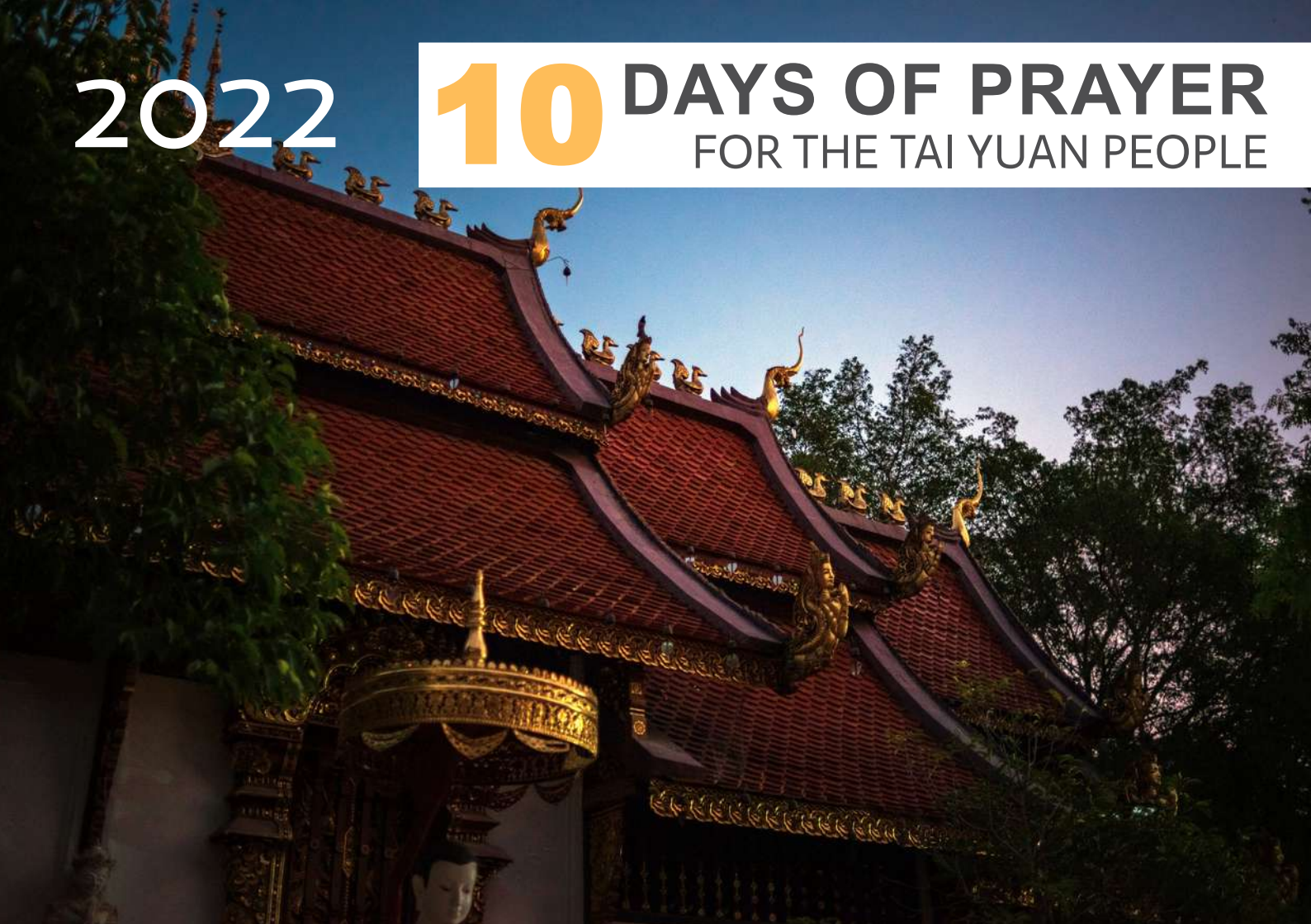


2022

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE



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10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION TO THE TAI YUAN

Thank you for joining us as we intercede on behalf of the Tai Yuan people. You will receive a daily Tai Yuan story with prayer points from March 22nd to 31st.

But who are the Tai Yuan people that you will be praying for?

The Tai Yuan are part of the larger Tai ethnic people group family with related languages, that are located in Northern Thailand, Eastern Myanmar, Northern Laos and the southeasterly Yunnan province in China. In Thailand, where they number over six million, they are commonly known as the “Northern Thai”, or as the “Khon Mueang” as they call themselves. They are mainly Buddhist with underlying animistic beliefs and practices, and have been resistant to the Gospel for many generations.



Despite the Tai Yuan church beginning over 150 years ago, less than 1% of the Tai Yuan are Christian today. This is due in part to decades of separation between Christian and Buddhist Tai Yuan. Today the Tai Yuan church struggles to reach their own people due to the lack of open doors into Buddhist communities.

The Tai Yuan team has found that a fruitful way to minister is for foreign Christians and local believers to establish Christian groups in their communities that influence the Buddhist society. Thank you for joining the second annual 10 Days of Prayer for the Tai Yuan!



PRAY

- May the Tai Yuan get to know God – the true God. Lift up the Tai Yuan in six provinces in North Thailand and ask God to give opportunities to believers with fearless hearts to the share God's story.
- Pray for the many lost people who are bound by Satan. May God have mercy that they may escape from their bondage and turn their hearts towards God.

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FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

SPIRITUAL HUNGER DAY 1

Chang was born in a Tai Yuan village near the city. His family was rather wealthy, and from the time he was young he loved studying. After university, he found a good job in Bangkok and started a family. In the blink of an eye, more than 10 years passed the pursuit of material well-being, but the memory of spiritual pursuits, the worship of idols and gods which he experienced in childhood, still stirred in him from time to time.

He felt that life had lost its purpose, so he decided to bring his wife back to Northern Thailand for the purpose of finding spiritual hope. He spent time in the temple meditating, connecting with the spirit world, in the hope of finding peace.

Chang is like many young Tai Yuan. Influenced by the progress and wealth of life around him, he finds himself running and struggling through life in order to make ends meet. Yet regardless of his current situation, he cannot forget everything he has experienced since childhood, especially in the spiritual realm.

Many Tai Yuan people care deeply about their spiritual lives and are seeking fulfillment. However, without knowing it, what they pursue is deep darkness disguised as light.



PRAY

- Pray for Tai Yuan Christians, that they will not tire to do good and not get disheartened in proclaiming the good news.
- Pray that the roots of merit-making would be removed from the hearts of the Tai Yuan as they hear the Gospel, and for God to show them that His grace is absolutely free in Christ.

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FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

FREELY GIVE DAY 2

Some Tai Yuan Christians went to an anti-Christian village leader asking for permission to organize a “toopansook.” “Toopansook” literally means “shelf sharing happiness” and is a Northern Thai tradition of sharing abundance of daily necessities. His reply was an answer to prayer, “Yes!”

Three assistants of the village head were asked to guide the group of Christians to 12 pre-selected families. All were elderly, many disabled, and some were living by themselves.

Initially the three assistants were hesitant, not sure what to expect of the Christians. What took place was simple: Enter a home, chat a bit, give a basket of items (like noodles, shampoo, cooking oil), pray for them and leave. The assistants were touched and one asked to join the group next time around. Why were they touched by such a simple gesture?

Possibly because the Christians prayed a blessing over each household. For Thai Buddhists, they give alms to monks in order to receive blessings. When they give, the Buddhist monks pray a blessing over them – an exchange. The Christians did something different! Not only did they give, but they also blessed!

A few recipients seemed confused. Upon receiving the basket, they naturally prayed a blessing for the giver. Christians have already received the blessing and thus can freely bless others.



PRAY

- Many Tai Yuan are very religious, pray that we may have wisdom to know how to further spiritual conversations at opportune moments.
- Pray for greater miracles to reveal more of who God is among the Tai Yuan.

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FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

GOD'S PROTECTION DAY 3

"I knew I shouldn't have left my wallet at my desk yesterday! I can't find it!" "At home or at school?" "At school."

Prayers for the missing wallet were sent out. Teammates and friends began to pray. The chances of the wallet being returned were slim, considering it was lost the day before, and there were fears of potential consequences should a student have taken the wallet.

Hours later, a teacher from the school sent a message: "I just went to the coffee stand at the gas station and the stand owner said she found a wallet under the outside table as she was closing yesterday. When the stand owner looked inside, she realized it belonged to you, so she gave the wallet to me."

As the missionary and her Tai Yuan colleague drove to pick up the wallet, the teacher wondered, "Could it be true? Will everything still be in it?"

Yes, everything was still in it! Nothing was lost, including all the cash. "But how?" wondered another Tai Yuan teacher.

The missionary replied, "My friends and I prayed to God and God must have protected my wallet."

The teacher replied "An angel must have protected your wallet. I also pray for many things every day."

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

DISNEY SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY 4

"Okay! All the children can go to their Sunday school class now!" The children slowly file out of the sanctuary, going to their Sunday school class. After the church service a visiting missionary asks a girl, "What did you learn in Sunday school today?" The child replies by giving the missionary a Disney coloring sheet.

The Tai Yuan church has had almost no growth over the past 150 plus years. Many of those who grew up in church are leaving. While there are many reasons for the lack of growth, many churches are failing to pass on their faith to the next generation.

PRAY

- Please pray for Tai Yuan churches, as many lack the resources, the people, and the vision to teach and reach the children.
- Pray Tai Yuan Christian parents would faithfully preach the Gospel to and disciple their own children.
- Pray for entire family units to not only believe in Jesus, but to grow in maturity in Christ.
- Pray that God will send people with a firm faith to go after "stray sheep" and encourage them back into the church family.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

DO IT YOURSELF DAY 5



PRAY

- Pray for Teeda, her family and friends in the village, and many other Thai Buddhists, that they will trust and surrender to Jesus who has done everything for them.

Teeda is a good daughter from an influential family in her village. She comes from a typical Tai Yuan farming community, consisting of perhaps 30 houses. As the village is close to the district's main town, she attended elementary and secondary school, and then went to the provincial capital to get a bachelor's degree in meteorology. Being smart, diligent and practical, she landed a position as a civil servant in the meteorology department at the provincial airport.

In her quest for professional advancement she completed a Master's degree and sought to improve her English through an English class taught by missionaries. This led to an interest in Jesus, and then Bible study with missionaries. They had long talks about the meaning of the Good News. The missionaries made several visits to her village and got to know Teeda's parents and relatives.

Teeda is a person of peace, welcoming Jesus' messengers into her community, yet she has not fully understood the message of salvation and grace. The emphasis on doing it herself, relying only on herself, especially in spiritual matters –in accordance with Buddhist teaching– is still keeping her from relying on Jesus.



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FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

HAVE IT ALL DAY 6

"I always thought that I had everything I needed in life: food, shelter, family, money, education. But then one day at a Christian camp I realized that I was missing something. I didn't have Jesus. And the feeling grew in me that I wanted Him to be part of my life, I wanted to follow Him going forward in life."

Self-sufficiency is common among the relatively affluent middle class in Thailand and can be a barrier preventing people from being interested in Jesus. However, even though it is hidden, the need for Jesus is there.

This testimony from a Tai Yuan young person highlights several things: even though affluence can be an obstacle to realizing the need for Jesus, the Holy Spirit speaks in His own way and time, drawing people to Jesus. Camps and other gatherings where people spend time worshipping, hearing God's Word and teaching about Jesus, are great opportunities for God's Word to go forth and accomplish His purposes and to sow seeds of faith.

PRAY

- Please pray for the affluent middle class, that their saturation with good things would not prevent them from realizing their need for Jesus.
- Please pray for camps and outreach events, especially among young people, that as God's word is read, taught and sung, that the Holy Spirit would move and speak to people's hearts; that a longing for Jesus would be stirred up in each heart.



PRAY

- Pray for those who have positive impressions of Christianity but are not ready yet to open their hearts fully to receive Jesus, that God will move them towards salvation.
- Ask God to provide missionaries and Tai Yuan Christians with creative ways to love people for the sake of the Gospel.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY DAY 7

As a young entrepreneur, I was invited to join a group that supports and grows startups towards sustainability. While it sounded good, I was suspicious whether this marketplace group, started and led by Christians, would be another front for converting us to be Christians. So I was careful, and made clear from the start that my family and I were followers of Buddha and we would not join any Christian activities.

Throughout this first year of receiving support and mentoring for my business, I learned and grew both as an entrepreneur and as a person. Not only did I receive help for business, I was also taught topics like self-care and how growing myself as a person is also key to a successful business.

I am thankful for meeting this Christian marketplace group. Their leaders have impressed me with their willingness to learn and their love for Thai people. Their holistic approach to helping entrepreneurs and businesses like mine made me feel comfortable with Christians and they have been a big part in me experiencing blessings from God.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

REGULATIONS DAY 8

Noo, a 30 year old Tai Yuan man, has been attending a missionary family's homegroup for the last year. He has been dating a local Thai believer for over 10 years. He is interested in Christianity. In fact, he has expressed a desire to follow Jesus and professed faith in all that he has learned so far. However, his girlfriend and her family are hesitant to encourage him to take the next step. Why? The church they're involved in has a very rigorous and formal process everyone must follow in order to officially become a follower of Jesus and member of their church.

Pray for Noo, who is working as a teacher at an international school teaching History and Social Studies classes. He wants to give his life to Jesus, but the barriers to this next step have so far seemed insurmountable.

PRAY

- Pray for local pastors to support and shepherd Noo without over-complicating things with rules and regulations.
- Pray for the Thai church, to create a loving and welcoming community that receives everyone without long lists of 'dos and don'ts.'
- Pray for the missionary family walking alongside Noo, that they can encourage him towards a lasting commitment to Jesus.
- Pray for Noo, that he would find Jesus who loves and accepts him as he is.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE



PRAY

Please pray for transformation in Thai society:

- May families raise the children in their care well, teaching them moral values and good life ethics.
- May families stay together and not be split up.
- May the Tai Yuan who have lost their jobs find new work and may the economy improve.
- Pray for safety in the Tai Yuan communities in this day and age.
- May the Tai Yuan get to know God and the truth of Life.

ECONOMIC CRISES, FAMILY CRISES DAY 9

Many families, particularly in rural communities, but also in cities, live life close to the poverty line. They rely on daily income to buy food for their families that day. In many families, the pursuit of a paying job takes one or both parents hundreds of kilometers away to larger centers, or tourism hubs. Children are left behind with aging grandparents or other relatives and see their parents only once or twice a year. The impact of distance on family relationships brings strain to the connection and the influence. The lockdowns and restrictions of the Covid pandemic have exacerbated an already fragile situation for many. Many Thai fear that work, politics and the economy in decline is causing society to spiral down as well, leading to a host of problems, crime and loss of hope. "Without guidance, a people will fall, but with many counselors there is deliverance." (Proverbs 11:14)

There are many opportunities for Christians to be salt and light in the world, helping to improve society through intercession and their witness to Jesus.



PRAY

- Pray for the Tai Yuan who are Christians and who have worshipped God at church but are no longer coming together for whatever reason, and lift them up in prayer.
- Pray for renewal of faith for those who have grown discouraged, and awareness of the power of salvation that is theirs in Jesus.
- Pray for the power of salvation in Jesus to bring freedom to those enamored and bound by other spiritual influences.

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THE POWER OF SALVATION DAY 10

A lady in her fifties, weakened by disease, shuffled slowly to see who was at the door. "So you are still alive!" was the comment that greeted her, "I just had to come and see for myself." At the door stood her husband's mistress. "I tried to have you killed, you know," the visitor continued. "I was so jealous of you that I asked a medium to send a spirit to get rid of you and eliminate my competition for your husband's affection. But the spirit returned and told the medium it couldn't do anything to you because you were protected by a dome of impenetrable light and power. The medium says it's always like that with Christians." The worn out wife stood in amazement. During her years of illness and abandonment, she had given up going to church. She had begun to doubt whether she should even be counted a Christian any more. Ironically, the medium's testimony bolstered her faith and reminded her of God's everlasting love and power for those who believe in Jesus and have entrusted their lives to Him.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE TAI YUAN PEOPLE

PRAYING ON

Thank you for your faithful prayer for the Tai Yuan people for the last 10 days. If you want to pray for the Tai Yuan on a regular basis, please join our "Faithful 500" prayer group. When you sign up, you will receive weekly prayer points for the Tai Yuan. Also if you have any feedback or ideas to make things even better next time, please be in touch!

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