

The Anu-Hkongso Chin of Myanmar



The Anu and Hkongso people speak related dialects and can understand each other's dialects well. The villages of the Anu and Hkongso are situated to the east of the Kaladan River in Paletwa Township. Most of the villages are located around the Kyauk Pan Daung, a flat-topped rocky mountain which is a geographical landmark of the region. Many Hkongso villages are scattered from the northeast to the west of the mountain and along the Michaung River, and most Anu villages are along the Daletmay Chaung farther to the west of the mountain. Cultivation is the main work among the Anu and Hkongso. They grow crops in their fields like oranges, mangoes, bananas, rice, sesame seeds, chili, and ginger. Selling crops from their farms is the way the people have of earning cash. The majority of the Anu and Hkongso people are Christians. There are a wide variety of church denominations among them. They are currently using Khumi [cnk] and Burmese [mya] Bibles in their churches.

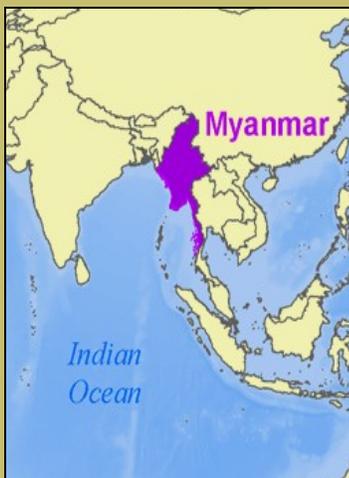
Primary Religion:
 Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
 95%

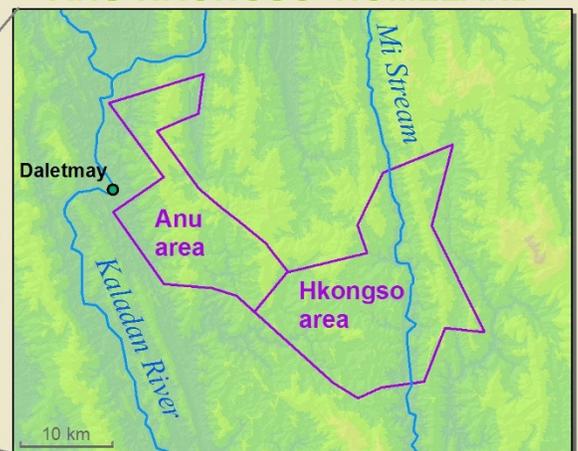
Churches:
 many

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
 None yet

Population (date):
 4,500 (2011)



ANU-HKONGSO HOMELAND



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian 95%

Believe In Jesus As God
And Only Savior 95%

Believe In The Local Traditional
Religion 5%

Have Not Heard Who Jesus is 0%

Number Of Churches 0
Comment

Among the Anu Christians, there are many denominations, such as Evangelical Free Church of Myanmar (EFCM), Anglican, Word of Life, Myanmar Baptist Christian Mission (MBCM), and Believer Church of Jesus Christ (BCJC). Roman Catholic Mission (RCM), and Lutheran.

Is The Word Of God Translated?

The Anu and Hkongso have worked with SIL to develop a roman-based orthography. Since the languages are so similar, SIL felt it best to work with them as one group at the workshops. The groups agreed to this. They agreed to make the same orthography decisions where the languages are the same and separate decisions where the languages are different. This would be a little difficult, but would produce literature similar enough to where they could share literature in the future. At a workshop in August 2006, both the Anu and the Hkongso produced some storybooks, but at that time, they were working as two groups and so their orthography decisions were not all the same. The Hkongso orthography was developed by SIL and the Hkongso Literature Committee. The Hkongso people started working on it and there are currently storybooks available that were created at SIL workshops. The orthography uses a roman script. The Hkongso are also working on the beginnings of producing Bible portions, songbooks, story books, and primers in their language. The Anu orthography was developed by SIL and their literature committee. The Anu people started working on it in recent years. Literacy activities are in progress and currently about 10-20% of Anu people can read this orthography. The orthography uses a roman script. The Anu are working on beginning to produce Bible portions, songbooks, story books, and primers in their language.

Forms Of Gospel Presentation
Available

There are a wide variety of materials available in standard Burmese [mya] and in Khumi [cnk] that could be used among the Anu-Hkongso people

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Group Description

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

Scripture

Scripture Use

Comment

Currently using Khumi Chin NT [cnk] and Burmese Bible [mya] in their churches

Comment

Anu-Hkongso people seem to have a strong desire to have the Bible in their own languages. Most of the Anu-Hkongso subjects reported that they currently read the Bible in Burmese and Khumi, but they cannot understand these Bibles well.

Scripture use is fairly limited at present. In some areas, the Bible is used as a charm. Conducting Scripture use work shops for pastors and Christian leaders could be a helpful tool to increase the impact of future Scripture production.

Uncertain Needs Explained

Due to mixed churches (with various ethnic groups attending), high bilingualism, and in some villages lower vitality of the mother tongue, it is not clear how much vernacular materials would be used if they are produced. For example, many churches in Anu-Hkongso villages are also attended by Khumi and other people, and some churches have Khumi pastors. Maintaining church unity while promoting vernacular scripture use will be a challenge for Anu-Hkongso language development. SIL recommends that Anu and Hkongso have parallel language development programs, collaborating in orthography and other areas as much as possible. In addition, the Anu, Hkongso, and other nearby groups should meet together with the Myanmar Bible Society and other organizations helping with language development to resolve underlying disagreements which might hinder future literature development among these groups.

Reason for Urgent Need of

Translation

The survey results shows that Anu-Hkongso people showed strong interest in having materials written in their own languages and they are also seem enthusiastic to learn to read and write their own languages.