

The Danu of Myanmar

“You don’t frighten me with your knife and loud shouting! My ‘Lion Tattoo’ shows what I’m made of! Don’t even try to fight me!”, shouted a young **Danu** youth. Intoxicated with rice wine and angry over a minor dispute, the **Danu** youth staggered towards his adversary in the tea shop. Amidst exclamations of alarm from the tea shop patrons, he was quickly pushed to the ground by the shop owner. Soe looked at the commotion while seated at his table and shook his head. He was both angry and sad to see the young **Danu** men in his village idling away their time, drinking and getting into fights.

There are 116,000 **Danu** people living in the central areas of Shan State and the northern part of Kayah State in Myanmar. Farming and fishing are their primary sources of livelihood. Many **Danu** men are addicted to smoking opium and drinking rice wine. This has created many problems.

Most **Danu** adhere to Theravada Buddhism, mixed with spirit worship, occult practices and black magic which is practised by witch doctors. Many men carry special tattoos believed to give spiritual protection from harm.

Their remote locations and the constant presence of Myanmar’s military have made it difficult for Christians to reach them. Despite these obstacles, several Christians have shared their faith with the **Danu**, and today 0.4% of the **Danu** profess Christianity.

- Pray that the life changing transforming power of Christ will lead the **Danu** people out of their spiritual darkness, addictions and social vices.
- Pray against the spiritual deception over the hearts and minds of the **Danu**.
- Pray that the **Danu** will put their faith in Christ alone and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share their faith boldly with their people.