

# Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

Today the Chinese and the English versions of the *Global Prayer Digest (GPD)* are being printed in Taiwan thanks to our partners with the United Mission of Taiwan. U MOT has also developed an app for Global Prayer Digest that you can download for free. Taiwanese believers have also provided us with lists of unreached people groups that they would like to have all of us pray for. This July 2017 *GPD* issue is based on their second list of unreached people groups in China. We have had other *GPD* issues earlier this year that were directed by believers in Africa.

Part of the reason I am saying this is because frontier mission efforts are rapidly moving from the “west to the rest” to a new model. The church in China, South Korea, Latin America, and Africa is becoming strong enough to complete the great commission. The prayer guide you are now reading was largely directed by such believers. The Lord is on the move, and His church is, too!

I would like to thank Esther Fan’s team with Crossroads for the list of topics, and Paul Hattaway of Asia Harvest for the information and photos for this prayer guide. The first three daily entries will tell of Hattaway’s bumpy voyage into frontier mission.

In Christ,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

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# PRAY FOR

*Every Unreached, Unengaged People  
in China*

geographicguide



"The great new fact of our time is that  
the Christian missionary movement from the majority  
world is vital, growing, and far outnumbers  
the movement from the West."

—Paul E. Pierson, PhD, dean emeritus and senior professor of History of Mission  
and Latin Studies, Fuller Theological Studies

## MISSION HISTORY OF ASIAN CHURCHES

*Timothy K. Park (Editor)*

*Mission History of Asian Churches* is a collection of academic essays expounding and exploring the growing Asian missionary movement that began more than a century ago. Presented at the Second International Forum of the Asian Society of Missiology, these essays explore the mission history of Asian nations like China, India, the Indochina region, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, and Singapore, as well as the cross-cultural works of Asian missions and missionaries.

This book is a springboard to an in-depth discussion and analysis of the genesis and expansion of the cross-cultural missionary movements in Asia. It presents the coming-of-age of the Asian church as demonstrated by its way of participating in the Great Commission of Christ and its significant contributions to world mission amidst struggles and adversities.

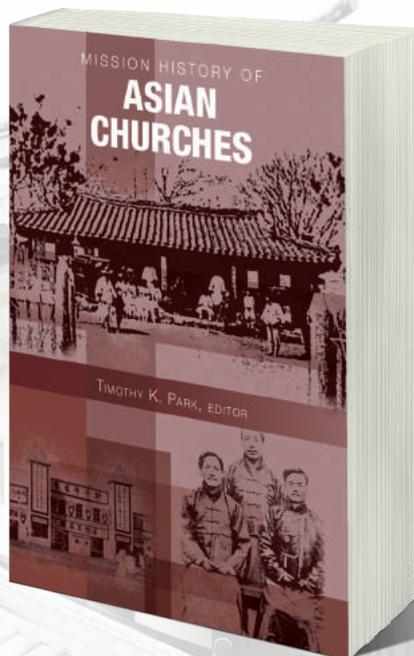
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## 10-40 Window Reporter

Prayer for nations of the 10-40 Window.

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## Prayerguard

Online general prayer for UPGs.

[http://prayerguard.net/?page\\_id=209](http://prayerguard.net/?page_id=209)

### Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with friends who are involved in this movement.

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray.



## To Help You Pray Better

# Of Running, Baking Cakes, and Chinese Mission Efforts

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### Running, Thinking, and Learning

While at a conference in Thailand, a Chinese pastor joined me for my morning run. As we went along I stopped and took some pictures while he kept running. I found out later that it was his first run in years. He told others, "I wasn't sure I could complete the run, but Tom went stride for stride with me. The longer we went as his strides went forward, my strides also went forward. Because Tom ran slower at first, I could run farther and gradually was able to run faster. I was able to go further together with Tom than I ever imagined I could go on my own." He went to say, "This is the model for the next generation of ministry in China. We must work together. As we stretch our legs, some will be able to go faster than others at first. Some need help getting up to speed." He ended his comments by saying, "I believe we can go further together than any one of us can go alone."

### Let Them Bake Cake!

A few months later I had a revealing conversation with another Chinese friend. I had been involved in a project that had me talking to various international organizations

—By a Friend of China





## Baking Cakes

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considering ministry in China. Some had been in China for years, others were new, but the common phrase from the international organizations was, “we are partnering with the church in China.”

I talked to some of my Chinese friends and asked about these partnerships, and what they said was fascinating! The usual response was, “Yes, we are working with those international organizations.” They then mentioned the names of the organizations, but none of the Chinese leaders ever used the word “partnering” to describe the relationship.

I went back to the international organizations and across-the-board they all talked about the partnering that they were doing with the church in China and they hoped to do more. Often they went on to tell me about the plans they had for China.

I went back to one of the Chinese leaders and said, “Here is what I’m hearing, could you help me understand what I am hearing? It doesn’t make sense to me.” It was then that this Chinese leader told a story that stays with me. He said, “These organizations are bringing ‘cakes’ to China. They come to our organizations, they offer us their pre-made ‘cakes,’ then they bring out

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## Baking Cakes

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the fine dishes and the best silverware and say, ‘Here’s a cake, do you want some?’ Of course we are interested in the cake. It looks good; it tastes good, and we know we will enjoy it.”

He went on to say, “Does anybody know that we want to make “cakes” here in China also? We have a vision for China as well. What continually happens is that international organizations are baking ‘cakes’ in their home country and they bring them to China. We welcome them and accept the cakes because they are good cakes. Here is what we would like: We would like to be in the kitchen while the cakes are being made. We want to help pick the ingredients and mix them. We want to help bake the cakes.”

### **The Point of the Matter is ...**

Today leaders from across China are looking for ways to reach China and the unreached world for Christ. What is really interesting is that they are not seeking to do that on their own. They are welcoming and even desiring international ministries to work with them. The Chinese leaders are very practical recognizing there is much to learn and they are willing to learn from ministries in other parts of the world.

2018 is a year to reconsider China ministry and recognize the potential of a nation with 1.4 billion people. The church in China is growing and its size is significant. The highest estimates put that number at around 100 million followers of Christ. Ironically, China is still the largest unreached nation in the world with dozens of people groups still without a Bible or a witness in their language.

There are great opportunities for ministry in China. The way forward will look different than the past. The way forward will bring together Chinese followers of Christ along with followers of Christ in Europe, Africa, elsewhere in Asia, North America, and South America, because the task is so large that one people and one nation cannot do it on its own.

As was stated by a leading Chinese pastor, “China will remain the largest mission field in the world. During the next 30 years, China will still contain the largest number of nonbelievers and unreached people. The evangelization of China demands the concern not only of Chinese Christians, but of the church worldwide.”

There is a “new cake” to be made in China. A partnership that is Chinese-led has come together with a number of international ministries to make that cake.



## Baking Cakes

### Pray With Us!

1. Pray that Chinese leaders will be welcomed into the “kitchen” of strategy and planning to bring the unique experience and approaches of the Chinese church to bear on the pressing needs to reach those who have yet to hear the gospel.
2. Pray for new and deeper partnerships between Chinese missionaries being sent to countries outside of China with existing international ministries and churches.
3. Pray that new models of ministry partnership will emerge between the church in China and the church around the world to reach the unreached peoples of China.
4. Pray for wisdom for a new generation of Chinese missionaries who seek to make a difference in their country and the unreached world for Christ.
5. Pray that creativity will abound in living and telling the message of Jesus in China so that millions who have not heard that message will have the opportunity to respond.

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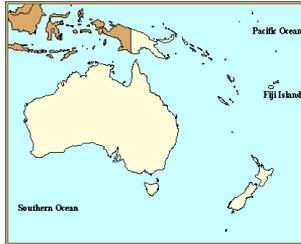


## MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY, PAUL HATTAWAY

### IS 58:7, NET

I want you to share your food with the hungry and to provide shelter for homeless, oppressed people. When you see someone naked, clothe him! Don't turn your back on your own flesh and blood!

*Thank the Lord for the believer who reached out to a homeless man who is now one of the key mission leaders!*



When Paul Hattaway was a boy growing up in New Zealand, his older sister tried to smother him with a pillow. His principal told him he was a “waste of oxygen,”

before kicking him out of high school. He then spent a couple of years of his life doing odd jobs. He moved to Australia in 1986, where he ended up living as a homeless man.

While working at a warehouse, a co-worker invited Paul to come to church. He agreed to go, thinking he would find plenty of reason to scoff. As it turned out, he sensed the love of the people there, and accepted Jesus as Lord of his life in 1987. In his autobiography, *An Asian Harvest*, he writes, “A deep responsibility began to dawn on me. It was as if I just discovered the cure for cancer, and I wanted to tell everyone as quickly as possible.”

A Christian friend took him to a Christian bookstore, where he purchased *Operation World*, which is part reference book and part prayer guide for the countries of the world. Hattaway was amazed by the needs of the world. It wasn't long before he responded to an appeal for “donkeys for Christ” to help smuggle Bibles into China.

*Pray for the Lord to raise up hundreds this decade who will do whatever it takes to help the world with the “cancer” of sin.—KC*

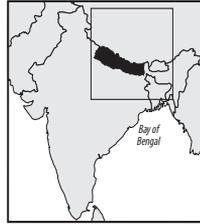


## HATTAWAY, CONTINUED

DAY

02

Paul spent a couple of years smuggling Bibles, attending Bible school, and eventually visiting unreached people groups in East Asia. He visited many parts of China, Vietnam, Laos, and eventually India and Nepal.



In the latter country, he almost lost his life from altitude sickness. While lying on the ground in the Himalayan Mountains, God revealed to Paul His heart for the nations in a new way.



This experience gave Hattaway the determination and vision to launch a new ministry, Asia Harvest, which was designed to help believers pray for and support the work on the frontlines of Asia. It was also intended to help get needed Bibles into the hands of house church members and unreached people groups. He notes that of the 7,000 unreached people groups, 5,000 are in Asia. Asia Harvest wants to dislodge any obstacle that gets in the way of seeing these people groups reached.

Paul's all-out dedication to see Asians reached meant that very few women would be suitable for him as a wife, but he did find one, Joy, an American who was involved with Bible smuggling. After numerous spiritual attacks, Paul and Joy were married. They lived first in Hong Kong, and later in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

*Pray for spiritual victory for God's servants.—KC*

### I COR 4:9, NET

For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to die, because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to people.

*Pray that the suffering of believers on the front line of mission will lead to all obstacles to the gospel being removed.*



## HATTAWAY, CONTINUED

## ACTS 2:14, NET

So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

*Pray that when Chinese believers preach, that there will be massive responses from those who are willing to be disciplined in the ways of Christ.*



By the late 1990s, Paul Hattaway began to do research that provided much of the information we use in the *Global Prayer Digest (GPD)*. First there were detailed books about specific unreached people groups in Laos and Vietnam, and in 2000 there was *Operation China*, which describes nearly 500 people groups. The full-color photos helped people to have a heart for the people groups covered in this prayer guide. Though that was 18 years ago, few

researchers have managed to improve on the information for the 500 people groups. It was later translated into Korean and Chinese so they could join in the prayer efforts.

Perhaps fueled by new prayer efforts, China experienced a powerful revival. Evangelists reported large, enthusiastic crowds asking why this good news was not given to them before! Thousands committed their lives to Jesus Christ until an increase in materialism somewhat deadened the spiritual revival. In 2016, the Chinese government renewed efforts to clamp down on house churches. That was the same year that Asian Harvest reached the milestone of distributing the 10 millionth Bible for house church members.

*Pray for Paul Hattaway as he continues his efforts to see Asian unreached people groups reached.—KC*

*(Taken from An Asian Harvest: An Autobiography, Paul Hattaway, Monarch Books, 2017)*



DAY

04

## GTSANG (GIT-ZUNG) TIBETANS

*(This story is intended to illustrate the attitudes of this people group.)*

Zaypo, a Gtsang Tibetan, was trying to convince the leader of his town to let the Chinese government build a road into their remote region. “Dokar, the Chinese have the tools and knowledge for building roads. With good roads, more people will want to visit our region. This will give our people better jobs and education.” Dokar replied, “the Chinese are rude and say we are uncivilized. They are clever but very greedy.” Zaypo responded, “This is true. We are devoted Buddhists and most Chinese are atheist and just want to make money. We would rather give our money to a monastery in hopes of earning merit for the next life. Anyhow, we need their help. We can be an example to them of what an honorable Buddhist should be.”



**EPH 1:7-8, NET**

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us in all wisdom and insight.

*Pray that soon the Gtsang Tibetans will cling only to the God who lavished on us all that we need.*

Over 700,000 Tibetans speak the Gtsang Tibetan dialect. They live throughout region of China that stretches east to west over the entire length of the Tibet-Nepal border. Their lives are very different from the Chinese which contributes to an ongoing ethnic conflict not only for them but other Tibetan peoples in China. They are very resistant to Christianity. Those who embrace Christ face persecution.

*Pray that God will send His children to communicate with these Gtsang on the greatness of God, His kingdom, and His gift of salvation in Jesus.—PD*



## DEQEN (DER-CHEN) TIBETANS

## EPH 1:11-12, NET

In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession, since we were predestined according to the one purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of His will so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, would be to the praise of His glory.

*Pray that the Deqen Tibetans will soon be claimed as God's holy possession!*

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Salted yak butter

*(This story is intended to illustrate truths about this people group.)*

After trekking through the breathtaking path to the village of Yuben, China, the Norwegian Christian couple was warmly welcomed by their Tibetan Deqen hosts. Norco, the woman, served them warm tea with salted yak butter and barley in small wooden bowls. Then her husband presented them with two beautiful, knitted white silk scarfs. The scarfs represented high respect, sincerity, and wishes for prosperity to the guests, who immediately put them around their shoulders. Bowing towards their hosts, the couple said, "Thank you, and may the God of Heaven bless you." They then gave their hosts a small basket filled with chocolate and yak jerky and said they would always wear the Khatags with honor. The Deqen couple showed deep appreciation for the gifts. This was the beginning of what became a warm relationship between the visitors and the Tibetan couple.

About 119,000 Deqen Tibetans live in the isolated, mountainous terrain of Yunnan Province. Most Deqen are Buddhists; however, over 1200 are Catholic. French Catholic missionaries started their work in the late 1800s. New highways, buses, and improved hiking paths have opened the once hidden, mystical Deqen villages to visitors.

*Pray that believers will visit these Deqen Tibetans, befriend them, and open the door for God's everlasting truth. Pray that Bible radio programs will become available to the Deqens.—PD*



DAY

06

## NGHARI (NAH-REE-ZUNG) TIBETANS

*(This story is intended to illustrate truths about this people group.)*

Standing close to the edge of the mountain in Nghari, China, Lo Sang turned his Buddhist wheel and prayed as he said his final goodbyes to his dead father. He and his family had performed the traditional Tibetan Sky Burial and already the holy birds, vulture and ravens had begun to soar over the corpse. He believed his father would be well received in the spirit world because he had been a devoted Buddhist. Lo Sang thought of how his father often told him that he should think about the importance of Buddhist teaching and not desire earthly riches and power. Lo Sang decided he would become a Buddhist monk and devote the rest of his life to mediation in a cave monastery close to where he lived.



Nghari Tibetan woman

Asia Harvest/Operation China

### 1 KINGS 8:42, NET

When they hear about your great reputation and your ability to accomplish mighty deeds, they will come and direct their prayers toward this temple.

*Pray that the Nghari people will direct their prayers to the only God who can answer them!*

There are over 62,000 Tibetans that live in the region of Nghari, in western China bordering Nepal. They have their own unique Tibetan language form. Their region is near the location of two of the holiest sites for Tibetan Buddhists. Catholic missionaries attempted to reach the Nghari starting in the mid 1600s. These missionaries were threatened by the Nghari and were forced to leave the region. There are not any known believers among these people today.

*Pray that God will prepare believers to bring His glory to these Nghari Tibetans.—PD*

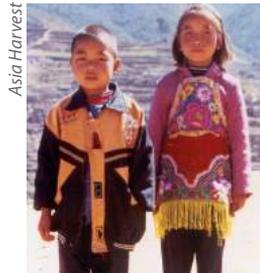


## XIJIMA (SHEE-JEE-MA) PEOPLE

## EPH 1:6-7, NLT

We thank God for His loving-favor to us. He gave this loving-favor to us through His much-loved Son. Because of the blood of Christ, we are bought and made free from the punishment of sin. And because of His blood, our sins are forgiven. His loving-favor to us is so rich.

*Pray that the Xijima people will soon be made free from sin by the blood of the lamb!*



Asia Harvest

Xijima children

There continues to be no progress in the spread of the gospel among one of China's unreached people groups—the Xijimas. Numbering at about 39,000 and living just north of Myanmar and Thailand, the Xijimas continue to lack the Scriptures, the JESUS Film, or a Bible radio or television program in their language.

For centuries, the Xijimas have been surrounded and absorbed by the predominant Han culture. Their language and culture has been nearly lost and is currently observed by only the oldest members of their society. Their ancestral religious beliefs and Daoism are gradually making way for the atheistic state belief that looks down on worshipping any deity. These gods are seen on many door-mounted posters that show them with the severed heads of their enemies in their jaws. The youngest Xijima are more likely to have no religious beliefs, and most choose to follow atheism taught in the state sponsored educational system.

*Pray for a complete breakthrough in the evangelistic outreach to the Xijima people. Pray that Han Chinese believers will reach out and communicate the gospel to this unreached people group. Pray that their efforts will result in a network of discipleship groups among the Xijima people. Praise God for soon answered prayer of great progress in future endeavors!—JY*



# JONE (JOE-NEE) TIBETANS

DAY

08

The Bible tells us, when King Solomon was praying to the LORD at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:60), that it is His will “that all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is none else.”



Asia Harvest

**1 KINGS 8:60-61, NLT**

Then all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God. There is no other. So let your whole heart be true to the Lord our God. Walk in His laws and keep His word, just as you are doing today.

*Pray that there will soon come a day when the Jone Tibetans will walk in the ways of God, keep His word, and love Him with all their hearts.*

And so it is with the Jone Tibetans of western China. Numbering 166,000, the Jone were unknown to those outside of China and Tibet until 1928 when the explorer Joseph Rock first wrote about their customs and lifestyle that contrasted with the rest of the Tibetan peoples. With a complex tribal system, the Jone once built a huge Buddhist monastery with 3,800 monks. Today, they are no longer an independent kingdom as their land was conquered and the prince’s title was abolished in 1928.

Currently there are more than 200 Jone believers in Gansu Province. A church was built in 1997, which was the first ethnic Tibetan church in China. Traditionally, the Jone women grow their hair into three bundles called sangemao. It was reported that one woman sold her hair, and that a family sold their TV to fund the construction of the church building.

*Give the Father praise for His abundant answers to our prayers! Pray that Jone believers will grow in the knowledge of Christ and disciple others as well.—JY*



## AZHE (AH-JEH) PEOPLE

## EPH 1:9-10, NLT

God told us the secret of what He wanted to do. It is this: In loving thought He planned long ago to send Christ into the world. The plan was for Christ to gather us all together at the right time. If we are in heaven or still on earth, He will bring us together and will be head over all.

*Pray that the Azhe people will be gathered into the family of God, and transformed by His marvelous grace and mercy. Pray that they will embrace His headship.*

Asia Harvest/Operation China



Azhe women

**W**hy do we pray for a people more than once? The last time we prayed for the Azhe was in 2008. We pray because Satan does not sleep and he does not want the Azhe to believe in Jesus.

These people originated in Yunnan Province and become mercenaries during China's T'ang dynasty (6th-10th centuries). After that, they do not leave much of a mark on history until after World War II when the Chinese communist government classified them as part of the Yi groups for census purposes. The Azhes are divided into two groups. These groups differ in language, customs, and culture.

The Azhes are animists and polytheists. One of their major deities is a sacred mountain whose god is in charge of public welfare. A sacred tree is also important to them. Their version of animism is overlaid with the syncretistic trappings of Buddhism and Taoism. In the early 20th century, Roman Catholics started mission work among them and a Catholic mission still exists, although its success is unknown. The Catholics did not engage in Bible translation as there is no Azhe New Testament or Bible available. Nor is the JESUS Film available in their language. The same is true of gospel recordings and radio.

*Pray that missionaries will challenge this people to believe in Jesus. Pray that work begins on Bible translation, gospel recordings and the JESUS Film.—TP*



## ENIPU (UH-NEE-POO) PEOPLE

DAY

10

**H**idden in high mountains of Yunnan Province, the Enipu people seek to remain separate from the Han Chinese who view them as barbarians and sub-human. They call themselves Enipu. They speak three mutually unintelligible languages called Lolopo and some probably also live in Vietnam and Thailand. These people have oral histories, especially their genealogies. Today they have a written ethnic history thanks to the Chinese government.



An Enipu grandfather

Asia Harvest/Operation China

### PS 22:6, NIV

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

*Pray that the despised Enipu people will soon embrace the savior who was despised by sinful mankind.*

Lolo society is three-tiered: ruling class, commoners, slaves. Doors are important in their culture. They worship tiger spirits, they fear ghosts, and they have shamans. Although they had French and British Protestant missionaries in the 19th-century, other than works in Chinese, there are no known Bible resources in their primary language. Jesus still stands at their door knocking to be let in!

*Pray that they come to know that God will accept them as humans for whom Christ died. Pray that they will no longer fear ghosts or worship tigers, but only worship the lion of the tribe of Judah. Pray for Bible resources in their languages. Pray that missionaries will be sent by God to the Enipu and that God's Spirit will prepare the way for them to be well-received.—TP*



## DIGAO (DEE-GAOW) PEOPLE

## PS 50:1, NLT

The Powerful One, God, the Lord, has spoken. And He calls the earth from where the sun rises to where the sun goes down.

*Pray that during this time of transition for the Digao people, that they will seek and find the Powerful One, and forsake all other gods.*

Asia Harvest/Operation China



A Digao man

*(This fictional account is intended to depict the situation facing this unreached people group.)*

The boy and his father walked through the woods until they came to into what remained of a village. The bamboo houses were deserted. “Where is everyone?” the boy asked. Ignoring this, the father stepped into one of the houses. “This is where we lived.” He paused to look around at the run-down hut. The hearth of three stones was still in the corner, but nothing else remained. The boy walked over and was about to touch the stones. “No!” the father cautioned. “Those are sacred.” The boy drew back, then asked again, “Where is everyone?” “They moved.” “Why?” “Things changed. As things always do.”

The Digao people of China are being assimilated into Han culture, yet they continue to practice their own brand of animism. They also worship their ancestors. Today there are no known followers of Christ among the Digao.

*Pray for workers to take the gospel message to the Digaos in a way they can understand. Pray for the Bible to be translated into their language. Pray for the gospel recordings that they do have in their language to be widely distributed and accepted. Pray for God’s Kingdom to be established among the Digao people.—CL*



## LAWU (LAH-WOO) PEOPLE

DAY

12

The procession of Lawu moving down the mountain toward the Gasa River valley was a routine sight. Every five days, they came to trade with the Tai and Han peoples living in the area. But this time, they bore no goods. Instead, their destination was a large tree.

They quietly and respectfully gathered around the tree, young and old, and every member of the village was present for a very important ceremony. It was the second lunar month, and as the elders had prescribed, it was time to worship the dragon. The dragon, they fully believed, had the ability to release or withhold rain, summon the wind, and even bring fire from the sky. To avoid being cursed by the dragon, it was necessary to hold rituals like this one.

Unlike some unreached people groups, the Lawu people are not known to be resistant to the gospel. They simply haven't had the opportunity to hear the good news of Christ. They currently do not have the Bible or even portions of scripture available in their language.

*Pray for the Lawu to open their minds and hearts to the truth of God. Pray for the identity of the dragon they worship to be exposed. Ask God to work powerfully among them to accomplish His will and establish His Kingdom in their community.—CL*



Asia Harvest/Operation China

A Lawu woman

**PS 25:5, NLT**

Lead me in your truth and teach me. For you are the God who saves me. I wait for you all day long.

*Pray that this will be the cry of Lawu hearts when they hear of the Savior.*



## LESU (LEH-SOO) PEOPLE

## EPH 1:13, NLT

The truth is the good news. When you heard the truth, you put your trust in Christ. Then God marked you by giving you His Holy Spirit as a promise.

*Pray that when they hear the good news the Lesu people will not hesitate to accept Christ's truth and the Holy Spirit's direction for their communities.*

Asia Harvest/Operation China



A Lesu man

A very old legend exists among the Lesu people in which a Han Chinese and a Lesu fell in love. Their parents strongly disagreed with the engagement. One

night the couple went to a mountain peak, dancing and singing to one another, then committed suicide. A festival is now held in their honor. If only they had known about the Savior who loved them more than they could ever love one another, providing the way for them to be together for eternity in His perfect love! Who will tell them?

They also observe the Mountain Sacrifice Festival which is actually not a festival. Lesu people greatly revere the mountain god, holding an annual day of sacrifice to appease him. On this day Lesus are forbidden to work in their fields for fear the mountain god will be offended. Deliverance from this terrible fear has already been accomplished by the Almighty Creator, but they don't know about it. How can they know?

The Lesu people were unevangelized and unreached until 1999 when a family helped record the first gospel recording in their language, and chose to believe.

*Pray for accuracy for Global Recordings Network as they work through local people to record the gospel message into heart languages all over the world. Pray Lesu people will listen and receive the gospel, knowing the Lord who is their creator God who can answer their prayers.—KH*



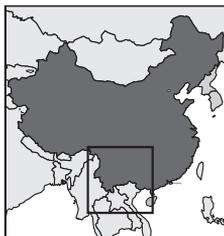
DAY

14

## LUOWU (LUOH-WOO) PEOPLE

“If he loves me more than

Jesus, he is not worthy of me—if he were to leave the Lord’s work for the world’s honor, I would have nothing further to do with him.” This was said by Maria Dyer, who became Hudson Taylor’s loyal wife. They were among the most influential missionaries to reach China with the gospel. However, few missionaries working in China prior to their expulsion in 1949 focused on the groups in the mountains of central Yunnan Province. As a result, the Luowu people remain unreached today, although gospel recordings in their language were produced in 1999.



They are monogamous and prefer to marry only other Luowu people. A Luowu couple meets through a matchmaker before engagement. A Luowu wedding ceremony lasts for three days. They are considered married when the bride has entered the home of her bridegroom.

The Luowus are polytheists. They live in fear of and bondage to a number of deities and demons. They believe that although some spirits are good, most are vengeful and bad, desiring to kill and destroy them. The Luowu also venerate their ancestors to the fourth or fifth generations.

There are no printed scriptural resources available in the heart language of Luowu people.

*Pray that spiritual darkness will be eliminated by the Holy Spirit, and that His light of truth will shine forth into every level of Luowu culture.—KH*

### MARK 12:33, NIV

To love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

*Pray that the Lord will raise up unstoppable disciples among the Luowu people who will love the Lord Jesus even more than their own families.*

## TUSU (TOO-SOO) PEOPLE

**ROM 1:20, NASB**

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made so that they are without excuse.

*Pray that the Tusu people will see God's invisible attributes and the beauty of His creation, and understand that He is Lord of all.*

Asia Harvest/Operation China



A Tusu woman

**R**omans 1:20, NASB—For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being

understood through what has been made so that they are without excuse. Polytheism (the worship of many gods), animism (spirit appeasement), and ancestor worship are the three main spiritual beliefs among the Tusu people. For more than 1,300 years the Tusu have appeared in Chinese records of Yunnan Province.

In some areas the Tusu love to come together and participate in local festivals, since it gives them a chance to relax and forget about their hardships. The festivals also serve as a reunion for relatives and friends. For example the Tiger Dance Festival is held for one week during the first lunar month each year.

The Tusu people indulge in ceremonial washing and bathing, which represents a cleansing from sin for the past year's transgressions. Tusu houses are also thoroughly cleaned out as the people bid to start the upcoming year afresh. The Tusu people have never heard that they can be washed from their sins, past, present, and future through the finished work of Jesus Christ who died in their place paying their penalty. No scriptural resources exist in their language.

*Pray for these resources to soon become easily available to them. Pray for spiritual openness.—KH*



DAY

16

## BAONUO (BAOW-NUOH) PEOPLE

The bloody handprints on the Baonuo man's white pants reminded him of the strength of his ancient king. Legend tells it that, out of joy, the Baonuo king slapped his bloody and injured hands against his knees when he learned of an escape route out of a deadly battle. Now, Baonuo men remember the king by sewing bloody handprints on their trousers.



This is just one of the Baonuos' many customs that distinguishes them from the people surrounding them. Not only do they still behave based on legends and their subsequent rituals, the Baonuos have their own language. Even their Chinese-given nickname Baiku Yao (White Pants Yao) marks them as unique amongst other peoples of China. The 32,000 Baonuos live scattered in extremely remote, isolated communities in China's Guizhou and Guangxi provinces. They are fearful of outsiders. Up until the mid-1980s, these former cannibals stoned unannounced visitors.

Gospel recordings for the Baonuo have been available since 1999, but with sluggish results. Recently, several Baonuo people have declared faith in Jesus.

*Pray that these Baonuo believers will explain to their people how King Jesus bloodied His hands not because He was to be saved from battle, but instead because He saved all peoples from the battle with sin. Pray that they form new customs led by the Holy Spirit.—LR*

### PS 24:3-4, NLV

Who may go up the mountain of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart. He who has not lifted up his soul to what is not true, and has not made false promises.

*Pray for clean hands and pure hearts for the Baonuo people of China.*



DAY

17

## LINGHUA (LING-HWA) PEOPLE

**1 THES 5:16, NIV**

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

*Pray for even a small group of intercessors to pray for the Linghua people until they are discipled in the ways of Christ.*

Asia Harvest/Operation China



A Linghua woman

**A** *GPD* writer for 20 years, I perused my writing assignment and saw I'd written an article about the Linghua people 15 years ago! Perhaps it's symbolic that the

Linghuas live on hard soil. They channel water from streams through bamboo pipes. Though on missionary radar for nearly 100 years, the 27,000 Linghua people remain unreached. Missionaries have found it difficult to access them because of their mountainous Guangxi Province home. The ancestor spirits they worship remain unchallenged.

*GPD* readers who have adopted unreached people groups in prayer know this is common. We also know that it is first prayer that can ignite a Holy Spirit nudge to a potential missionary. It is first prayer that breaks down spiritual walls, allowing for open hearts to receive the gospel. As a prayer magazine, we know that consistent prayers for the unreached guides them to His Kingdom.

So why aren't there any followers of Christ amongst the Linghuas? This question arises when praying for unreached peoples who continue to be unreached. We continue in faith, knowing that the Father wants their freedom more than we do! He will send His Holy Spirit in dreams and visions. We can be sure that our prayers are tilling the hard soil of their hearts.

*Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to prepare the Linghua people for when He will be fully revealed to them.—LR*



DAY

18

## YOUNUO (YOOU-NOOU) PEOPLE

The Younou people worship Zaj Laung, a mighty dragon spirit, whom they appease to gain an abundant harvest. They are convinced this spirit controls the waters and weather. They also worship the moon and sun. Their flood legend involves the thunder god coming from heaven to save their tribe. The Younou people who honor these spirits number about 22,000; they live in the northeast portion of Guangxi Province.



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A Younou woman

The favorite Younou weapons are muzzle-loading muskets and crossbows. Every year, however, deer and wild pigs become scarcer. Younou men traditionally were hunters, though within the last generation, fewer of them hunt. Sexual immorality is widespread among the Younou, who rarely marry people from other tribes.

The Younou are one of China's Bunu ethnic groups, and all Bunu groups in southern China are unreached. This prompted Rev. W.H. Oldfield of Britain, longing to reach Guangxi's people groups in the early 1900s, to comment, "For decades they have been groping in darkness, for decades more they will have to grope, unless someone comes to give them the message." Though there's no Bible in their language, there are audio Bible teachings available.

*Ask for intercessors and anointed witnesses for the Younou. Pray for audio Bible teachings to be heard by them and for Bible translation into their language. Ask for a disciple-making movement among the Younou.—CR*

### LUKE 1:79, TPT

The word from heaven will come to us with dazzling light to shine upon those who live in darkness . . . And he will illuminate the path that leads to the way of peace.

*Pray for China's Younou people to powerfully experience the light of Christ and follow God's path to peace.*



## GA MONG (GA-MONG) PEOPLE

## EPH 1:17, NLT

I pray that the great God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you the wisdom of His Spirit. Then you will be able to understand the secrets about Him as you know Him better.

*Pray for the Ga Mong people to have the wisdom to follow the only God who can save them and give them abundant life.*

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A Ga Mong woman

**T**hey speak their own distinctive language, follow unique customs, and differ from other people groups in their area. The government reclassified them into the She nationality, but the Ga Mong people of Guizhou Province demand their own status. They stage annual bullfights, cockfights, and feasts.

Every Ga Mong home has an ancestral altar. Any action that offends their ancestors is considered most serious. Food and drink on this altar honors the dead and is intended to ensure enough sustenance in the next life.

The 70,000 Ga Mong people now have their own Bible translation, but they have no other Christian resources. The Joshua Project reports that there are no known believers among the Ga Mong. Few have ever heard the gospel, and most have never even met a Christian. The nearest believers to the Ga Mong are the handful of small churches among the Northern Hmu and Ge peoples.

*Pray that the Ga Mong people will have the chance to hear Christian media, and that they will turn from worshipping dead ancestors to worshipping the living God.—AHS*



## LABA (LAH-BA) PEOPLE

The Joshua Project shows an impressive list of Christian resources available to the Laba people. Bible translations and teaching are in print, audio, video, and online. Yet, less than one third of one percent of nearly 300,000 Laba people are followers of Christ.



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A Laba woman

The Laba people live close to China's border with Vietnam. In some respects, they have a distinct ethnicity from people groups around them. Some scholars think they are actually Han Chinese, but others disagree.

The Laba practice ancestor worship and animism. The first Protestant missionary started work in their region in 1899. One hundred years later, the first gospel recordings were made by Global Recordings Network (GRN). However, the gospel has never taken root among them as it has among other peoples in the area. There are no known missionaries currently working among the Laba people.

Apple, Inc. recently announced its first data center in the same region as the Laba. It forms part of Apple's planned \$1 billion investment. This could potentially bring Christian Internet resources within reach of the people.

*Pray that, despite opposition, the Laba people will have access to the life-giving gospel message. Ask the Lord to give the few Laba followers of Christ creative ways of spreading His glad tidings.—AHS*

### EPH 1:18, NLT

I pray that your hearts will be able to understand. I pray that you will know about the hope given by God's call. I pray that you will see how great the things are that He has promised to those who belong to Him.

*Pray that the Laba people's hearts will be able to understand when the gospel comes to their communities.*

## LIMIN (LEE-MIN) PEOPLE

## EPH 1:19-20, NLT

I pray that you will know how great His power is for those who have put their trust in Him. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. This same power put Christ at God's right side in heaven.

*Pray that the Limin people will seek and find the power that raised Christ from the dead. Pray that they will put all their trust in Him.*

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A Limin toddler

When you were in school, did you have to grudgingly write poetry? Did you have to stand nervously in front of the class and recite a poem? Have you committed to memory any portions of biblical poetry—Job, Psalms, Proverbs or Ecclesiastes?

Limin children might not be so shy about writing poetry; their people are known for being great poets. They put a premium on writing and reciting this art form, especially romantic poetry. In addition to their artistic talents, they also possess practical skills; since the 1800s, they have had a reputation for being savvy businessmen.

The Limin people number 100,000 and have assimilated into the Han Chinese culture around them. They speak Mandarin. If asked, they would tell you that they are not religious because they do not consider animism “religion,” but they practice spirit worship and ancestor worship. There are reportedly a few hundred Limin believers in Guizhou Province. In 1999, two Limin evangelists tried to reach out to their own people, but upon receiving a cold shoulder, they turned to a neighboring people group, the Bouyei. God gave faith to 300 Bouyei!

*Pray for the Mandarin-speaking Limin people to be touched by the Holy Spirit. Pray that the people would read the Word and respond to the gospel. May they grasp the love story of God reaching out to save sinners, some of whom don't even know they need saving!—CMW*



## MO PEOPLE

DAY

22

*(The following is a fictitious account.)*

The little Mo boy sat with his father. It was unusual for his dad to stop work to talk with him, so the boy treasured this time. He was thrilled to have his father's undivided attention, but his dad's serious tone made him uneasy. "Look at what's



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A Mo grandmother

on our house door. You see the poster of our fierce gods? It is for scaring away the demons." At the mention of demons, the little boy wanted this conversation to end, but his father went on. "You see the mirror? That is for the demon to see his own ugly face, get scared, and fly away!" They both had a good laugh.

The Mo people number 14,000 and they only live in China. They are very superstitious and many adhere to Daoism. In 1995, a mission team presented the gospel to the Mo. Thirty people believed and started a home church. Praise God!

*Pray for God to increase the number of believers. Ask God to deliver these people from bondage to superstition and fear. May the Mo people sit with their heavenly Father to hear about Jesus, who is more powerful than all demons.—CMW*

### 1 CHRON 16:34, NLT

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His loving-kindness lasts forever.

*Pray that the Mo people, who are used to fierce and evil gods, will respond when they hear of the One whose loving-kindness lasts forever.*

## SHUXI NOSU (SHWAY-SHEE-NOR-SOO)

### EPH 2:1-2, NLT

At one time you were dead because of your sins. You followed the sinful ways of the world and obeyed the leader of the power of darkness. He is the devil who is now working in the people who do not obey God.

*Pray that the Shuxi Nosu people, who are currently dead because of their sins, will become alive in Christ!*

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Shuxi Nosu youths

“This land used to belong to us,” said the Shuxi Nosu father to his son. All around them, there were now fields of rice. Now father and son worked on a collective farm run by the Chinese government. They planted seeds in rice paddies.

Prior to the Communist Revolution in 1949, the Shuxi Nosu were rich landlords. This people group grew rich charging rents to their tenant farmers along with special taxes the old Chinese government had allowed them to collect. In 1949 the new communist government confiscated the lands owned by the Shuxi Nosu to create collective farms. Like elsewhere in China, rich landlords lost their land, and many were executed as enemies of the state. Those who survived were reduced to poverty.

Today their spiritual poverty is worse than their physical poverty. The Shuxi Nosu people of Guizhou Province worship and fear many spirits and demons. There are only 5,000 followers of Jesus Christ among this people group out of a population of 328,000. They have no Bible or gospel radio broadcasts in their language. They also have no JESUS Film.

*Ask God to lead believers to reach out to the Shuxi Nosu people. Pray that soon they will have the JESUS Film in their own tongue. May the Shuxi Nosu come to see Jesus Christ as the true source of salvation.—WK*

# YANGHUANG (YAHNG-HOOUNG) PEOPLE

DAY

# 24

Strangers rarely visited the Yanghuang village in Guizhou Province, and it had been that way for as long as anyone could remember. That's why anyone who visits them by jeep or by foot will likely be met by a swarm of curious people.



A Yanghuang mother and child

## PROV 1:7, NLT

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of much learning. Fools hate wisdom and teaching.

*Pray that the Yanghuang people will soon have a healthy fear of the Lord that will lead them to true wisdom.*

This people had no contact with outsiders until World War II. During that time, Mao Zedong's communist armies passed through the region controlled by the Yangchuang. Shortly after that this people group ran into the nationalist armies that were pursuing the communists.

Poverty has been a problem among the Yangchuang people for many generations. They do very little trading with their neighbors. However, China's recent prosperity is helping to lift them out of poverty.

There is no record of any missionary organization working among this people group. Generation after generation they follow their traditional religion which leads them to a Christ-less eternity.

*Ask God to lead faithful workers to reach out to the Yangchuang with the message of salvation. Pray that soon they will have their own Bible and JESUS Film, and the faith to embrace the Savior. May the Yangchuang people soon taste and see that the Lord is good. May they be discipled by those who want to see Christ's name glorified among the nations.—WK*

## MJUNIANG (JOOH-NEE-AH)

## EPH 2:18 NLV

Now all of us can go to the Father through Christ by way of the one Holy Spirit.

*Pray that the Mjuniang people will understand this verse, and eagerly seek God the Father.*

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Are these people really Chinese? wondered the visitor from Australia. He was visiting a Mjuniang village in China. A few of the villagers had red or brown hair, unlike any neighboring people groups. At meal times, they ate with spoons, not chopsticks.

This people group lives in three-level houses built on hillsides. They store grain on the top floor, live in the middle one, and give shelter to their livestock on the bottom floor.

Experts don't know where the Mjuniang originally came from. They speak a language of the Miao language family like their neighbors. But some look a little like Europeans. Some believe this people group migrated to China from Europe.

Lutheran missionaries tried to reach out to this people group with the message of salvation. They were driven out by the Chinese Civil War during the 1930s, and have not returned. Most Mjuniang people alive today have never met a Christian.

*Ask God to open the door for Christian missionaries to resume reaching out to the Mjuniang of China. Pray for them to soon have Christian materials in their own language. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ as the loving God who wants to save them from their sins. May they be discipled in the ways of Jesus Christ, and be used of Him to spread His name to others.—WK*

# LUPANSHUI MIAO (LOO-PAHN-SHWAY-MEOW)

DAY

# 26

Can a people group change their religion? Like many other peoples of China, many of the 66,000 Lupanshui Miao people were traditionally animists who worshiped spirits, but the younger generation is mostly atheistic.



Although the Lupanshui are one of the Miao groups, they speak the major dialect of Hunan, their home province. They are viewed as an anomaly within the Miao people group, preventing them from intermarrying with any of them. Today, most of the Lupanshui Miao reside in their namesake city, Lupanshui. At one time government authorities forcibly enlisted the Lupanshui Miao as soldiers and guards, turning them against other Miao peoples by making them into spies.



Difference in language isolates the Lupanshui Miao not only in terms of identity but also in regards to the spread of the gospel. Although Miao churches exist in their region, the congregations speak other languages and are therefore unable to communicate the gospel directly to this people group. There is a small number of believers in the Lupanshui Miao community; however, lack of interest in spirituality and access to the gospel message in their own dialect impedes the spread of the gospel.

*Pray for boldness among believers to share the gospel with their neighbors and for hardened, worldly hearts to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.—EC*

**PS 20:7-8, NLV**

Some trust in wagons  
and some in horses. But  
we will trust in the name  
of the Lord, our God.  
They have fallen on their  
knees. But we rise up and  
stand straight.

*May the Lupanshui Miao  
people soon put all their  
trust in the God who  
created them!*

## EASTERN GHAO-XONG (GAOW-SHONG)

### GEN 50:19-20, NLV

But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You planned to do a bad thing to me. But God planned it for good, to make it happen that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

*Pray that the suffering of the Eastern Ghao-Xong people will strengthen them when they are introduced to the God of all nations.*

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An Eastern Ghao-Xong woman

“Badly oppressed by the Chinese over a long period of time ... independent in spirit....” These are two descriptions made by missionary Ralph Covell regarding the Eastern Ghao-Xong people. He went on to say that these two factors contributed to their reluctance to adopt a new faith.

The same resilience that guarded the Ghao-Xong in the face of worldly persecution insulates them from external influences, particularly regarding spirituality. The Eastern Ghao-Xong people believe that they were created by a dragon dog-god called Pan Hu and actively worship a variety of spirits. The Ghao-Xong also worship their ancestors and rely on shamans to explain misfortunes. The shaman prescribes sacrifices in order to appease the gods and restore order.

The Ghao-Xong are set in ancient ways of life, and as a consequence, their education and health care systems remain undeveloped. Their tradition of painting pig’s blood above the doorway alludes to the Passover, and represents a redemptive analogy for faith in sacrificial blood.

*Pray that the Ghao-Xong people would put their trust in the blood of Jesus, rather than the blood of pigs. Pray that they would turn away from idols and worship the one true God.—EC*

## CHINESE MISSION EFFORTS

DAY

28

History attests that national mission movements occur during periods of economic growth, and China's economy is either the largest or



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second largest in the world, depending on what source you read. Through trials and sufferings God has blessed the church in China so that it is now in a position to bless the world. Unregistered house churches have taken the lead in a global mission effort to reach the entire world. To accomplish this vision, they want to raise up a younger generation to plant thousands of churches in cities, reach China's nearly 500 unreached minority people groups, and send out 20,000 overseas missionaries by 2030.

China has learned to count the cost and carry the cross. Openly declaring oneself a Christian can lead to death among certain people groups in China. New believers are often asked if they are willing to be persecuted and possibly killed if they do not renounce Jesus as their savior. They are walking into a life of hardship. The underground church has learned from the earlier mistakes of the Back to Jerusalem movement with its vision to send 100,000 missionaries to the Middle East. They are taking into account the lessons learned. Twenty thousand missionaries went to China in the last 200 years. Now Chinese believers want to repay that debt.

*Pray for God's vision for China to bless the world to materialize into a great sending base that disciples the nations by 2030.—JS*

**PROV 22:4, NIV**

Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.

*Pray that the Chinese church will be humble before the Lord, always listening to His heart, and obeying Him.*

## WESTERN XIBE (SHEE-BA) PEOPLE

## 1 COR 4:12-13, NET

We do hard work, toiling with our own hands. When we are verbally abused, we respond with a blessing, when persecuted, we endure, when people lie about us, we answer in a friendly manner. We are the world's dirt and scum, even now.

*Pray that the abused Xibe peoples will soon joyfully turn their hearts to Christ just as the first century believers did in the time of Paul the Apostle.*

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A Western Xibe toddler

Sometimes people groups move to find a better place to live or care for their livestock, but other times people are forced to move for political reasons. This

was the case with the Western Xibe people of northwestern China next to the Kazakhstan border. The Eastern Xibe people live in northeastern China. Three thousand Xibe were forcibly marched across China in 1763 to man a garrison for the powerful Manchus. A two-year march was turned into a one-year grueling journey that caused many deaths and most infants to be abandoned along the way. Today's Xibe number about 55,000 and are descendants of that death march. Although the Western Xibe live in a region that is predominantly Muslim, they have resisted conversion and remain mostly shamanistic.

They are known for their excellent horsemanship, probably due to the Mongolian influence. Their iron-tipped arrowheads have been known to pierce iron helmets. A recent visitor to their region noted, "Many Xibe have adopted the religion of their Han neighbors which means that some have even become Christians!"

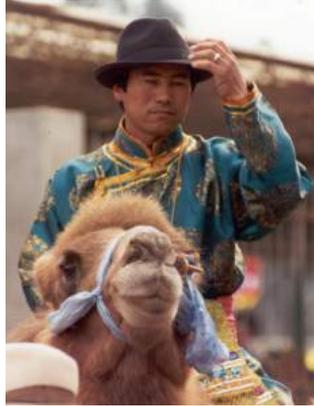
*Pray for this little nucleus of Xibe believers to grow into a strong church planting movement.—JS*

## ALXA MONGOLS (AL-SHA-MON-GOLS)

DAY

30

Camels have been called the ships of the desert. The remarkable animal has been equipped by God to survive in this harsh environment. The Alxa Mongols of China's northern area close to Mongolia depend on the camel for their very existence. There are an estimated 200,000 camels in the region. Camel milk is a food source. It can be turned into cheese, butter and yogurt, and is also fermented into an alcoholic drink. Life is hard for the Alxa Mongols and there is a high infant mortality rate. Therefore, a child's birthday is not celebrated until he reaches his third birthday.



An Alxa Mongol man on his camel

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### MATT 19:26, NET

Jesus looked at them and replied, "This is impossible for mere humans, but for God all things are possible."

*Pray that God will do the impossible, and break through to the Alxa Mongols of China.*

The Alxa Mongols live much as many other Mongol groups, but there is one important difference that sets them apart. They are fervent followers of Islam and are ostracized by other Mongol groups who presumably resisted conversion. Because of their social and religious isolation, they will be one of the most difficult people groups to reach with the message of Jesus.

*Pray for God to call the Alxa Mongols to Himself and transform their communities so that Christ is glorified. Pray that soon there will be a disciple-making movement among them that will affect not only their communities, but others as well.—JS*

**1 SAM 2:8, NET**

He lifts the weak from the dust; He raises the poor from the ash heap to seat them with princes and to bestow on them an honored position. The foundations of the earth belong to the Lord, and He has placed the world on them.

*Pray that the Sichuan Mongols will hear and understand that it is the Lord who is sovereign, and the only one to be obeyed.*



**A** prince without a kingdom! Sounds like a fairytale, but there is a deposed prince in a tiny remote village in Sichuan Province of China. La Ping Chu is the descendant of Mongol warlords that ruled this tiny region from 1253 AD until communist rule began. The communists took over and deposed him, but were afraid to kill him and make him

a martyr, so they sent him to a re-education camp for several years. He is quite old, but still alive today and still respected by many older Mongols of the area. There are no known followers of Christ in this region, but we are told that foreign visitors a few years ago visited La Ping Chu and offered to pray for the prince who was so bent over from a stomach ulcer that he could not stand upright. He was healed!

The Sichuan Mongols are completely surrounded by unreached people groups on every side. Gospel radio broadcast in Chinese will have little effect because they do not speak Chinese, only a peripheral Mongolian language. Most Sichuan Mongols are farmers or fishermen and follow Buddhism. They are still hoping someday their kingdom will be restored to them.

*Pray that the Sichuan Mongols will hear of the heavenly kingdom that they can inherit when they hear of Jesus, the savior who died for them.—JS*