

The Taungyo of Myanmar

“The Pindaya Caves are home for over 8,000 Buddha images, made from alabaster, teak, marble, brick, bamboo, and cement. Some of these sacred images date back to the 18th century while some can be as recent as images placed last week.” Htun, a devout Buddhist **Taungyo** man, was explaining the important religious site to a group of Western tourists who were visiting Pindaya, Myanmar. He glanced at a nearby ledge and spied the Buddha image his own family had placed in the cave, in the hope of better fortunes in their present life and earning merit for a better reincarnation.

Around 46,000 **Taungyo** people live in the beautiful region of Shan State in central Myanmar. Many of them live in Pindaya and the others live in remote villages around the town that they share with other indigenous groups. Easily identified by their unique accent, their **Taungyo**'s mother tongue is said to be a different form of Burmese. Their principal livelihood is growing crops such as rice, tobacco and opium poppies. The Myanmar military forcibly maintains a tight grip over this poverty-stricken region.

The **Taungyo** are Theravada Buddhists who feel they must try to appease evil spirits so harm will not come to them. There are only a handful of known believers in Christ (0.6% of their population). No Scripture is available in their language.

- Pray against the strongholds of Buddhism over the **Taungyo**.
- Pray for peace upon the **Taungyo**'s homeland.
- Pray for poverty to be alleviated among the **Taungyo**.
- Pray for doors to be opened for Christian workers to bring God's Good News to the **Taungyo**.

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/>

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