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**Location:** Numbering 1,200 people, the little-known Ngaimong tribe inhabits two areas of northern Myanmar, with most found in and around the town of Shinbwayan in Kachin State's Tanai District. The village of Khalon is home to at least 30 Ngaimong households, while 14 families live in Kyangkon village. Further west, a smaller number of Ngaimong people live in the Sagaing Region's Nanyun Township near the Indian border. A mere 159 Ngaimong people lived in the northeast state of Arunachal Pradesh according to the 2011 Indian census.

**Identity:** Although in India their tiny community has been granted status as a Scheduled Tribe under the name "Ngimong Tangsa," the Ngaimong in Myanmar have never been acknowledged by the government, which refuses to identify or classify dozens of distinct tribes in western parts of the country. Consequently, the Ngaimong have never appeared

on any secular or Christian lists of Myanmar's ethnic groups. Instead, they have been considered just one of more than 50 tribes and dialect groups lumped together under the label of Tangshang, created by the Burmese authorities in 2003.

**Language:** A linguistic team visited Nanyun Township in 2013 and surveyed an area containing 400 Ngaimong people. They found their language shares an 87 percent lexical similarity with Shecuy, which is considered a premier dialect for Scripture translation that Christians hope will influence related tribes with the Gospel. They also found that Ngaimong is related to several related vernaculars, including Haqcyeng and Shangwan in Myanmar, and Jogi across the border in India.<sup>1</sup>

**History:** The Ngaimong are one of many tribes in this part of Asia that previously engaged in headhunting until it was outlawed in the 1960s. In 1951, Baptist missionary John Skoglund explained how the dire

practice was deeply intertwined with the demonic spirits that dominated the worldview of groups like the Ngaimong: "It is believed that with the taking of heads power can be gained. The man who captures a head captures the *mana* of the person whose head it was. This, of course, means that the more heads one gets, the more power one possesses. Also, it is believed that in the next world the ones whose heads have been taken will be the slaves of the head-hunters. Consequently, the one who has taken many heads will have many slaves. Prosperity also comes to the village which takes many heads. Bumper crops, many children, good hunting and fishing, are all ascribed to this practice."<sup>2</sup>

**Customs:** Whereas most tribes in the area name their children within days of their birth, among the Ngaimong "the ceremony for a boy was done three months after birth. Normally on these occasions a feast would be held, with sacrifices, and the head of the infant would be shaved."<sup>3</sup> The Ngaimong love traditional music and dancing, which they enthusiastically perform during festivals.<sup>4</sup>

**Religion:** The majority of Ngaimong people living in the mountains of Sagaing remain followers of Jesus Christ, but those in Kachin State have been more influenced by Buddhism. Only a small number of Ngaimong continue to observe the animistic ways of their forefathers, although traces of the centuries of spirit appeasement can still be seen during festivals and other important events.

**Christianity:** Approximately two-thirds of Ngaimong people in Myanmar are estimated to be Christians today, while the 2011 Indian census found that 86 percent of Ngaimong people in that country were Christians, alongside a small number of Hindus and animists. The Ngaimong have no Scripture available in their language, although materials were developed in 1970 for a translation project that was never completed.



Population in Myanmar: 1,200 (2025)

**Location:**  
Kachin State,  
Sagaing Region

**Language Family:**  
Tibeto-Burman

**Main Religion:**  
Christianity (65.0%)

**Christians:**  
780 (65.0%)

## OVERVIEW

**Population:**  
1,200 in Myanmar  
(2025 Asia Harvest)

**Other Countries:**  
159 in India

**Other Names:**  
Maimong, Ngaimau, Ngaimong  
Tangshang, Ngemu, Ngimong

**Location:**  
Kachin State: Tanai  
Township in Tanai District;  
Sagaing Region: Lahe Township in  
the Naga Self-Administered Zone

**Language:**  
Naga Tangsa, Ngaimong [unclassified]

**Dialects:**

**Scripture:**  
None

**Jesus film:**  
None

**Global Recordings:**  
None

**People ID:** 20812

