "hazaragi," though it is also referred to as Afghan Persian. This language appears to be related to Dari, and thus the Hazara currently must rely on the Dari translation of the New Testament which was just completed in 1982. There is no Scripture in the hazaragi language, and no work appears to be in progress.

The people are agriculturalists, semi-sedentary pastoralists. They are predominantly Shi'ite Muslims. Of the 1.5 million Hazara in Afghanistan, there are only 800 known Christians. There is a significant amount of secular radio broadcasting in this language, though only a moderate amount of Christian broadcasting. Only indirect or "off-the-spot" ministries from outside (relief aid, radio, literature in this or other languages, occasional visits from or contact with lay Christians) is currently possible. Taking into consideration a range of factors including Christian radio, Scripture, missionary presence, viable indigenous Christian communities, etc. on a scale of 1-100, the Hazara people of Afghanistan would be classified as only 16% evangelized, making them one of these least evangelized peoples of this size in the world. This also means there are approximately 1,332,200 Hazara people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tung and Puyi of China

A field survey reveals that "the Dong (Tung) and Buyi (Puyi) share some similarities in culture, although their languages are distinct. Both of these minorities live in Guizhou Prov-

ince and could easily be worked by the same person." Together they comprise nearly 3.5 million people.

Tung (Dong, Kam)

The 1,353,400 Tung (Dong, Kam) people live in the area where southeastern Guizhou, western Hunan and northern Guangxi provinces meet. They speak the "kam" (a.k.a. tung-chia, tong) language. Dialects include Sianji-ange. Ethnologue reports that the people are primarily polytheistic. Only 1,350 persons, or 1/10 of one percent of the people, are believed to be Christians. There is no radio broadcasting, secular or Christian, in the kam language. There is also no Christian Scripture whatsoever translated into this language, and there appears to be no work in progress. Taking into consideration a range of factors including Christian radio, Scripture, missionary presence, viable indigenous Christian communities, etc. on a scale of 1-100, the Tung would be classified as only 13% evangelized. This means there are approx. 1,176,000 Tung individuals who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Puyi (Bouyei, Pu-I)

The 2,013,800 Puyi (Bouyei, Pu-I) live on the Guizhou-Yunnan plateau, mainly in Bouyei-Miao, and Miao-Dong prefectures, in southern and southwest Guizhou province. They are ethnically similar to the Thai and Zhuang peoples. They are an agricultural people who live on mountain slopes. They speak the "chungchia" (a.k.a. dioi, jui, igen) language. Dialects include Jui (a.k.a. Joi, Gui), though there are at least 40 dialects many with similarities to the Zhuang language. Most of the people are polytheists, with some elements of Chinese Taoism. Only one percent of the people, or 20,000 individuals, are believed to be Christians. There is no radio broadcasting in the chungchia language, secular or Christian. Only portions of the New Testament have been translated into their language, and this was done in 1904. According to Wycliffe Translators there is currently no work in progress. Taking into consideration a range of factors including Christian radio, Scripture, missionary presence, viable indigenous Christian communities, etc. on a scale of 1-100, the Puyi would be classified as only 19% evangelized. This means there are

1,631,000 Puyi individuals who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Deccani of India

The Deccan Plateau in central India coincides with what used to be the princely state of Hyderabad, until 1948 ruled by the Sunni Muslim dynasty of Asaf Jahs (the *nizams* of Hyderabad). Its Muslim inhabitants, now citizens of the states of Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Maharashtra, number 10,709,800 and share to a great extent a common and distinctive heritage and culture. Muslims have always been a small minority of the population of this region—never more than 12 percent—yet, from the 14th century until 1948 they ruled the Deccan. Since the beginning, Muslim rule in the Deccan has largely depended on the immigration of Muslims from other Islamic countries. The amalgamation of ethnicities that has emerged over the centuries refer to themselves as Deccani or Dakhini. Their language, dakhini, is an archaic derivative of Urdu; though it is now quite distinct from Urdu. Today, it is sometimes simply referred to as "Hyderabadi Urdu" mixing elements of Marathi, Telegu and various tribal languages with the old dakhini roots.

There are only 100 known Deccani Christians. This leaves a ratio of more than 56,762 Deccani people who have never heard the Gospel for every Deccani believer, making them one of the least reached peoples in India. There is no radio broadcasting in the dakhini language, secular or religious. Only a New Testament has been translated into their language. It is called the Dakhini New Testament and it was done in 1758. Given the evolution of languages, it is almost certainly unintelligible to the modern Deccani reader. The fact that the Deccani live in an area where there are other indigenous Indian Christians living and working places their evangelization level at 47% a level somewhat higher than many of the world's more remote unevangelized peoples. Despite this proximity to other Christians, the 10.7 million Deccani have been severely neglected in terms of gospel witness rendering them one of the world's great unreached peoples.

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