

THE YUGUR OF CHINA

Luolang looked proudly at his son, Kaidu who stood with his bride Milan, both in the traditional wedding attire of the **Yugur** people. For Luolang, it seemed like only yesterday that Kaidu celebrated his first birthday. His first birthday brought his first haircut: Right to left, then from the middle to the back. And the gathered community sang: “Cutting his hair with iron scissors, the child will grow as strong as an iron rod. Cutting his hair with gold or silver scissors, treasures of gold and silver will roll in.” The village Buddhist lamas chanted prayers evoking the blessings of the Deity of Wealth upon Kaidu, who was also given a Buddhist name on that day.

The little **Yugur** boy of yesterday had grown up to be a fine young man. Luolang and the rest watched as Kaidu symbolically fired three arrows without arrowheads at Milan. He then broke the arrows and the bow, signifying his commitment to love Milan and remain with her for all time.

These are some of the many centuries-old traditions of China’s 17,900 **Yugur** people. They comprise two subgroups, namely the Saragh and Enger who live in north central China’s Gansu Province.

Tibetan Buddhism shapes the worldviews of the **Yugur**. Very few of the **Yugur** know that Jesus the Lamb of God has already been slain for their sins. The vast majority remain in spiritual darkness, never hearing the Good News that in Christ they can find freedom from the rituals of Buddhism, liberation from their fear of evil spirits and meaning in life amidst the atheistic values of communism. Only 1.3% of the **Yugur** profess to be Christians.

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare **Yugur** hearts to hear a new message, that of the Gospel.
- Pray that the **Yugur** may be set free from all forms of spiritual deceptions that have ensnared their people for countless generations.
- Pray that God will call translators to produce scripture and other literature in the **Yugur** language.
- Pray for an expansion of outreach among the **Yugur**. May there be a rich harvest of precious souls among the **Yugur** people.

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/>