

The Intha of Myanmar

Thin skilfully manoeuvred her boat towards her family's floating vegetable garden. The **Intha** girl rowed her boat with an oar wrapped in the crook of her sarong-covered leg. "Can't you just be more ladylike when rowing?" called her exasperated mother who was seated at the back with an oar with her hands. "It's unbecoming for a girl to act so rough!" Thin giggled and meekly nodded. Both mother and daughter began plucking the ripening cucumbers in their garden.

Inle Lake is home to over 103,000 **Intha** people. Their floating vegetable gardens produce sixty percent of Myanmar's produce, making them one of Myanmar's wealthier ethnic groups. They donate half their income to public welfare. **Intha** men are famous for a unique method of rowing boats. Because of the lake's thick weeds and algae, they stand on one leg while twisting the other leg around a long oar. This frees their hands to manoeuvre their fish traps. Women's work includes caring for their families, rolling cigars in local cigar factories and weaving beautiful silk items.

The **Intha** are a hard working, gracious people devoted to Theravada Buddhism and proud of their Buddhist heritage. Their main temple, the Hpaung Daw U Pagoda is one of the three principal shrines in Myanmar and contains five sacred Buddhist statues. The Myanmar government does not interfere with the **Intha** people as much as with the other ethnic groups. Christianity has failed to impact them and there are only a few believers, possibly 0.1% of their population.

- Pray that God will give believers in Christ creative opportunities to bring a clear understanding of the Lord to the **Intha**.
- Pray for the hearts of the **Intha** to be open and delivered from deception.
- Pray for the few **Intha** believers to be strong in their faith.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info:
<https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>,
<http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>