

THE DAI LUE OF CHINA

Splash! Buckets of water splashed over laughing and shouting people as the **Dai Lue** people marked their traditional New Year by celebrating the Water Splashing Festival. “Good heavens, you are really soaked!” exclaimed Kun Sai to his girlfriend, Na Li as he led her to safety from the riotous water fight. “All the hours of prettying your face this morning are all wasted!” “Well, I must look my best, just the same!” declared Na Li, laughing. “Shall we go get some coconut water? I’m thirsty.” Kun Sai smiled, glad that Na Li seemed happier. She had been very sad ever since her brother tragically died of a drug overdose the previous month. As they made their way to the drinks stalls, Kun Sai gazed at the water fights in the street, suddenly wishing for an assurance that every splash of water could actually wash off one’s sins and bad luck of the previous year.

The **Dai Lue** (population: 788,000) live in the Xishuangbanna region in Yunnan Province, south China. These people are so noted for their love of water that some call them the “Water People.” Their colourful, graceful culture is more similar to that of the neighbouring countries of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand than that of China. The region that they live in has a darker side; drug smuggling and substance abuse are widespread, leading to a high number of HIV cases. Promiscuity is also widespread.

Though Buddhists, the **Dai Lue** are also steeped in animistic practices that centre round the worship of spirits. Few among the **Dai Lue** (0.5%) have been redeemed to worship the Lord Jesus.

- Pray for missionaries and evangelists to reach the **Dai Lue** people with the Gospel about Jesus Christ, their redeemer.
- Pray that the strongholds of Buddhism and the occult will be torn down.
- Pray that the Christian evangelistic materials in their language will be spread far and wide in both urban and rural **Dai Lue** communities. May the **Dai Lue** see the righteousness of God and hope in Christ amidst the social vices in their society.
- Pray that thousands of **Dai Lue** will soon know the truth of knowing Jesus Christ as the giver of living water and the One can wash their sins away.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info:
<https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>,
<http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>