

Laos

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"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

John 15:4 (NIV Version)

Buddhist beliefs in this SE Asian nation of more than 7 million are driven by attempts to appease the spirits and "make merit." Since most of the population live in rural, agrarian villages, this results in blindly following traditions.

At weddings the guests tie thin white cotton strings onto newly-weds wrists to bless them and ward off evil. When a child is born the villagers come together to tie "blessed" cotton strings onto the infant's wrists to keep all 32 good resident spirits in place. Once a year the village runs yards of string from the temple to every home.

Despite this, and even in the face of government persecution, the Christian church in Laos is growing rapidly. Native Laotians lead almost all churches and evangelism efforts. The "approved" Lao Evangelical Church as well as many underground house churches are fostering this growth. However, most of these congregations lack a trained pastor.



Ways To Pray:

- Christians from mainly tribal backgrounds now make up 3% of the Lao population. Pray that they will successfully make disciples among their many Buddhist neighbors.
- Pray for leadership training for the many house church leaders.

- Ask that in the face of increasing persecution Jesus followers will rely totally on God.

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