

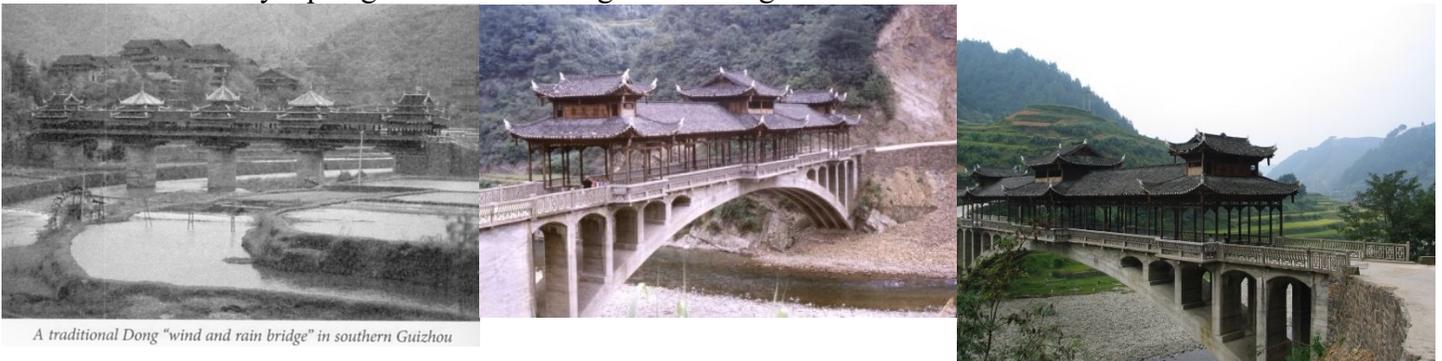
Nan Hua, Guizhou, southwest China

In early September 2004 I was with a group of Americans visiting Guiyang, China, which has a regional concentration of the official minority group known as Miao. They number several million people in the general region around the Guizhou province area. I had previously been aware that their ancestors had cultural memories that included some names and events of the early parts of Genesis in the Bible. More recently I learned from the book *Guizhou, The Precious Province*, by Paul Hattaway (2018), that officials had arbitrarily lumped many culturally different minority groups under the Miao classification.

On 6 September 2004 we went eastward for several hours through Kaili to the village of Nan Hua up a side valley, about 12 km southeast of Kaili but longer by the winding road. This is a village of the Hmu part of the Miao minority tribe according to Hattaway. Next are the Google Earth satellite images of the village area dated 3 December 2004 (left) and 24 November 2021, both as squares about 800 meters on each side.



A river curves through the scene and is crossed by the bridge near the top of the view. Some hillsides are forested and others are terraced for rice cultivation. Other open areas are for growing corn. The buildings are built close together, with more added between the image dates. Some of the roads have been improved and extended. At the very top edge in the 2021 image is an orange scar of a landslide.



A traditional Dong "wind and rain bridge" in southern Guizhou

In Hattaway's book, page 206, is the image at the left with caption "A traditional Dong "wind and rain bridge" in southern Guizhou". The Dong minority have a distinctive style for their bridges. Perhaps they built this one. We left our bus, crossed this bridge, and walked up the road to the Nan Hua village, meeting people along it.



School children returning home at noon.



Fresh greens for salad or cooking.



Looking back to the bus.



Visiting with the children.



Trying empty baskets.

In the left photo I (blue shirt) am standing on the left side and my wife, Gail, (red shirt) is standing on the right. During our hike up the path to the village we were met by other children, most in ordinary clothes. One was dressed in Miao style. The children were eager to be photographed by us foreigners.



These two were just leaving the town square at the top of the trail to the village.



There were shops around the village square. Some of us bought things and gave our own things to the local people.





The left photo includes the stone pavement in a circle to mark the town center. My GPS unit said N 26 deg. 30.895', E 108 deg. 04.584'. (Google Earth agrees.)



drying foods and storage

At the north end of the plaza someone is drying chopped corn cobs and red chili peppers. Corn cobs are hanging from the railings and drying. It appears that corn, a Western Hemisphere food, is as important as rice here.



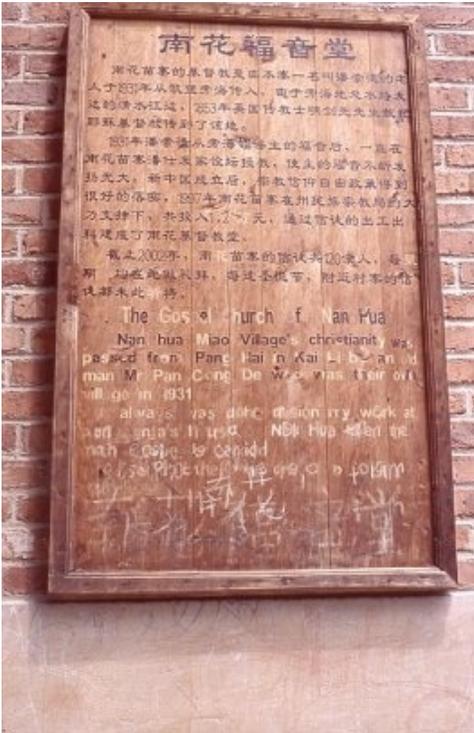
In the interior there are several dwellings built around a circular pond. Gail is looking at a pig pen and broom, drying corn. Walking paths are narrow.



One of our group tried on a Miao dress.



Beyond the houses is an uphill cobblestone trail to a church.



The sign gives some of its history. It was at that time closed for lack of a pastor. The same church is illustrated on page 59 of Hattaway's book with a caption: "A Hmu church near Kaili. A handful of elderly believers in this congregation still read the Scriptures translated by Maurice Hutton in 1934."

Village views and valley views:

The valley views are of places north of Nan Hua.



The rice in some terrace fields has yellow heads, approaching maturity. The gray pillars are stacked rice straw in reserve for thatched roofs, though most roofs are now of durable tile.



by Dr. Ed Holroyd, written in 2022