

# Mizo of North India



The **Mizo** people are believed to be descendants of Tibeto-Burman-Mongoloid tribes. The ancestors of the Mizo people migrated through China, then further past Burma, to finally settle in the north-eastern part of India some 200 years ago. Their recorded history begins only in the late 19th century when they came into contact with the British who were occupying the neighboring region of Assam. The Mizo developed an autocratic political system based on some 300 hereditary chieftanships.

The **Mizos**, belonging to the Mongoloid race, are original settlers of the Shan State of Burma. The word *Mizo* is a generic term meaning 'hillmen' or 'highlanders'. As a result of British missionary activity, education was widely spread and many Mizos became Christians.

Previously believers of the good spirit called 'Pathian', the Mizo community today is greatly influenced by Christianity. The Mizo have accepted English as their medium of instruction, but the Mizo language is still widely spoken.

## Statistics

- **People Group:** Mizo
- **Country:** India
- **Language:** Mizo/Lushai
- **State:** Mizoram
- **Family:** Tibeto-Burman-Mongoloid
- **Largest Religion:** 90% Christianity
- **Population:** 711,740
- **Scriptures in their language:** Bible=1959-1995, NT=1916-1986, Bible Portions=1898-1956
- **Progress Indicators:** A growing church—Widespread, disciplined church. Evangelicals >10% of one fellowship/10,000 people.

## Prayer Points

- ◆ As strong influences from modern Western culture begin to take hold in this area of the world, ask the Lord to put a hedge of protection around the Mizo believers.
- ◆ Pray that the Mizo will continue to share the love of Jesus Christ with their kinsmen and steadfastly continue in teaching and training up this next generation in the ways of the Lord.
- ◆ Take authority over the principalities and powers that are keeping some in these tribes bound.
- ◆ Pray for the salvation of key leaders who will boldly declare the Gospel.



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# The **Mizo** in North India



## Country and State

The Republic of India consists of 25 union states and 7 union territories and the nation dominates South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

**Mizoram** is a mountainous region which became the 23rd State of the Indian Union in February, 1987. It was annexed in 1891 by the British as Lushai Hill district. It became one of the districts of Assam with inde-

pendence till 1972 when it became a Union Territory. It is sandwiched between Burma in the east and south and Bangladesh in the west. Mizoram has the most variegated hilly terrain in the eastern part of India. The hills, with an average height of 900 meters, are steep and are separated by rivers creating deep gorges between the hill ranges.



## Beliefs

The people of Mizoram entered the 20th century as little known, but feared tribes; they were very superstitious and performed sacrifices; they had no fixed homes, led nomadic lives; they had no script nor currency. And yet, there has been tremendous progress made during this century.

## Progress

The Mizoram of today is unrecognizable nearly a century later. 46% of the population live in urban areas, nearly 86% profess Christianity, and the state has an impressive literacy rate of 88%. Satellite dishes bedeck rooftops of every second household, and the clothes the youths wear would not look out of place in London, New York or any Western city in the world!

Mizo society and churches are deeply interconnected. Even the high literacy rate is attributed to the influence of the church, as Mizos are encouraged to read the Bible from a young age. Many of the contemporary songs are also influenced by their faith.

