

The Khonmuang (Northern Thai) of Thailand

“Ready?” Daeng asked his excited little sister, Bua. “There it goes!” Both watched their *khom-loi* hot air sky lantern floating upwards. It joined hundreds of other floating sky lanterns released into Chiang Mai’s night sky during the Yi Peng Festival. “Will all our bad luck float away, brother?” asked Bua. Daeng forced himself to nod. Inwardly he felt overwhelmed. They had lost their parents to AIDS and it was up to him to take care of Bua.

The **Khonmuang** are also called the Yuan people. They live in northern Thailand with Chiang Mai being their largest city. Their language and customs are distinct from the majority ethnic Thai people.

Despite much faithful mission work in northern Thailand, Theravada Buddhism, mixed with animistic rites, rules the lives of the 7.14 million **Khonmuang** people. Deep in deception, they believe in reincarnation rather than a resurrection. Their animistic beliefs cause needless fear, since they believe spirits surround them and can cause them harm. They do not know that Jesus can be their protector if they just call out to Him.

Various Christian media and literature, and the Bible are all available in the **Khonmuang**’s own language. Missionaries have lived in their area for about 150 years. Since many of the nearby tribal peoples had responded to the Gospel quickly, more ministries had focused on these tribes at the **Khonmuang**’s expense. Only about 0.4% of the **Khonmuang** are Christian.

- Pray that the **Khonmuang** people will see their need for a Saviour, embrace Jesus as their personal Saviour and hope in Christ alone.
- Ask God to open their spiritual eyes to the liberating truths of the Bible and overcome their fear of spirits by calling upon the name of Jesus.
- Pray that God will send abundant labourers who will minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of the **Khonmuang** people.
- Pray that their faith will increase as the **Khonmuang** read the Bible and make use of Christian media and literature available in their own language.

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/>