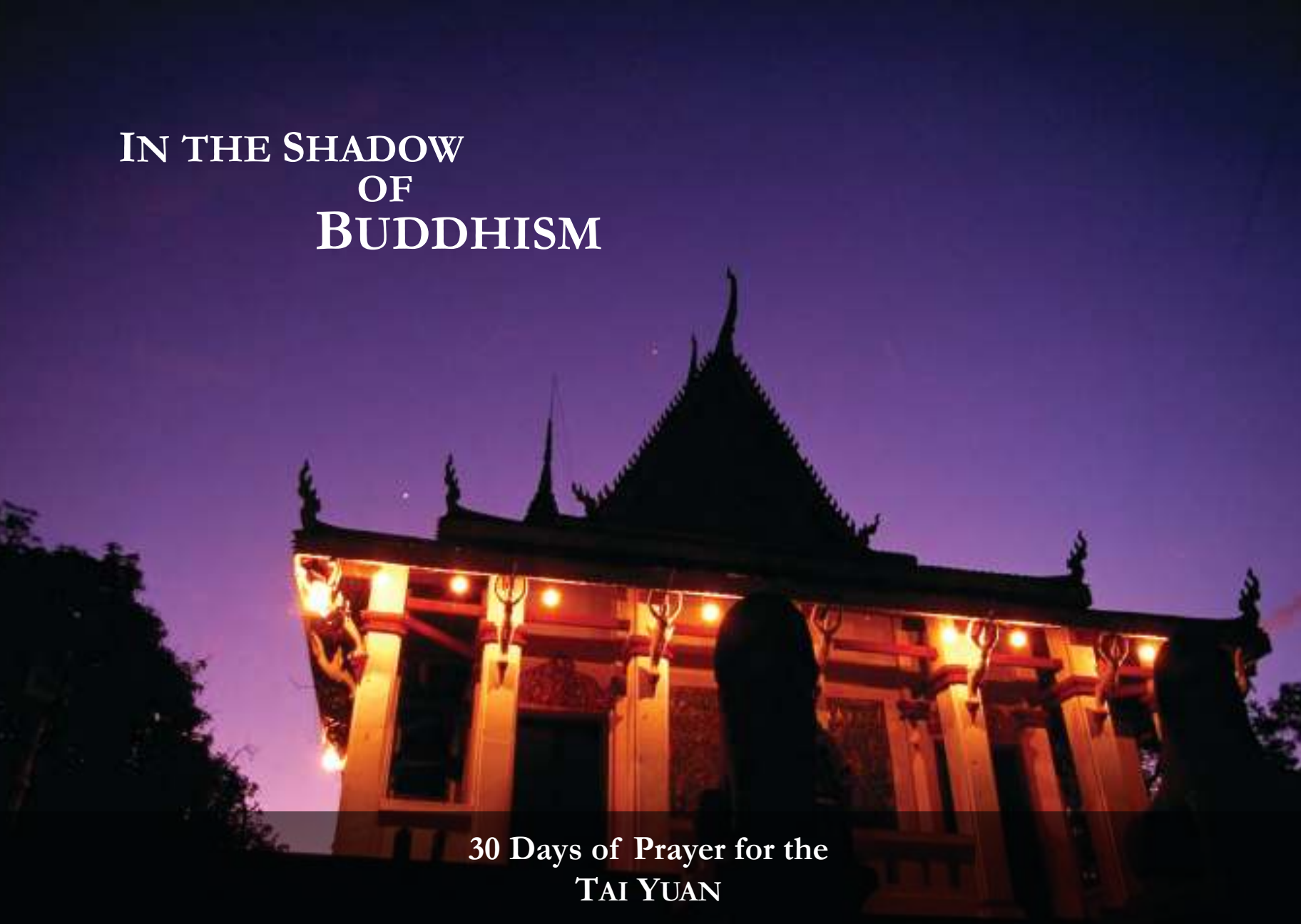


# IN THE SHADOW OF BUDDHISM



30 Days of Prayer for the  
TAI YUAN

# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE TAI YUAN



## Introduction

Throughout Southeast Asia, God is transforming lives on a daily basis. Though much has been accomplished, there remains much to be done. By using this guide for the next 30 days, you will learn about one of the unreached people groups that is slowly being transformed by God's grace through the efforts of faithful men and women (like yourself) who are uniting together through praying, sending and going. God is setting into motion the start of an unquenchable holy fire.

Will you join your prayers with ours for the next month and add fuel to the fire?

There are 6 million\* Tai Yuan living in Northern Thailand. Though they are called the Northern Thai (and they represent the majority group in this area), they are actually from an ancient Tai race originally from southern China. The Tai race separated into many smaller groups, all of which held on to their language and customs. Today, these various groups are spread throughout Southeast Asia.

Many of the Tai Yuan groups live in countries that limit or prohibit Christianity, but in Thailand they enjoy freedom of religion. Despite a heritage of strict Buddhism, some have responded to the gospel over the last several years. Christian missionaries have been working among the Tai Yuan for more than 100 years which has created a church presence.

Though less than 1%\* of the Tai Yuan living in Thailand are Christian, they have the potential to be a great witness to the other Tai groups living in Thailand and in some surrounding countries where heavy persecution continues.

Please join us in prayer for the Tai Yuan people. This 30-day guide will equip you to pray through the challenges and issues that the Tai Yuan face daily. You will read about their lives, beliefs, customs and problems. As you pray, we trust God to answer by sending the Holy Spirit to move through Northern Thailand beginning the work that will bring the Tai people into our Lord's family. Thank you for your vital role in reaching the Tai Yuan.

\* Source: [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net) Cited 12/11/07





## Restoring a Kingdom

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! Psalm 80:3 (ESV)*

A kingdom that was once known for military strength and cunning while boasting of its language and culture is now absorbed into the majority like so many other forgotten tribes. The Tai Yuan were once the proud Lanna Kingdom that spanned northern parts of Thailand and surrounding areas in Burma, Laos and Southwest China. At the height of power, they overthrew kingdoms and built a Buddhist kingdom, creating notoriety in Southeast Asia. Now they are known only as “the Northern Thai.” Few among them can read their ancient script or remember why they pay homage to a giant golden statue of a king in the center of town. What is to become of this once great nation?

## PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan would identify themselves with Christ and the new life he offers.
- Ask God to restore the Tai Yuan as a people whose identity in Christ is more notable than it was as the Lanna kingdom.
- Pray that the Tai Yuan would kneel down and worship the King of kings.







### Gateway People

*“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:19 (ESV)*

Standing at the tip of the famous Golden Triangle, one can watch the waters of the Mekong River etch the landscape, separating the countries of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. The Tai Yuan live along the banks and the regions stretching further inland in all three of these countries, as well as in parts of China. In missionary terms, the Tai Yuan are a “gateway people.” If the Christians in Northern Thailand are equipped to evangelize their own people, they will reach the Tai Yuan who will then be able to share the good news in these countries. Their ability to adapt to language and culture far more quickly than foreign missionaries can will make inroads where the gospel is offensive and a Western face is less welcome.

### PRAYER

- Pray that God would impress upon the Tai Yuan Christians a desire to see their people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to raise up Tai Yuan missionaries to go to these sister countries to bring the good news.
- Pray that the peoples of China, Laos and Myanmar would receive the gospel with joy.



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## Buddhism

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1 (NIV)*

All over Thailand, elaborate temples, the monks in their bright orange robes and the smell of burning incense near statues of Buddha reveal the heart of culture and belief. Buddhism is the backbone of Tai Yuan culture. Approximately 99% of the Tai Yuan would adhere to the claim: “To be Thai is to be Buddhist.” Buddhism is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha). He taught that to exist is to suffer, and suffering is caused by desire; therefore, the goal is to eradicate all desire, achieving nirvana which is nonexistence. Practicing Buddhists spend their whole lives trying to obtain nirvana with little hope that they will reach their goal.

## PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan will put their hope in Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to touch their lives and open their hearts to know him.
- Pray that God would provide opportunities to hear the gospel since there are so few Christians.





## Karma

*You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. Romans 6:18 (NIV)*

One of the first phrases foreigners learn about Buddhism is, “Do good, receive good; do bad, get bad.” This is karma, whatever you do, good and bad, affects every part of your life. To a Tai Yuan Buddhist, this attitude drives every thought, word or deed. In Buddhism, you are the master of your own future. How many good, bad or neutral things you say, think or do, will affect your life now and in the future. Followers of Buddhism live in constant worry; without the grace of God this cycle will never break.

## PRAYER

- Ask God to reveal the hope of his grace to the Tai Yuan Buddhists.
- Ask God to free them from the unrelenting cycle of karma.
- Pray that the Tai Yuan would find joy in being slaves to Christ.







### Merit

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.  
Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)*

The unrelenting cycle of karma motivates the practice of making merit. Merit is the good things that you do, and it acts like good credit for you. Your merit comes from the good that you did in past lives and the good you are doing in this life. You need to have enough merit to cover for all the bad that you do. The more good merit or “credit” you have, the more likely that you will guarantee good karma and better position in your next reincarnation. Tai Yuan Buddhists try to earn as much merit as possible throughout their lives in the hope that they will have a good life now and in the next.

### PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan would boast in the Lord and not in their own deeds.
- Ask God to free them from the idea that they can earn their own “salvation.”
- Pray against the lies of the enemy that tell them they can determine their own future.





### Monks and Merit (Practice)

*"You are a chosen people, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)*

It is 5 a.m. and a procession of orange-clad monks brings in the dawn. It moves from house to house as each carries his wooden alms bowl. At each house, sleepy-eyed and faithful Buddhists wait for their opportunity to give food to the monks. This small act of making merit is done to ensure that good will come about for the giver. The monks then say a blessing over them and proceed on to the next waiting family. These monks may bring in the dawn, but there is no light for the families still waiting in darkness.

### PRAYER

- Pray that Buddhist monks will be called out of darkness and be witness to God's glory.
- Ask God to make himself fully known to the Tai Yuan.
- Ask that the Tai Yuan would no longer live in darkness but in the light of Christ.







### Same Same

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIV)*

The phrase "same, same," a simple English phrase that means just what it says, is becoming a popular saying among the Thai people. This phrase is also being used among the Buddhist monks when they talk about Buddhism and Christianity. Most Thai Buddhists are taught that all religions eventually head down the same path. Christianity and Buddhism are being taught and accepted as one and the same. Values such as "Do good to others," "do not be proud or boastful," "help when help is needed," "love your neighbor as yourself" are said to reflect both equally. Even though a Buddhist may comprehend the story of Christ, it often does not transform their beliefs. Buddhism is the path for Buddhists, and Christianity is the path for Christians. But in the end it is taught that all are "same, same."

### PRAYER

- Pray that God would shatter the religious hindrances in Buddhism that keep the Tai Yuan from seeing the truth of Christ.
- Pray for workers to clearly present the gospel and for Tai Yuan to have open hearts to receive it.
- Praise God that in Thailand there is freedom of religion.





### The Coming Buddha

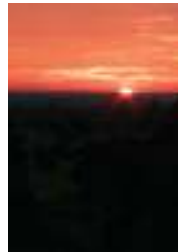
*"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." Hebrews 4:7 (ESV)*

Among the hindrances to the gospel in northern Thailand is a stubborn lack of belief. The teachings of Buddha prophesy about the coming of the "holy one" who would lead the people from the old way and into a new way. These Buddhist scriptures tell of the One who is to come: "In the palm of his hands and in the flat of his feet will be the design of a disk, in his side will be a stab wound; and his forehead will have many marks like scars. Do not look for salvation in the old way; there is no salvation in it for sure."\* While there are a precious few who have seen the truth of these words revealed in the man, Jesus Christ, as a whole, the hearts of the people remain hardened.

\* Source: <http://bibleprobe.com/Buddhist-Scriptures.doc> Cited: 15/12/07

### PRAYER

- Pray that the peoples' hearts would soften to the truth of God.
- Pray for opportunities for the Tai Yuan to hear the gospel, understand it and believe.





## White Temple

*“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.” Jonah 2:8 (NIV)*

Rising above the trees, gleams an ornate, pristine structure known as the White Temple. The Tai Yuan come to make merit, while the tourist comes to marvel at its beauty. The temple is covered in intricate patterns that are imbedded with millions of tiny mirrors woven throughout like a mosaic. The entrance to the temple crosses over a chasm (symbolic of hell) with carved hands outstretched, grasping for help. The internal walls are painted with beautiful murals depicting the teachings of Buddha. It is our desire to see the Tai Yuan to worship the one who is beautiful beyond conception, who does not dwell in temples made by man's hands.

## PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan would use their craftsmanship and art to honor God.
- Pray that the people would grasp for the God of hope, who is the author of beauty.
- Praise God who is worthy of our devotion and adoration and ask him to save the Tai Yuan.







### “I Love the King!”

*For you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. Psalm 97:9 (NIV)*

The Tai Yuan worship their king with great passion. Their love and dedication to their leader hold sway above most things. A picture of the king hangs in a place of honor in every home. Throughout every city, town, and village there are statues and pictures of kings past and present. To speak ill of the king is punishable by law. In honor of the king, every Monday everyone wears yellow, the king's color. Before each show at the movies, everyone stands for the playing of the king's anthem. Cars are riddled with stickers that say “I love the king!” Though the people show great love and respect to the king of Thailand, few have grown to love and respect the King of kings.

### PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan will humble themselves before the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Ask God to lead them to repent from their sin and no longer offer worship to men.
- Pray that the Tai Yuan will be able to rejoice in the knowledge of the glory of God.





### Creator God, Distorted Creation

*“For the invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”*  
*Romans 1:20 (ESV)*

Most Tai Yuan are also animists who believe that spirits inhabit everything. In towns or the countryside, large old trees are adorned with ribbons and decorative poles. It is believed that this will keep the spirit inside the tree content and confined to the tree so that it will not meddle in their lives. Northern Thailand has some of the most breathtaking landscape in the world with lush verdant rice fields, beautiful trees and rushing waterfalls that separate the land from the skies. God’s creation is stunning. Mixing Buddhism and animism, however, has distorted the beauty of God’s creation with spirit worship.

### PRAYER

- Pray that God would reveal himself to the Tai Yuan through his creation.
- Pray that the Tai Yuan would worship the true Creator God.
- Ask God to reveal truth so that the Tai Yuan would no longer be deceived into giving glory and respect to spirits.



### String of Blessing

*“O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you.” Psalm 84:12 (ESV)*

During a semester break from school, a son returns home to his father's house. The family performs a ceremony to cast off any evil spirits that may have attached themselves to him during his travels. Before he returns to school, his father blesses him with a prayer and ties a pure white string around his wrist. The father tells him that this string will protect him as he travels to school and also from sickness and evil spirits. The son returns to school and proudly wears the string of blessing until it falls off.

### PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan would acknowledge God and receive his fatherly blessing in all areas of their lives.
- Pray the Tai Yuan would put their trust in God.







### The Haunted Dwelling

*I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8 (NIV)*

Just outside the city of Chiang Rai is a small home once believed to be inhabited by the spirit of its former owners. The grounds lay barren; fruits, vegetables and even grass could not be grown there. No one dared to live or even go near this home for fear of the evil that lurked there.

That is until one Christian couple moved in, trusting that Christ would fill that house with his presence. The neighbors watched this couple daily to see if anything bad happened to them. Each morning they called out, "Are you safe? Did you sleep well?" With fresh faces and warm smiles they answer, "We are well rested and at peace." It has been a year since the couple moved in and furthermore God has blessed them with a beautiful garden, peaceful rest and opportunities to show his powerful presence.

### PRAYER

- Ask God to dwell richly in northern Thailand.
- Pray that the peace of Christ would be evident in the lives of believers.
- Pray that Christians would encourage each other to depend wholeheartedly on God for his protection.



### Fishing the Mekong

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)*

Flowing between the borders of Laos and Thailand, the Mekong River is filled with an abundance of fish that brings hope of food to the Tai Yuan who live along its banks. But for the Tai Yuan there is no such thing as “just fishing.” They believe the Mekong River is guarded by a river goddess, the serpent Phaya Nak, and they must offer gifts and sacrifices in order to receive their catch for the day. The Tai Yuan fishermen also fear the spirits that live in the trees which they have cut to carve out their boats, so they offer these spirits gifts to ensure a safe and profitable catch.

### PRAYER

- Ask God to turn the people to know him as their Creator and Lord.
- Pray that the fishermen would look to God, not the spirits, to fill their needs.
- Ask God to release them from fear so that they may find peace in him.





### Traditional Houses

*Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Psalm 127:1 (NIV)*

Luk came home late in the evening. As he climbed the stairs to the front door, he avoided stumbling on the shorter step, the one that keeps the spirits from following him into his home. At the door he took off his shoes and was careful to walk over the threshold into his living room, making sure not to disturb the guardian spirit in the doorsill. As he continued through the house, he made a quick bow to the spirit shelf on the eastern wall of the room to acknowledge the spirits that resided in the house.

Next Luk went down the four stairs to the bathroom to clean up from the day in the fields. He then climbed back up the stairs to his bedroom and bowed to the spirit shelf on the eastern wall. Finally in his bed, he rested with his head to the east so that spirits won't attack him while he sleeps. Such great care is put into the building of a home; each element is shrouded in superstition. The Tai Yuan feel that this devotion is necessary so that they may live in harmony with the spirits that may dwell there.

### PRAYER

- Pray that the people come to realize that all their efforts to achieve harmony in their lives and homes will fall short without the Lord.
- Pray that the Tai Yuan will redirect their meticulous devotion towards God, the only one who is worthy.





# WHERE ARE THE TAI YUAN?



The Tai Yuan are located in Northern Thailand, Laos and Southern Yunnan province in China.





## Seeking Protection

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1 (NIV)*

Kham lives in the countryside with his family. He loves to show hospitality to guests and is wise and respected in his community. On the whole, Kham is a kind and warm hearted ordinary man, but there is something very unique about him—his body is covered with tattoos. These are not artistic, but spiritual. They are verses written from a holy script, which he believes have the power to guard him from being shot.

Kham's occupation is making silver belts which he believes have the power to protect the skin from being pierced by knives. He also forms candles containing slips of paper with verses of holy script to sell to his neighbors who then burn them in their homes to ward off evil. Kham's life and work is based on protecting himself and his family from evil. Kham has been steeped in his customs and rituals for so long that he sees no other way.

## PRAYER

- Pray that Kham and the rest of the Tai Yuan would find their refuge in God.
- Ask God to show the Tai Yuan that his power is above every kind of evil.



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### The Fatherless

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. Psalm 68:5 (NIV)*

Abandonment, faithlessness and neglect are the three rising characteristics of families in Northern Thailand. Often because of a lack of jobs, husbands and fathers choose to leave their families for long periods of time to find work. The lack of fathers in the home has changed society as a whole. Children are often left to be raised by their mothers and other relatives, not knowing when their fathers are coming back. When fathers do come back, it is often for short breaks over holidays and their hard-earned money is spent on alcohol. The time with their families is often spent in a drunken stupor, and their children still don't receive what they need from their fathers.

### PRAYER

- Pray that Tai Yuan fathers would be responsible leaders of their families.
- Pray that the hearts of Tai Yuan children will be protected from the ill effects of an absent father.
- Ask God to show himself as heavenly Father to these needy children.







## Kathoeys

*Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. Romans 1:28 (NIV)*

*Kathoeys* are also known as “lady boys” in Thailand. These groups in the Thai culture are males who take upon themselves female desires, mannerisms and physical accents. Statistics say as high as 300,000 *kathoeys* live in Thailand.\* The worldview of reincarnation from animals to women and women to men adds to the confusion as some believe themselves to be female spirits born into male bodies. Some are so sold out to this lifestyle that they are willing to sell themselves for the money to pay for the operations needed to make their appearance more feminine. This behavior is very accepted in Thai society—40% of fathers and 66% of mothers accept or encourage the child to make their choice. This acceptance has even bled into their arts (movies) and religion (*kathoeys* beauty contests are held to raise money for Buddhist temples). For the most part, the churches have ignored the issue as there are no discussions about it nor are there any ministries or missionaries reaching out to the *kathoeys*.

\* Source: [http://web.hku.hk/~sjwinter/TransgenderASIA/country\\_report\\_thailand.htm](http://web.hku.hk/~sjwinter/TransgenderASIA/country_report_thailand.htm) Cited 12/11/07

## PRAYER

- Ask God to grant this group an escape through repentance that leads to the knowledge of his grace.
- Pray that the church would no longer neglect this segment of society.
- Ask God to do such a mind- and heart-changing work among all those captive to this lifestyle that others might see it and glorify the one true God.





### Future Generations

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)*

A young girl sits on a wooden pew totally absorbed in the book on her lap. She whispers to herself the memory verses that she is so diligently trying to memorize. Her teacher promised her a Bible of her very own if she memorizes the list of verses. This was a great incentive to Nik because it would be her first Bible ever. Soon she is standing in front of the church, shyly reciting her verses. In the end, she is full of smiles as she proudly shows off her hard earned prize. There are believers among the Tai Yuan youth and like this young girl they have a desire to learn more and grow in their faith. They are the future of the Tai Yuan church and they are the future laborers of the kingdom.

### PRAYER

- Pray for good Christian role models and mentors for the Tai Yuan youth.
- Pray that God will guide each of their steps to be leaders among the Tai Yuan and the church.





### Then and Now

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)*

In the eighteenth century, a bold man named Daniel McGilvary came to Northern Thailand. Traveling by elephant and teaching in every market, he was the first Protestant to bring the gospel to the Tai Yuan. Thousands believed in Jesus Christ and numerous churches began. For 150 years the work that McGilvary and his team started was carried on by missionaries and national workers faithfully serving our Lord among the Tai Yuan. Yet despite all the years of service, today only 1% of the Tai Yuan\* believe in Jesus Christ.

\* Source: [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net) Cited 12/11/07

### PRAYER

- Pray that the work of missionaries would be an example to the Tai Yuan of God's enduring love.
- Ask God to give the missionaries perseverance in their work.
- Pray that the Spirit of the Lord will move again in the hearts of the Tai Yuan.







### Thai Christian Leaders

*But I do not consider my life worth anything to myself, so that I may finish my task and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace. Act 20: 24 (ESV)*

“What is the best thing about being a Christian?” the missionary asks the Tai Yuan pastor while they sit on the floor of the pastor’s home. Without hesitation the pastor passionately responds, “Now I have worth. In Buddhism, I didn’t have any worth; no purpose. Now I have purpose.” As he continues from memory, he shares Acts 20:24, his favorite verse. The missionaries in the room glow with pleasure. This kind of faith is rare in Northern Thailand, and this man’s passion is contagious and encouraging. Leadership is challenging, but a few Tai Yuan pastors like this one are challenging their flocks to seek the Lord, love their neighbors and share their hope with the lost.

### PRAYER

- Pray for more leaders to emerge from the body in Northern Thailand who are passionate about reaching the lost.
- Ask God to give the current leaders a spirit of boldness and the ability to stir the affections of their people for Christ and toward their unbelieving neighbors.
- Pray that the gospel will continue to impact these leaders daily, that they may continue to share God’s grace with passionate desperation.





## Kids' Camp

*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 19:14 (ESV)*

Three days out of the year a small village in Northern Thailand hosts a Christian camp for kids. The goal is to bring the gospel of Christ and show God's love to the children of this village and surrounding villages. What started a few years ago with just 12 kids and a small handful of Tai Yuan Christian leaders has grown to more than 30 children and more Tai leaders than ever before. God continues to bless the efforts of those involved, and every year more children come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. God is doing amazing things through the efforts of the faithful and proving once again that when his message is preached, even in the darkest of places, lives are transformed.

## PRAYER

- Pray that other Tai Christian leaders would consider this camp as an example that they could follow to host more camps like this throughout Thailand.
- Pray that God would continue to call those involved to stay focused on his word and seek his will in all they do.
- Praise God for Tai leaders and their enthusiasm to invest in the future generation.





## Missionary Life

*"Go out to the highways and country roads and urge people to come in, so that my house will be filled."*  
Luke 14:23 (ESV)

On a blisteringly hot afternoon in northern Thailand, two blond little boys play in a metal washtub on their front porch. At, a little Thai boy, races into view and calls in Thai for the elder blond boy to come and play as their parents chat in the Northern Thai dialect that is common to both. Missionary life in Thailand for this young family, as for all missionary families, is continually evolving. They learn the language and spend countless hours building relationships—a constant merging of two very different cultures for the sake of the gospel.

## PRAYER

- Pray against discouragement for the missionaries serving in Northern Thailand.
- Ask God for more workers to join the work of sharing the gospel in Northern Thailand.
- Ask God to do a mighty work through these few faithful servants, so that his name may be made known among the nations.







### Elders

*In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity ... Titus 2:7 (NIV)*

Of the 13,000 Tai Yuan who call themselves Christian, sadly many are not. Many were born into the church, but they have never had a life-changing experience with Christ. Common problems among Christian leadership are drunkenness, promiscuity or even having second families living in secret. Despite their self-indulgent behavior, they still get up on Sunday mornings and “preach” from God’s word and say beautiful flowery prayers. The message that is really being sent is “live for yourself,” not “die to yourself.”

### PRAYER

- Ask the Spirit of the Lord to bring conviction to live godly lives.
- Pray that the lives of true believers and leaders would be models not only for Buddhists but the Christians.
- Ask God to bring revival among those who call themselves Christians.





### Tee and Masse

*In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (NIV)*

After receiving the call to serve God cross culturally, Tee and Masse left their homes in the mountains to begin church planting in a Tai Yuan town. Because they come from a minority group, Tee and Masse are looked down upon in this new town. Despite the overt racism, they have a passion to share the good news of Christ with their Tai Yuan neighbors. Their gentle spirits and servant hearts have captured their town's attention. After a year of performing mundane jobs for the town, the mayor announced over the town loudspeaker that "they are good people and are here to help. Welcome them into your homes." With this gesture and recommendation, Tee and Masse are hopeful that a church will be planted in this town.

### PRAYER

- Pray that God will continue to shine through the lives of Tee and Masse.
- Pray for strength and perseverance for Tee and Masse as they work with the Tai Yuan.
- Pray they would be seen as equals and welcomed wherever they go so that they can share the gospel freely.





## Unity

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35 (NIV)*

One would hope that in a place like Thailand where Buddhism dominates, the Christian minority would meet together to encourage one another. However, there are many churches, organizations and competing groups, and this causes divisions. While variety is helpful, it is incredibly valuable for the Tai Yuan believers (like all believers who are of like mind in faith) to set aside differences and seek unity in Christ, not just for the sake of peace, but for the sake of those who do not yet believe.

## PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan Christians would hold the gospel above all differences so that they might work together to evangelize their own people.
- Pray that Tai Yuan Buddhists would desire to share in the love and unity of the Christians.
- Pray that the church would grow in unity and show unbelievers the love of Christ.







### Family Pressure

*“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:37(NIV)*

If one person becomes a Christian, it is seen not only as forsaking the family religion, but as forsaking the family itself. Despite Buddha’s words, “no one can help you, you are a light unto yourself,”\* Buddhism is a family religion. Tai Yuan families depend on one another’s merit. Parents will go to great lengths to choose an auspicious name that can bring the child good luck. A son becomes a monk to make merit for his mother. Parents will buy amulets for their children to protect them from evil. Children, at a parent’s funeral, offer robes to monks to make merit for their parents. One year after the parent’s death, the children hold a feast to honor them and make merit for the souls. The church will grow most effectively if entire families come to faith.

\* Source: <http://www.sapphyr.net/buddhist/buddhist-quotes.htm> Cited 14/12/07

### PRAYER

- Pray that God would preserve families by bringing them to himself as a family unit.
- Praise God for those who boldly became Christians despite family pressures.
- Ask God to encourage Tai Yuan believers who have sacrificed peace with their families to believe in Jesus Christ.





### Christian Communications Institute (CCI) Dance Troupe

*"I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22 (ESV)*

The Christian Communications Institute (CCI) Dance Troupe is a ministry based in Northern Thailand that presents the gospel through traditional dance and drama. The ministry partners with different churches throughout Thailand for outreach events. The Thai people connect well with the gospel through these plays, and many come to know Christ. This ministry is also reaching out to its own members. Some of the hired performers are non-believers who, through repeated shows and constantly being surrounded by believers, begin to ask questions about this gospel. A large majority of these new performers become believers and are able to teach and testify of their new faith as they perform.

### PRAYER

- Pray that CCI would have more opportunities to reach more people.
- Pray that the churches working with CCI would continue to follow up with people in their communities who have been exposed to the gospel.
- Ask God to continue to minister to the performers of CCI Dance Troupe.





### Rice Planting/Harvest

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)*

It is early in the morning as Bai gets ready to go to the fields and harvest rice from her three rice paddies. It is a grueling three-day process. Working from sun up to sun down, Bai and her family members will cut down the stalks of rice, lay them on the ground to dry, bundle them and then thresh the bundles. She has hired workers to help, but they have yet to show up. It is the last day for Bai’s fields, and all the rice is still on the ground drying. She looks up at the cloudy sky and prays that the workers will come to help before it rains. If not, a whole year’s wages and food will be lost.

### PRAYER

- Pray that God would call workers to go to the Tai Yuan, and that those to whom they go would respond wholeheartedly.
- Ask God to help the current workers be bold and faithful to finish this arduous task.
- Pray that harvest would end soon, and Christ would return.







### Loi Krathong

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12 (NIV)*

On the full moon of November, the Tai Yuan celebrate the Buddhist holiday *Loi Krathong*. At dusk everyone heads down to the local river or stream carrying their handmade *krathongs*, an offering for the river goddess. *Krathongs* are small floats made from banana stalk and are beautifully decorated with flowers, yellow candles and incense. The Tai Yuan light the candles on their *krathong* and say a prayer asking the river goddess for forgiveness for polluting the water and for any evil they might have done. Then they put the *krathong* in the water, toss in a few coins for good luck and push the float out to the water. If the candles stay lit as it floats away, it is a sign of good luck. The Tai Yuan also light paper lanterns that float in the sky like hot air balloons. By midnight, the sky and the water's surface are covered with hundreds of lights.

### PRAYER

- Pray that the Tai Yuan would receive Jesus as their "light of life."
- Pray that they would seek forgiveness from the true God, the only one who can save them.
- Pray that one day the Tai Yuan would turn their celebrations to honor the Lord.



## 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE TAI YUAN



### Conclusion

Thank you for giving the last 30 days toward reaching the Tai Yuan. We hope that through this prayer experience God has given you not only a better understanding of their lives, language, religion and ancient customs, but also a heart for reaching the Tai Yuan. We truly believe that when Christians come together in prayer, lives will be transformed. Thank you for helping reach the unreached! May God bless you and his grace be with you!

**“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)**

Please continue to pray for this group and for the thousands of others in Southeast Asia who have yet to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you would like more information about the work with the Tai Yuan please contact: [info.tai.yuan@gmail.com](mailto:info.tai.yuan@gmail.com)

