

April 1 – Buddhism – Scripture verse for the day: 1 Corinthians 10:14

The Tai Lue are Hinayana Buddhists (as opposed to China's majority Mahayana Buddhists). Buddhism runs strong in most villages, especially among the older generations. The heart of Buddhism is a life of good works done on earth that will ensure a better life in the life after death. Good deeds wipe away bad deeds, sacrifices appease the gods and can even bring good luck. Pray that Buddhism would be seen for what it is: an empty religion that cannot truly wipe away their bad deeds. Pray that they would understand how Jesus is the true savior who can wipe away their sins.

April 2 - Idols – Psalm 115:2-9

This Psalm sums it up well. The idols here are just made by the hands of men. They are not the true, living God. Pray that the Tai Lue might come to know the True and Living God. Pray that they would destroy their idols and not be bound to them.

April 3 - Monks – 1 Corinthians 3:19

Most boys become monks for a least a short period of time, to make merit for their family, to understand the scriptures of the Tai Lue, and hopefully gain enlightenment. Monks have great respect and authority. They also understand the Tai Lue culture and have great influence in community decision making. Pray that God would choose some monks for himself, and that they would in turn lead others in their communities to know God. Thank God for those he already has chosen to follow Him!

April 4 - Pagodas – Romans 12:1-3

Pagodas are sacred places. People go to them to celebrate festivals or make offerings and sacrifices to make merit. The Tai Lue have mixed animism with Buddhism to create a religion of fear and superstition. Good spirits are welcomed through the flying of flags and the tinkling of bells. Mirrors are thought to drive away evil spirits, and offerings atone for bad deeds of the past. All of these things keep the people in bondage and fear, instead of experiencing the love of God. Pray that the Tai Lue might be set free from fear and bondage and that they would experience the true joy of knowing freedom in Christ Jesus.

April 5 - Temples – Acts 7:48-51

Most villages have a local temple. The Tai Lue love beauty, so the temples are decorated ornately with symbols of their culture, including dragons and peacocks. Painted on the walls of many temples are the scenes from Buddhist scriptures depicting the story of good and evil, between what is right and what is wrong. There are fearful images of evil spirits waging war against good spirits; there are reminders of a day of judgment and an afterlife. Many people can't read the Tai Lue texts, but do have respect for them. Many new temples are now being built in Xishuangbanna, with the money coming from Thailand. This is because they view southern China as

spiritually weak and are trying to fervently restore the Buddhist faith. Pray that churches of the True and Living God would spring up, instead of temples. Pray that the evil that dwells in these places might be banished and spiritual strongholds might be torn down.

April 6 - Spiritual strongholds - 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Please pray against spiritual strongholds in this area. There has yet to be a major advance of the gospel in this area. Spiritual warfare and principalities are strong here; Buddhism has a grip on many of the people's hearts, strangling out the gospel before it has a chance to take root. Animism and fear of spirits also can choke out the gospel. Pray that Satan and his demons would be driven from the strongholds that they possess.

April 7 - Common problems with sin – Psalm 51

The Tai Lue can get involved in many areas of sin including: drinking; drugs; KTV (karaoke bars); prostitution; domestic abuse; adultery; wasting money; wanting and chasing after money, etc...Please pray that these vices would be shown for what they really are...empty things that they use to try to fill the void in their life. Pray that they would find joy and contentment in Jesus. Pray that they would have the strength to turn from these evil things. Pray that believers would have the strength to stay away from these things.

April 8 – Chasing after money – Mark 4:19

There is pressure for those living in the villages around Xishuangbanna to have a big, modern house. Some Tai Lue have sold their land to build their new big house...but then don't have any money left. Because they don't plan ahead for the future well, many of the people might not have money to support their family once they have sold their land. Many are now just thinking about money and how to get more of it. This has choked out the gospel in some hearts, and made others non-responsive. They don't see a need for the gospel if they are happy with money. Pray that they would become disillusioned with the false sense of security that money brings, and instead find a need for contentment in Christ.

April 9 – Wisdom for foreigners – Romans 10:14-15

Pray for the foreigners living in these countries. Pray that they would have the strength to press on in light of discouraging times. Pray that doors would be opened to serve the Tai Lue. Pray that visas might be given. Pray that “rich” foreigners would know how to best use the resources God has given them. Pray that foreigners would be unified and that they will find ways to best come along side of the Tai Lue to serve them.

April 10 - Food - John 6:22-71

Inflation has been rising fast in Asia. In some areas, 20–100% inflation is common for some things per year. The poor living in this region can spend most of their income just on trying to feed their families and housing. Jesus is the True Bread of Life. Pray that the Tai Lue might be satisfied by knowing him and the nourishment he can give their souls.

April 11 - NGO work – James 1:27

NGO's (non-profit type organizations) can have an effective presence in this area by caring for the poor and sharing resources and knowledge. Pray that both the Chinese and foreigners working in them might effectively show Jesus' love. Pray that the governments of the countries that they are in might be willing to have them working there. Pray for the financial resources the NGO's need in order to keep on doing the work God has given them to do.

April 12 – To hear from God during this special time of fasting - Daniel 10:2-14a

Thank God that during this time of fasting, like the 21 days Daniel spent fasting and mourning, Father is releasing his mighty angels on behalf of this region. Ask that Christians living in these areas would be able to hear and understand Father's words and receive his visions during this special time. Rejoice that we are greatly beloved by God, and that he hears our prayers and responds to them as we humble ourselves before him. Ask him to give his people increased understanding of what he wants to do here.

April 13 - Evangelism – Matthew 28:19-21

There are still many who have never heard the gospel. Please pray that God would move the hearts of the people in this region. There are some efforts at evangelism by the local churches and believers, but this area has yet to really see a self-sustaining and reproducing Tai Lue church planting movement lead by the Tai Lue.

April 14 - Water splashing festival - John 4:10

Water splashing festival is usually celebrated from April 13th to April 15th every year in Jinghong. This is the main Tai Lue (Dai) festival and it brings in people from all over China to celebrate it. Splashing water on one's self is meant to symbolize the washing away of dirt, sorrow and demons of the old year and it brings in the happiness of the New Year. The more you get splashed, the more luck you will have in the coming year. Water is very sacred to the Tai Lue. Pray that they would see Jesus as the true and living water. Pray that streams of abundance might flow into this area and people would turn to God.

April 15 - Open hearts as to many opposed and hard hearts - Psalm 63:1-5

The Tai Lue are not very open to the gospel. Buddhism and newly found wealth can make it hard for God's word to take root. Pray for open hearts, and that Christians in this area might boldly share God's word. Pray that the Word might take root and be firmly established.

April 16 - Persecution – I Peter 1:3-9

Believers have faced persecution in this region for many years. Although it is not as bad as in the past, local believers still have trouble, especially in their hometowns and when with their families. Pray that they would be given strength to endure. Pray that they would be witnesses for Christ. Pray that these trials and tribulations might be a chance for them to grow in their faith.

April 17 - Trained leaders who are spiritually mature - Ephesians 4:7-16

Thank God for pouring out His gifts on His people. Ask that the saints in this place would be well equipped for the work, as well as for building up one another. Pray for deeper unity of faith. Ask that God's people here wouldn't be susceptible to trickery, deceit, or false doctrine. Pray that truth would be spoken in love. Pray that the Bride of this region would grow up and be prepared for her Bridegroom because every member of the body is effectively doing its share. Pray for both the local leaders and foreigners in South East Asia, that they would all grow into maturity in Christ.

April 18 - Unity – Ephesians 4:1-6

Pray that God's people in this region would bear with one another in love, exercising humility, gentleness, and patience. Ask that his people would endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Pray that Christians would be able to work together, and not worry about people becoming more important than they are. Rejoice in the oneness of Christ's body. Declare that he is one Lord, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all of his people.

April 19 – Thank God for who he is and what He is doing – Exodus 15:11-18

As the time of fasting comes to an end, use this day to praise and thank the Lord. Praise the Lord that there is no one like him among the gods: majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders. Praise him that he has chosen to make this region his abode, his sanctuary. Thank him that he is bringing in his people and planting them on these mountains. Thank him for what he is already doing in this area of the world! Thank him that in his steadfast love he is leading the people whom he has redeemed; by his strength he is guiding them to his abode. Praise him that the enemy trembles, is

dismayed, melts away, and is in terror and dread because of the greatness of his arm. Praise the One who reigns forever and ever!

April 20 – Discernment for local believers - Psalm 37:1-7

Pray for wisdom and discernment for the local believers. They often have to make hard choices when it comes to how to live as Christians in their local culture. Deciding what to do or not to or to participate in a certain ceremony can cause much stress in their lives. Pray that believers would not compromise on the things that set them apart, yet would still be able to be a good witness for Christ in their circles of influence.

April 21 – Tithing – II Corinthians 9:6-15

One of the problems that keeps the Tai Lue churches from becoming self-sustaining is that many of the Christians are either old or young. The older, retired people depend on their kids for money and the younger Christians also don't have much money. Many times, a village will only have a few people come to Christ. This makes it difficult for them to gather and become self sustaining, especially if they are older and can't read. Thus they are not able to tithe much, if any at all. This has kept evangelism efforts largely depending on foreign funds to keep going. Pray that entire families might come to Christ, and give abundantly out of their possessions. Pray that the Tai Lue churches might be able to support themselves.

April 22 - Bible translation and radio broadcasts - Psalms 119:105

The Bible (New Testament only) has been translated into the Tai Lue language, but it was done many decades ago. Thus it is out-dated and needs to be revised. Efforts are underway to revise it, as well as translate the Old Testament. The revised New Testament has already been completed. Pray that the Tai Lue might be able to read God's word in their heart language. Pray that they might be able to use these newly translated Bibles to reach more of their people. Radio broadcasts are also available for the Dai to listen to. Pray for funding for the broadcasts to continue, as well as for people to listen to them and be receptive to what they hear.

April 23 - Literacy – 2 Timothy 3:16

Many Tai Lue are not literate in the Tai script, so literacy efforts to help the Tai Lue read their own language are also underway. Pray that the local believers would be diligent and have the will power to keep studying, so they can read their own language. Pray that they would effectively use their own language to share God's word.

April 24 - Tai Lue of China - James 5:7-8

There are about 800,000 Tai Lue in China, many of which are located in the Xishuangbanna prefecture. Only a few thousand are believers (less than 1%).

They are an official minority in China, although the Chinese lump them together with other related groups of people (like the Tai kao or Tai Nua) and give them all the name “Dai”. Thank God for the precious fruit that he is bringing forth in this region. Ask that his people would wait patiently for him with steadfast hearts.

April 25 – Tai Lue of Burma - Ezekiel 36:12-15

There are some Tai Lue also located in Burma (Myanmar). Rejoice that Father is causing his people to walk on these mountains and take possession of this place as an inheritance from him. Thank him that this region will no longer be known as a place of devouring and bereavement, stumbling or shame; instead it will be known as a place of restoration and joy, confidence and honor.

April 26 – Tai Lue of Vietnam - Isaiah 41:17-20

Thank God that he has heard the thirsty cries of the poor and needy of this region. Rejoice in his promise that he will not forsake his people. Thank him that he is opening his rivers, fountains, pools, and springs in desolate, wilderness places. Rejoice that he is providing his people in this region with something that is like shade trees in a dry, barren place: plentiful relief and unanticipated comfort. Pray that his great work would be seen, recognized, and understood. Praise him for what he is creating!

April 27 – Tai Lue of Thailand – Psalm 66

Pray for the needy souls of this land. Buddhism is firmly entrenched in many people’s lives. Like the Tai Lue in China, Christianity has been around for a while, but has yet to make an impact in the lives of many people. Pray that God would soften hearts and go ahead and prepare people to be receptive.

April 28 – Tai Lue of Laos - Psalm 72:8-20

Rejoice in God's dominion. Pray that all those who dwell in this region will bow before him—that all the nations would serve him. Thank God that he redeems and delivers the poor, the needy, the neglected, the oppressed. Rejoice that there will be an abundant harvest on the tops of these mountains and that those who live in the cities will flourish in him. Ask that all the nations of this region would be blessed in him and call him blessed. Praise him that only he does wondrous things! Let the whole earth be filled with his glory!

April 29 - Thank God for what he has done and will do - Deuteronomy 11:10-12

Thank the Lord that he is giving his people possession of this region in his time. Praise him that this is a place where he will do the watering, sending rain from heaven to make it fruitful. Thank him for his care for this land—that his eyes

are always upon it. Thank God for the work he has done here already. Pray that Tai Lue churches would spring up in God's time.

April 30 – That all peoples of this region would know God - Psalm 67

Thank God for his mercy and blessing—that he has caused his face to shine upon this region. Rejoice that His way is being made known among all the nations of this place. Ask for all the peoples of this region to praise him: that all the nations would be glad in him and sing to him for joy. Praise him for his righteous judgment and that he governs the nations. Pray that this region would yield her increase and that all the ends of the earth would fear him. Pray for healthy, reproducing churches among the Tai Lue. Pray that the Tai Lue would eventually be able to reach out to the other people groups of this region that have never heard the gospel.