

3

1

DAYS  
OF  
*Prayer*

# DAY 1

## Peace

The Tai Lue language does not have a word for peace. This is because, they do not truly understand what true peace is. Their lives are full of fear. Every decision, relationship, and cultural practice is connected to fear. Their fear is justified, because they are under Satan's control. They are in bondage to spirits, death, and judgment. No matter what they do, they do not have any way to get free from these, so they have no way of attaining peace, unless...



### **Pray :**

Ask God to reveal Himself to the Tai Lue. He is the Prince of Peace, the Author of peace, and the Giver of peace. Pray that they let go of the false security that comes from money and religion.

For our team, pray that we daily enter God's peace, deeply experience it and reflect it to those we are serving.

*So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.  
(Judges 6:24)*

# DAY 2

## Many gods



The Tai Lue worship many gods and spirits. What they worship comes from their own imagination and environment. They worship trees, land, water, mountains, and many other things, sacrificing to them as well. Regardless of whether what they are worshiping is a miracle of nature or something of their own making, they label it all as "god". If you ask them who is the "Greatest God", they will answer it is the largest image of Buddha they have seen. The most commonly worshiped idol they regularly worship, though, is the idol that is in their village temple.

### **Pray:**

Ask God to show Himself to the Tai Lue as real so they can truly know Him. Even though demons are working hard to keep the Tai Lue from knowing God, we know that our Almighty God is far above any power or spirit or idol.

For our team, pray that we can clearly communicate the awesomeness of the One True God to the Tai Lue in word as well as deed.

*This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens...  
(Genesis 2:4)*

## DAY 3

# Sanctification

The Tai Lue are Buddhist from birth. They have no need to study or understand their religion in order to be Buddhist. Their perspective is that the most important detail about their belief is their own heart's conviction on any given point. The only goal of their religion is to gain merit or blessing. Not understanding what they believe or why they believe it is considered "normal", so many Tai Lue don't ever truly understand what it is their religion truly teaches. Once Tai Lue believe in Jesus, the concept of spiritual growth, life change, and sanctification are all extremely difficult to understand. This is a significant obstacle in Tai Lue people really knowing God. They don't want to truly know God personally, and if they are encouraged to, they often feel pressured.



### **Pray:**

Ask God to transform the Tai Lue worldview, opening their hearts to becoming more and more like God through the Holy Spirit's work (sanctification).

For our team, pray for wisdom in how to lovingly encourage believers to continue to grow in their faith and know God more personally.

*Keep my decrees and follow them.  
I am the Lord, who makes you holy.  
(Leviticus 20:8)*

### **Pray:**

Ask God to continue to reveal Himself to the Tai Lue through miracles, and also give them a heart to love and honor Him.

For our team, pray that we have wisdom to know how to help the Tai Lue understand who Jesus is and truly repent when they are miraculously healed.

*He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."  
(Exodus 15:26)*

## DAY 4

# Healing

When Jesus was on earth, He simultaneously announced that the Kingdom of God is near and healed the sick. He taught us to follow His example. We have seen some Tai Lue people miraculously healed from illness. Of those who are healed, however, many believe but don't truly repent, and others don't believe, even though they know Jesus healed their illness. Some who are healed from illness believe, but then complain and leave the faith when they encounter troubles.



## DAY 5

# Light of the World

In Tai Lue villages, they have an annual festival to worship their village's spirit. This festival differs in each village, some villages may only hold the festival every couple years. Regardless of the specifics, the individual customs of each village are extremely important. If anyone breaks these customs, the village will not receive the spirit's protection. Outsiders are typically not allowed into the village before or during this festival, nor are the people from the village allowed to leave. Failure to follow these rules by any individual results in the individual being required to sacrifice an animal to the spirit as an apology.



### **Pray:**

Ask God to shine His light into the Tai Lue culture. Ask Him to give them understanding about how dangerous it is for them to be in opposition to His Spirit, because this only hurts themselves. As God's light shines into their darkness, they will be able to see their own pain and enter His healing light.

For our team, pray that we live in the light daily and continuously shine among the Tai Lue in every situation.

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world.*

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*(John 8:12)*



## DAY 6

# Savior

The Tai Lue have an understanding of sin in their culture. Every new year they will try to wash their sins away by pouring out water. They have a story of a savior coming to save them from their sins. They know they need to do something to resolve their sin, but do not know how to truly be clean.

### **Pray:**

Ask God to help the Tai Lue truly feel uncomfortable with their sinful state, so that they can really desire to resolve their problem of sin. Ask Jesus to reveal Himself as the Savior they are waiting for.

For our team, pray that the Good News of salvation fills our lives with such joy that it can not be denied.

*...the blood of Jesus,  
His Son, purifies us  
from all sin.  
(1John 1:7)*

## DAY 7

# Father

The Tai Lue do not have personal relationships with the the spirits they worship, instead they are full of fear. They work to appease these spirits so they can be protected from harm or bad luck. The idea that there is a loving Father who wants to build a relationship with them is a concept that does not fit into their worldview.



### Pray:

Ask God to reveal Himself to the Tai Lue as their loving and merciful Father. Ask Him to put a longing for that kind of love into their hearts.

For our team, pray that we experience the love of our Father more deeply, and creatively and clearly communicate it to the Tai Lue.

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to son-ship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:15-16)*

## DAY 8

# Wealth

The Tai Lue place an extremely high value on money and wealth. The most important job in their lives is to earn money. To this end, they work hard every day, but never feel they have earned enough. Tai Lue women often wear large gold necklaces and earrings to show off their wealth. This value system is so deep that even Tai Lue believers often choose to make money rather than meet to fellowship with other believers or learn the Word of God.



### Pray:

Ask God to break down the stronghold of money in the Tai Lue people's hearts so they can be free to fully love and serve God.

For our team, pray that God leads us in new ways to help Tai Lue believers grow in this area.

*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Mathew 6:24)*



## DAY 9

# Open Homes

The Tai Lue people are known for hospitality and pride themselves in welcoming strangers into their homes for snacks or a meal. This has helped our team and short term teams to meet people and look for people of peace. There are many homes that have welcomed God's people and heard His word.



### Pray:

Pray that God's word will take root in households and His kingdom grow in whole communities.

For our team, ask that the homes that have been welcoming us and hearing the word will encounter Christ and surrender all to follow Him and help their people follow Him.

*"Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"*  
(Luke 10:8-9)

### Pray:

Ask the Spirit to move in the Tai Lue and break down this barrier in their hearts.

For our team, pray that He gives us wisdom in how to walk with them in this journey.

*"You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."*  
(Leviticus 20:26)



## DAY 10

# Conformity

The Tai Lue are taught from the time they are young that it is wrong to be different. Right and wrong are largely determined by if the community is doing it or not. This mindset deeply impacts their decisions, especially on following Jesus. The most common reason for not following Jesus isn't not believing, it is that nobody else does. This isn't only for the initial decision to follow, but also for their continued growth with Jesus.

## DAY 11

# Family

Many relationships in Tai Lue families are broken. Having never experienced true love from Jesus has resulted in a distorted view of family. Children are often being sent to boarding schools and marital unfaithfulness is common.

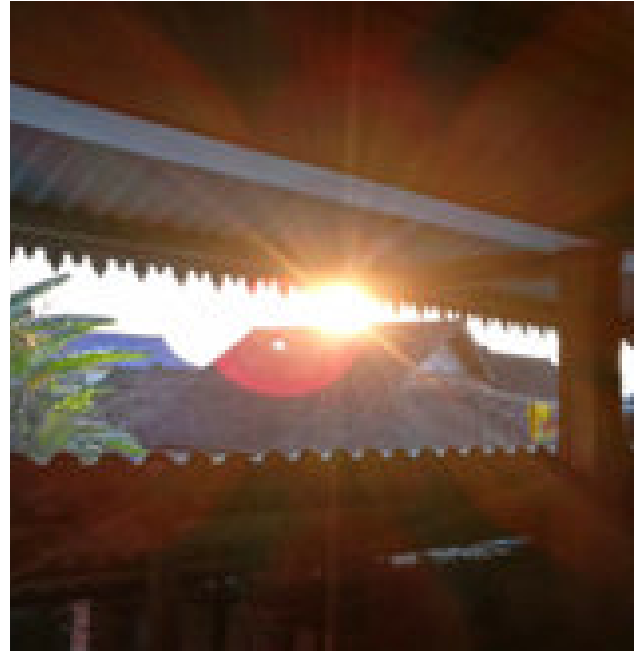


### **Pray:**

Ask God that whole families would turn to Jesus and receive healing in their relationships.

For our team, also pray for believing local men to join our team who can effectively reach Tai Lue men.

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*  
(Psalm 68:5-6)



*This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*  
(Jeremiah 31:33)

### **Pray:**

Ask God that the Tai Lue will choose to believe the Truth and experience worldview transformation.

For our team, pray that we will recognize the lies and know how to shine Truth in.

## DAY 12

# Worldview

There are many areas in Tai Lue culture and worldview that prepare their hearts to understand Jesus and accept the Good News. But there are also some deep lies that are extremely difficult for them to lay aside for the truth. These lies bind them and stunt their spiritual growth.

## DAY 13

# Blessing

The thing the Tai Lue desire most is blessing. They believe that blessing can outweigh or erase their sin, so the core of their temple rituals is surrounded by how they can receive blessing.

### *Pray :*

Ask that God will show them that it is only in Him that we can truly receive blessing.

For our team, pray that we be truly willing to be the part of blessing Jesus wants to give them.

*Blessed is the people of whom this is true; blessed is the people whose God is the Lord.*

*(Psalm 144:15)*



## DAY 14

# Bridges

The Tai Lue are proud of their ethnic identity and although many young people are losing their language and culture in the cities, in the villages language and culture is very much upheld.



### *Pray:*

Ask that outsiders can build bridges to help God's word enter Tai Lue culture.

For our team, ask God to help our teammates learn the Tai Lue language and culture and our Tai Lue co-workers to powerfully relate to their people in new districts.

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



## DAY 15

# Harvest

The Tai Lue villages that still grow wet rice know that if the soil is bad, they won't have a good harvest.

### *Pray:*

Ask that God will truly open the hearts of the Tai Lue people and that those who come to know Him will go and make disciples of their people for His glory.

For our team, pray that we know how to encourage others to keep sowing and trust God to keep preparing the soil.



*Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.  
(Mark 4:8)*

### *Pray:*

Ask God to help the Tai Lue understand that while reincarnation is not able to save them, there is hope in the One Who already died to pay for their sins.

For our team, pray for wisdom to know how to clearly explain the Source of true hope.

*Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment  
(Hebrews 9:27)*

## DAY 16

# Hope

The Tai Lue know they have sin and that sin must be resolved somehow. They know nothing they do can pay the price for their sin except die. In their worldview, they believe they will have to die and be reincarnated until someday it is enough to pay for all their sin. The Tai Lue have a saying that if you could be reborn as a mosquito over and over that would be best because you could die fast and so be rid of your sin more rapidly. Even that is impossible to them, however, so they see their spiritual state as fully without hope.



## DAY 17

# Spiritual Warfare

Whether one is a local worker, cross-cultural worker, or simply a follower of Jesus here, all face significant levels of daily spiritual opposition. Examples of spiritual attacks here are nightmares, explainable illnesses, abnormal levels of conflict with others, and unreasonable feelings of high anxiety and fear. This opposition continues to significantly impact the Tai Lue work. Many people leave, stop serving, and even leave the faith because of these attacks.

### *Pray:*

Ask the Holy Spirit to continuously pour out on Tai Lue believers boldness, faith, and perseverance for what God is doing in the Tai Lue.

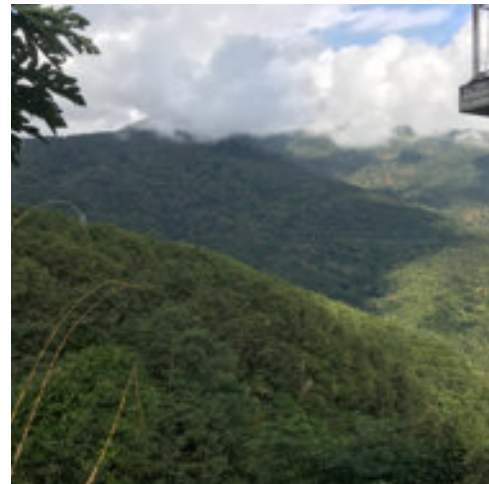
For our team, pray that we stand in unity and not allow the enemy to gain a foothold.

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.  
(2 Corinthians 10:4)*

## DAY 18

# Unseen God

Tai Lue believers are often made fun of by their neighbors saying, "How could you believe in something you cannot see or touch?" The Tai Lue value what is tangible and can be seen as most sure and real, anything not seen can not be truly certain of existence. Believers often do not know how or have the courage to answer their neighbors' ridicule and so avoid confrontation by not sharing their faith at all.



### *Pray:*

Ask God to give the believers a bold but humble compassion for their relatives and neighbors, demonstrated by their clear and consistent sharing of their hope.

For our team, pray that we know how to help Tai Lue believers lovingly answer questions about the hope they have.

*For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?  
(Romans 8:24)*

## DAY 19

# Persecution

Jesus told us that following Him would bring suffering on this earth. Historically, whenever persecution came, it brought great growth and maturity in believers. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for the Tai Lue. Following Jesus for a Tai Lue person can mean being disowned or thrown out of their own village. This has led to deep fear in Tai Lue believers' hearts in regard to following Jesus.



### *Pray:*

Ask God to give our Tai Lue brothers and sisters boldness in the face of persecution. Ask God to open their eyes to see persecution as an opportunity for further sharing the Good News and as a small price to pay for the joy of knowing Jesus.

For our team, pray for wisdom for how to truly understand how to encourage the believers as they are being persecuted.

*...indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.  
(Romans 8:17b)*

### *Pray:*

Ask God to free the Tai Lue from the heart of religion and the lies that have blinded them for so long. Ask God to help them discern truth compared to lies, recognizing that only truth can bring freedom.

For our team, pray that each of us would know how to share clearly the Word of God and not include our own perspective or religious customs.

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.  
(Micah 6:8)*

## DAY 20

# Religion

The Tai Lue religious combination of Buddhism and spirit appeasement is used by the enemy to deeply injure the Tai Lue's ability to clearly understand the Good News. The lies they have believed for generations are so deeply binding to a person's way of thinking that after someone believes it is still extremely difficult for him/her to be able to set aside religion in exchange for the freedom of the truth. Instead, Tai Lue people often try to apply their original religious customs onto their following Jesus. For example, a person who once fed their household's spirits before following Jesus might try to "feed Jesus" when he starts to want to follow the Gospel.

## DAY 21

# Drugs

Addiction is a significant issue among Tai Lue men. There is not much expectation in Tai Lue society for what men “should do”, nor are there many options for men to do together. Many men do work, but when they are not working they can often be found drinking or getting high. While it is not considered “preferable” in society, it is considered completely normal and expected. Drugs are fairly easily accessible and many Tai Lue men also deal to make money. While efforts by the law are made to keep this under control, it is the heart that is the real problem.

### **Pray:**

Ask God to free Tai Lue men from the bondage of drugs.

For our team, pray for wisdom for us to know what part He wants us to have in this significant barrier to people knowing Jesus.

*He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains.  
(Psalms 107:14)*



*Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.  
(1 Corinthians 7:17)*

## DAY 22

# Divorce Over Unmarried

Marriage is extremely important to the Tai Lue, not getting married indicates some sort of “problem” with the person. In their worldview, it is better to marry someone they don't truly love, and later divorce them, than to never marry. Even within the believers, this perspective remains. Because there are so few believers, many will choose to marry non-believers for fear of never getting married. Understandably, this worldview brings out a high divorce rate among the Tai Lue.

### **Pray:**

Ask God to transform the Tai Lue worldview on marriage so they can truly honor marriage the way God intended, loving each other and desiring to live life together.

For our team, pray that we know how to help believers grow in this area, so they reflect Jesus through their marriage.

## DAY 23

# Sacrifice

The Tai Lue are Theravada Buddhist, and as such they regularly make sacrifices. Some of their sacrifices are for getting rid of sin and others are for receiving merit. If a Tai Lue person is asked if they know for sure their sacrifices are helping them, they will answer that they don't know, but must keep following their traditions because that is what their ancestors told them to do. They do not make sacrifices out of hope.



### Pray:

Ask God to open the Tai Lue people's eyes to see that Jesus' sacrifice already paid the price for their in. Only by trusting in Jesus can their sins be washed away and be made right with God.

For our team, pray that the Holy Spirit leads us to know how to use the Tai Lue worldview to explain the hope of Jesus' sacrifice.

*And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*  
(Hebrews 10:10)

### Pray:

Ask God to help the Tai Lue use their new year festival to praise Jesus for what He did for them during that time, two thousand years ago.

For our team, pray that we can creatively use this annual opportunity to help the Tai Lue know Jesus more.

*Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."*  
(John 7:38)

## DAY 24

# New Year

The Tai Lue New Year is traditionally the same time as Passover. This is a very helpful bridge for the Gospel. During their new year, they pour water on each other and on their idols to represent washing away sins and receiving blessing. Water is sacred to the Tai Lue. It represents life and cleanliness. But they truly need to know the Giver of Living Water, Jesus Christ.





## DAY 25

### Buddhist Lent

Every year the Tai Lue have three months of lent from July through October, when the monks are required to remain in the temple. During this time, the Tai Lue have special ceremonies every seven to eight days to earn merit at the temple. They are also not allowed to marry, hold house warming parties, celebrate a newborn's reaching one month of age, or do anything else that might require a monk's presence. The start and end of this period are both celebrated with a lot of food and drinking.



#### Pray:

Ask God to help the monks during this time as they memorize scripture, see that what they are doing truly has no benefit, and start seeking the Truth, Jesus.

For our team, pray that God gives us special creativity in how to use this time to bridge to Jesus.

*So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*  
(Luke 11:9)

## DAY 26

### Shame

The Tai Lue extremely value face. Because they were traditionally the ruling class, they desire to clearly show off their status. If just one person in the village buys something that nobody else has, everyone else has to have it as well, or they will feel ashamed. If one person builds a new house, everyone else must also build a house of equal or bigger size. This results in constant comparison and significant pressure on Tai Lue families.

#### Pray:

Ask God to break down the Tai Lue's pride and materialism, seeing that their value is in God, not what they own.

For our team, pray that we have wisdom in how to confront this barrier.

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*  
(Romans 14:17)

## DAY 27

# Neighbors

There are many needs in Tai Lue communities, but unless those in need are immediate family members, Tai Lue people will not readily help each other. The Tai Lue worldview says, "One's needs are their own." This means it is not anyone else's job to care for those in need. This extends into believers who see their salvation as their own and do not feel a natural burden to share their hope with others who need it.

### *Pray:*

Ask God to give the Tai Lue a heart of compassion that wants to offer Jesus' love in relevant ways when they see people in need.

For our team, pray that we can be a good example to Tai Lue believers in this.

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*The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*  
(Mark 12:31a)

### *Pray:*

Ask the God to help the Tai Lue believers desire to be a light in their families and communities, so that everyone can see that Jesus is the Tai Lue's God.

For our team, pray that God would help us know how to walk with Tai Lue believers effectively in this journey of contextually living out the Good News of Jesus Christ in their daily life.

*"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*  
(John 4:21-24)

## DAY 28

# Contextualization

Tai Lue Christians often first encounter Jesus through people who are not Tai Lue and do not know much about the Tai Lue culture or worldview. As a result, Tai Lue believers typically cannot differentiate another people group's culture and the Good News of Jesus. They do not know they can pray, worship, and honor God in the way He created them as Tai Lue. Whether it is in celebrations of marriage, a new child, house warming, New Years, or even funerals, Tai Lue believers do not know how to communicate the hope they have in Jesus through their own culture so they can be a light in their family and community.



## DAY 29

# Stories

In the Tai Lue culture, stories are how morality and culture are passed down through generations. There are many stories about how to get blessing, how to love parents, and the effects of sin. Consequently, the most effective way to help Tai Lue understand Biblical Truth is to share the Story of the Bible. In addition to the benefit of sharing Scripture as a story for the Tai Lue to personally understand, this approach also equips believers to be able to clearly and accurately share with others.

### Pray:

Ask God to help Tai Lue believers not only want to know more about God's Word, but also apply it to their lives personally. Pray also that they would grow in boldness and wisdom in sharing Bible stories with others. May the Tai Lue truly be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the water covers the sea!

For our team, pray that God would continually give us wisdom as we choose Bible stories to teach and record.



*...for the earth will be  
filled with the knowledge  
of the Lord as the waters  
cover the sea.  
(Isaiah 11:9b)*

## DAY 30

# Child Rearing

### Pray:

Ask God to bring healing in the relationships between parents and children through whole families knowing how their Heavenly Father's loves, engages with, and teaches them.

For our team, pray that God would show us how to walk with believers in how to relate to and nurture their children.

*Start children off on the way they  
should go, and even when they  
are old they will not turn from it.  
(Proverbs 22:6)*

The concept of training up a child in the way they should go is not deeply set in the Tai Lue worldview. "Natural Child Rearing" is the perspective of most parents. They often say that what a child chooses is their business and not the parents' responsibility, given that the parents verbally informed the child of what the right choice was. This greatly effects the relationship between the children and parents, causing many insecurities and feelings of neglect in children. Boarding school is also extremely common, adding to the relational strain in families.



## DAY 31

# Churches

There is still no fully healthy, reproducing Tai Lue church. Believers are largely still worshipping God using customs and language that is not their own. Part of the reason for this is that the Tai Lue love large group gatherings, and there are too few believers in each village for them to feel like they have a community. Instead, Tai Lue believers join churches that use languages and cultural practices that the Tai Lue do not understand or misinterpret. As a result, they are not receiving worldview transformation, their spiritual growth is stunted, and they have no idea how to communicate their hope to others. The Tai Lue desperately need the Holy Spirit to bring breakthrough in the believers so they can meet and grow together, joining Jesus' collective Church in the way He created them to.



### **Pray:**

Ask God to establish the Tai Lue church, that they would truly love God, love others, and make disciples the way God created them to. Pray also that God would raise up specially gifted Tai Lue believers who can create music and dance in their language and culture so they can worship Him with their entire heart.

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

*(1 Peter 2:9)*