Home / Peo... / Burmese / in Myanmar (Burma) ✔

Burmese in Myanmar (Burma) 🜗

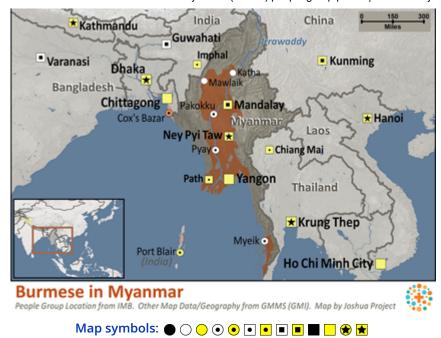


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Bulletin Insert

Prayer Cards

Population	Main Language
31,624,000	Burmese
Largest Religion	Christian
Buddhism (94.95%)	0.35%
Evangelical 0.08%	Progress



Sources: People Group location: IMB. Map geography: ESRI / GMI. Map design: Joshua Project.

Profile

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Introduction / History

The Burmese are the majority and dominant people of the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar or Burma as it was formerly known. The Burmese or Burma people were originally from the hills of Tibet in western China. Today, they live in Myanmar, and they speak Burmese, a Tibeto-Burmese language.

In modern times, Myanmar has had a long history of coups, wars, and rebellions. Ethnic divisions and political unrest have been common since the first Burmese kingdom in the eleventh century. Myanmar gained its independence from Britain in 1948. Much of modern Burmese history has been one of civil wars between the Burmese majority and the nation's minority groups that includes the Shan, Karen, Lahu, and Rohingya. The military launched another coup in 2021 and is at the time of this writing ruling the country.

What Are Their Lives Like?

Rice is the stable food of the Burmese people. Burmese farmers grow rice in irrigated fields called wet rice farming. They also cultivate tropical fruits, vegetables, palm tree, and coconuts. Most rural families also raise chickens, and a few goats and pigs to supplement their diets. Some Burmese farmers use the slash and burn method of

agriculture. With this process, the fields are cut and burned before any new crops are planted. A Burmese farmer often uses cattle and buffalo to draw heavy wooden plows. It is a daily, arduous task for a Burmese family to go out into the fields to grow the family's rice. Mothers work with their babies, while the older children accompany their grandparents. In rural areas, children frequently quit school after a few years to help their family make a living.

Urban Burmese live lives much like they do in Western nations. They work in education, retail, manufacturing, construction, and administration.

The Burmese do not recognize clans or lineages. Marriages are monogamous, and rarely arranged by the parents. Young couples generally live with the bride's parents for the first few years after they are married. Then they will set up their own homes after two or three years.

Various types of houses can be found in the Burmese villages. The wealthier people often live in sturdy, mahogany homes that are raised off the ground and have plank floors and tile roofs. Those with lower incomes may live in thatched roof, bamboo houses that have dirt floors. All activities take place on the dirt floors, including eating and sleeping. Therefore, it is impolite to enter a Burmese house wearing shoes.

The single most important social institution in the village is the Buddhist temple. It symbolizes unity among the villagers and provides a wide variety of activities for the people. The Burmese have a rich tradition of dance, music, poetry, and arts. It is a great honor for a son of a Burmese family to enter a Buddhist monastery.

What Are Their Beliefs?

The Burmese are predominantly Buddhists. The traditional goal in Buddhism is to seek the middle path to Nirvana, or ultimate peace. The Burmese have mixed these Buddhist beliefs with their own animistic beliefs (belief that non-living objects have spirits).

Their animistic beliefs center around inherently evil spirits called nats. The Burmese spend their lives trying to appease the nats so they will be protected from any other evil spirits that may seek to harm them. Typical Burmese homes have alters for the spirits,

as well as a statue of Buddha. The village shaman connects the people to the spiritual world. He provides amulets and charms which are supposed to protect the people.

According to their Buddhist faith, the Burmese believe that death is not a threat to one who has done good deeds. Instead, death is simply a "passing" from one life to another. Buddhists believe that those with less merit are reborn as demons, ghosts, animals, or inhabitants of hell.

What Are Their Needs?

Christians make up only a tiny fraction of the Burmese people. Teams of believers can go to villages and provide modern medicine and improved agricultural techniques. Many villages lack electricity so solar panels would greatly benefit the rural Burmese. Most of all, the Burmese need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. He alone can forgive their sins and free them from their fear of evil spirits.

Prayer Points

* Scripture Prayers for the Burmese in Myanmar (Burma).

Pray that the few Burmese believers would live holy lives, being zealous to grow into the image of Christ.

Ask the Lord to send Holy Spirit anointed workers to the Burmese.

Pray for a spiritual hunger among the Burmese and a desire to read the Burmese Bible.

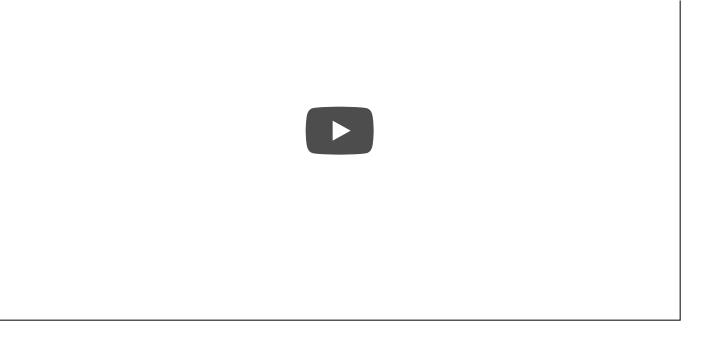
Pray for just and lasting peace in Myanmar especially between the Burmese and the Rohingya peoples.

Pray for a growing disciple making movement among the Burmese in this decade.

Profile Source: Joshua Project

The Waiting World - The Burmese

Burmese WW



Source: The Waiting World Download

Additional Info

Global Prayer Digest: 2006-07-17

Global Prayer Digest: 2008-06-08

Global Prayer Digest: 2009-06-14

Global Prayer Digest: 2014-06-05

General Info

Submit update

People Name General	Burmese
People Name in Country	Burmese
Pronunciation	burr-MEEZE (1))
Population this Country	31,624,000
Population all Countries	32,291,000
Total Countries	18
Indigenous	Yes
Progress Scale	1 •
Unreached	Yes
Frontier People Group	No
GSEC	2 (per PeopleGroups.org)

Pioneer Workers Needed	632
Alternate Names	Bama; Bamar; Bamas; Burman; Man; Myan; Myan, Myen; Myanmas; Myen; Yaw; बर्मीज़
People ID	11029
ROP3 Code	101776

Ethnicity

Submit update

Affinity Bloc	Tibetan-Himalayan Peoples
People Cluster	Burmese
People Group	Burmese
Ethnic Code	MSY50b

Geography

Submit update

Country	Myanmar (Burma)
Region	Asia, Southeast
Continent	Asia
10/40 Window	Yes
National Bible Society	Website
Persecution Rank	12 (Open Doors top 50 rank, 1 = highest persecution ranking)
Location in Country	Widespread in central Myanmar Source: Ethnologue 2016

Maps

Submit Map



Burmese in Myanmar

People Group Location from IMB. Other Map Data/Geography from GMMS (GMI). Map by Joshua Project

Map Symbols: ● ○ ○ ● ● ■ ■ ■ ● ★

Ethnolinguistic map or other map

Languages Submit update

Primary Language	Burmese (31,624,000 speakers)
Language Code	mya Ethnologue Listing
Total Languages	1
People Groups	Speaking Burmese

Resources Submit update

Primary Language: Burmese

Bible Translation 🛦	Status (Years)
Bible-Portions	Yes (1815-1985)
Bible-New Testament	Yes (1832-1987)
Bible-Complete	Yes (1835-2014)
Bible-NT Audio	Online
Bible-NT Text	Online

Possible Print Bibles

Amazon

Possible Print Bibles	
World Bibles	
Forum Bible Agencies	
National Bible Societies	
World Bible Finder	
Virtual Storehouse	

Resource Type ▲	Resource Name
Audio Recordings	Audio Bible teaching
Audio Recordings	Online New Testament
Audio Recordings	Online New Testament
Audio Recordings	Story of Jesus audio
Film / Video	A Greater Love
Film / Video	Creation to Christ
Film / Video	Freedom from Suffering
Film / Video	God's Story video
Film / Video	Indigitube.tv Video / Animation
Film / Video	Jesus Film: view in Burmese
Film / Video	LUMO film of Gospels
Film / Video	Magdalena video
Film / Video	My Last Day video, anime
Film / Video	Story of Jesus for Children
Film / Video	The Hope Video
General	Biblical answers to your questions
General	Four Spiritual Laws
General	Gospel resources links
Mobile App	Download audio Bible app as APK file
Mobile App	Download audio Bible app as APK file

Religion

Submit update

Primary Religion: Buddhism

Religion Subdivision: Theravada

Major Religion ▲	Percent
Buddhism	94.95 %
Christianity (Evangelical 0.08 %)	0.35 %
Ethnic Religions	0.00 %
Hinduism	0.00 %
Islam	4.30 %
Non-Religious	0.40 %
Other / Small	0.00 %
Unknown	0.00 %

Christian Segments ▲	Percent
Anglican	10.0 %
Independent	5.0 %
Orthodox	0.0 %
Other Christian	0.0 %
Protestant	60.0 %
Roman Catholic	25.0 %

Sources

Photo Source	Copyrighted © 2022 Kerry Olson All rights reserved. Used with permission
Map Source	People Group location: IMB. Map geography: ESRI / GMI. Map design: Joshua Project.
Video Source	The Waiting World
Profile Source	Joshua Project
Data Sources	Data is compiled from various sources. Read more

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