

THE MOSUO OF CHINA

The first light of dawn shone over the sky. Awuluku strolled towards his house at the end of the village. The **Mosuo** young man had just spent the night with his 'axia' lover, Zetajiacima. He was glad that she too liked him and allowed him to spend the night with her for the past few weeks. **Mosuo** customs dictate that he must return back to his mother's house at dawn. Any offspring from their relationship would be raised by Zetajiacima and her family and carry her surname. Awuluku need not be involved in raising up his future offspring. Zetajiacima's brothers and uncles would fill the roles of being male figureheads. He himself would be involved in raising his younger sister's future offspring. Awuluku vaguely knew who his own father was and looked to his mother's third brother as a father figure.

Custom allows Awuluku and Zetajiacima to end their relationship at any time, freeing them to pursue other lovers. Awuluku secretly hoped that theirs would be a long-lasting one, unlike many of his peers.

Located in southern China, the **Mosuo** (population: 56,000) are an ethnic group living around Lugu Lake in the border regions of Yunnan and Sichuan provinces. In their matriarchal society, women head and run households. Inheritances are passed down through the mother's lineage. Conventional marriage is not practiced; instead consensual, non-binding relationships between men and women within their **Mosuo** ethnic community are allowed. Formerly outlawed by the communists, this traditional practice has been revived and is observed by most, if not all **Mosuo**.

The **Mosuo** practice a mix of Buddhism and traditional folk beliefs. The Goddess Gamu is a important deity for them. Only a handful (5.0%) has turned to Christ, most of them being new believers.

- Pray that the **Mosuo** may be set free from their spiritual bondages.
- Pray for open doors for the Gospel to be proclaimed in the remote villages.
- Pray for the ongoing outreach work especially for the mission workers who face the challenge of introducing the concept of God as a loving Father to a people who have no concept of a true father within their own relationships.

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/>