

## The Dawei of Myanmar

“Fine woven *longyi* sarongs for sale! Buy the latest fashions for the coming New Year!” called Thanda loudly to the passer-bys as she sat inside her rather cramped shop lot. Displayed on the counter and hung behind her were woven *longyi* sarongs for both men and women in a vast array of patterns and colours. The **Dawei** woman took a quick look at her earnings thus far. She should be able to earn extra money with the weekend crowd thronging the busy market. Half of the day’s earnings could go towards buying a gold leaf to apply on the neighbourhood temple’s Buddha images during the New Year and as monetary alms towards the temple. Thanda couldn’t help wishing she could keep all her earnings as savings in her bank account but knew that expenditure for the temple was inevitable. In her mind, gaining merit by obeying prescribed religious acts of devotion would help to earn a favourable reincarnation for her. And that was something immeasurable in her eyes though it cost her a fortune.

The **Dawei** (population: 46,000) live in southern Myanmar’s Tanintharyi region. Also known as ‘Tavoyan’, the **Dawei** have their distinct mother tongue and customs. Their region is also known for its fine, woven *longyi* sarongs.

Devoutly Theravada Buddhist, the **Dawei** also worship spirit beings believed to bestow blessings upon devotees. Despite past efforts by Western missionaries, only 0.1% of the **Dawei** are Christians.

- Pray for the **Dawei**, that centuries of spiritual deception over their hearts and minds may be replaced with the eternal Truth found in Christ.
- Pray that God’s servants may have access to the **Dawei**, amidst restrictions on Christian proselytisation by the Myanmar authorities.
- Pray that the **Dawei** believers may be true disciples of Christ who will be a blessing to their people and their country.

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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/>