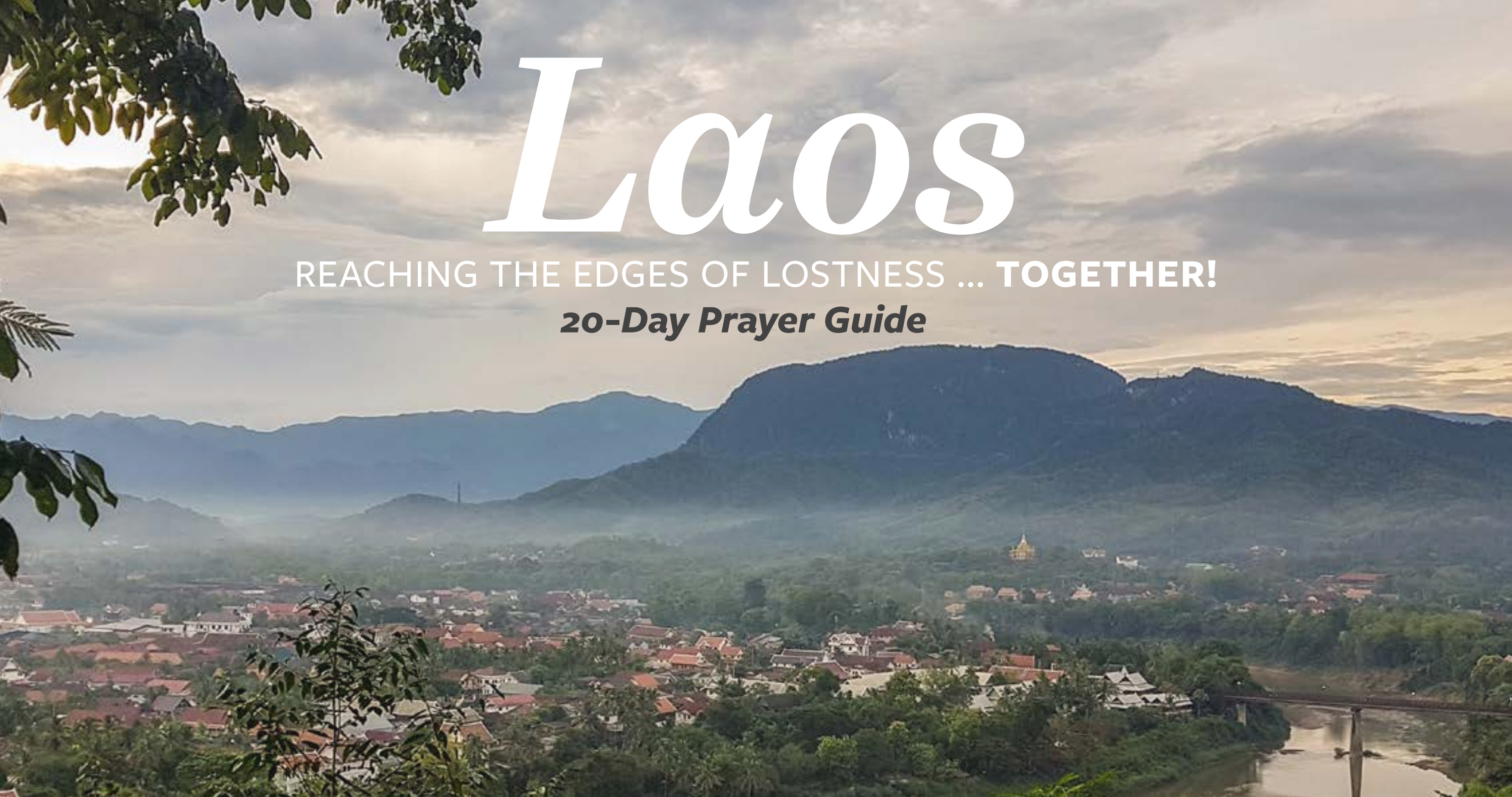


Laos

REACHING THE EDGES OF LOSTNESS ... **TOGETHER!**

20-Day Prayer Guide



Country of Laos

Lan Xang, the land of a “Million Elephants,” is the ancient name for the beautiful country of Laos, a landlocked nation nestled between the mountains and rivers that make up its borders. For the Lao people, the elephant is a sacred symbol of blessing and prosperity. The landscape throughout this land is both beautiful and harsh. In the north, rugged mountains make travel slow and difficult. In the south, the heat is oppressive most of the year. But the Mekong River flows from north to south as the lifeblood of this tiny country. This river creates beautiful waterfalls and supplies water to fertile river basins for crops like coffee and rice. The Mekong River appears in the traditional stories and beliefs of the Lao people. Ritual washings are common in Buddhist worship, making water a significant part of their religion. In addition to the nearly six million ethnic Lao who are Buddhist, there are 127 minority groups, most of whom are animists. Some of these groups are virtually inaccessible due to the harsh, mountainous terrain.



Day 1 - Laos Overview

Day 2 - Phongsaly

Day 3 - Luang Namtha

Day 4 - Bokeo

Day 5 - Oudomxay

Day 6 - Luang Prabang

Day 7 - Houaphan

Day 8 - Sainyabuli

Day 9 - Xiangkhouang

Day 10 - Xaisomboun

Day 11 - Vientiane

Day 12 - Churches

Day 13 - Bolikhamsai

Day 14 - Khammouane

Day 15 - Savannakhet

Day 16 - Salavan

Day 17 - Believers & Leaders

Day 18 - Sekong

Day 19 - Champasak

Day 20 - Attapeu



KEY TERM

UPG - An Unreached People Group is one in which less than 2% of its population are evangelical Christians.

Day 1

Laos Overview



The Lao people are a complex group. While they share a common nationality and national language, they are divided into 70 different distinct people groups. The people of this mountainous, land-locked country are joyful, caring, and laid-back despite also being weighed down with burdens to support their families and care for their ancestors. The popular phrase *baw pen nyang*, meaning “no problem”, reflects the Lao perspective. These words highlight the carefree willingness to see their responsibilities and worries, and yet still say yes to one more chance to have fun, help a friend, or share a meal. Pray for these cheerful, generous people to meet the One who carries their burdens and brings rest and new life.

Day 2

Phongsaly



Phongsaly (PONG-sah-lee) is the northernmost province in Laos, bordering China and Vietnam. It is a several days' drive on windy roads from the country capital of Vientiane. Phongsaly is full of history and beauty, from rugged mountains to flowing rocky rivers and ancient tea farms. It's also full of unreached people groups, and its remote location means there are few believers and even fewer churches. Ask the Father to send laborers into this remote harvest field and help believers endure. Ask that His Kingdom will come and His will be done, in this small corner of Laos as it is in Heaven.

MAIN UPGS

Akeu, Akh, Bit, Phunoi, Pouhoy, Sila (Geurmah), Tchacho, Laoseng, Hani, Giay, Tai Dam (Black Thai)

Day 3

Luang Namtha



The next province in our journey of prayer through northern Laos is Luang Namtha (LOO-ahng nahm-TAH), bordering China and Myanmar. An expressway and railway are currently being planned that will stretch from the capital through Luang Namtha to Boten, a rural border town. Pray for all the changes these new connections will bring to this province. Pray that believers will use these improvements in transportation to reach unreached people groups and isolated areas of Luang Namtha.

MAIN UPGS

Thai Neua (Northern Thai), Samtao and Samtao Doi, Tai Loi, Tamoy, SingMoon

Day 4

Bokeo



West of Phongsaly and Luang Namtha is the province of Bokeo (BOH-gay-oh). It's part of an area known as the Golden Triangle, since it borders both Myanmar and Thailand. Bokeo is one of the smallest provinces in Laos, and it was also one of the provinces most heavily hit by Covid-19. Pray for all who live here as they begin the work of rebuilding their lives after lockdown. This province is also very closed off to the gospel, with few believers or churches. Pray that the Father will use this time of crisis and rebuilding to open doors for the gospel and grow His church in Bokeo.

MAIN UPGS

Lame, Myen, Pana, Tai Lu, Tai Khao (White Thai)

Day 5

Oudomxay



Oudomxay (OO-dum-sigh) in the northwest is almost entirely locked in by other Lao provinces, except for a small part that touches China. Because of this, it has a sizable Chinese population in bigger cities and many Chinese businesses. Many Lao in Oudomxay are farmers; they grow bananas, rice, tobacco, and coffee, among other crops. Christians in the province have experienced significant persecution, often being surveilled and fearing pushback from local authorities. Ask God to help them faithfully persevere. Ask that the church in Oudomxay will grow as people live out the Great Commission in their own lives, families, and neighborhoods.

MAIN UPGS

Kongsat, Poumoong, Poussan

Day 6

Luang Prabang



Luang Prabang (loo-AHNG prah-BAHNG) spans the middle of northern Laos, bordering Phongsaly and Vietnam. Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage City, is normally a popular tourist destination. Both the city and province are named after the *Prabang*, a golden Buddha statue currently housed in a temple beside the former palace of the *Lan Xang* Kingdom, now a museum. Pray churches will be a light in an area that is growing in religious freedom but still contains pockets of persecution. Pray for the workers who have lost jobs in the hospitality and tourism industries due to decreased tourism during Covid-19. Pray that the gospel will reach each village in Luang Prabang.

MAIN UPGS

Taket, Tai Men, Tai Deng (Red Thai)

Day 7

Houaphan



Houaphan (HOO-ah-pahn) borders Vietnam and Luang Prabang. This province is home to approximately 350,000 people from 22 ethnic groups and over 700 villages. Most people are agricultural and livestock farmers. Houaphanh is one of the poorest areas in Laos, and as a result is plagued by socio-economic problems. For example, the infant mortality rate is exceedingly high, and access to safe water and medical facilities is below the national average. Please pray for the health of the people of Houaphan, for the Father to provide families with abundant harvests, and for churches to be planted among all 22 ethnic groups.

MAIN UPGS

Pouak, Phong Puoc, Phong Khnieng, Phong Lan, Phong Fan, Phong Japouang, Phong Poug, Mouvy

Day 8 Sainyabuli



Continuing in this journey of prayer through the provinces of Laos, we shift our focus to Sainyabuli (sigh-nyah-bull-LY). Approximately 380,000 people call this land west of the Mekong River home, including the Malabri people, who are the last hunter-gatherers in Southeast Asia. This province's flat terrain is optimal for rice farming and is often called "the rice basket" of Northern Laos. This area is also rich in timber, harvested with the help of domesticated elephants. Pray that gospel seeds planted in Sainyabuli will bear abundant harvests, just like the rice and timber crops. Pray for more laborers to be sent here, and for more churches to be planted.

MAIN UPGS

Malabri, Prai, Khuen, Tai Man

Day 9

Xiangkhouang



Xiangkhouang (see-ung COO-ahng) is beloved for its comparatively mild weather and its elevated flat terrain, making it prime for agriculture. Though lovely in many ways, Xiangkhoung has also seen great suffering. Deemed the most heavily bombed place on earth, the land is littered with unexploded ordnance left from the Laotian Civil War, which ended in 1975. Please pray for the safety of farmers as they dig into the ground, unsure of what lies beneath the surface. Also, pray that the farmers will have fruitful and bountiful harvests, and that the believers will walk in boldness and faithfulness.

MAIN UPGS

Thay Peung, Thay Lan, Phong Lan

Day 10

Xaisomboun



Xaisomboun (SIGH-some-boon) is the newest province in Laos, established in 2013. Prior to its establishment as a province, this area was a highly militarized zone due to unrest between the Hmong people and the government. Though the unrest has largely subsided, tensions remain to this day. Please pray for continued peace in the region. Pray also for the Xiengmoun people, an unreached and unengaged people group. Pray for the Lord to prepare hearts to hear the gospel, send believers to share, and establish a church among them.

MAIN UPGS

Xiengmoun

Day 11

Vientiane



The province of Vientiane (vee-ung-CHUN) in northwest Laos is home to the country's capital city, also called Vientiane. Because of the capital and Vang Vieng, another popular destination, tourism is a vital component of this province's economy. Please pray for those who work in the tourism industry, as it was heavily affected by the pandemic. Vientiane is also where many students move to attend university. Please pray for a gospel awakening among university students. Vientiane is home to Lao Evangelical Church, the largest church in Laos. Pray that it will be fruitful and multiply, and that it will empower Christians all over the country to walk in boldness amidst persecution.

MAIN UPGS

Cham

Day 12

Churches



The church in Laos is monitored quite closely by the government. The approved denomination of Laos, the Lao Evangelical Church, shapes and dictates the theology and practice of the government-approved churches. Some believers are beginning to start house churches that operate outside of the approved denomination, but there are challenges to stepping outside of the system. Pray for all local churches. Pray they continue to read the Bible for themselves and listen as the Holy Spirit teaches them about His word. Pray for believers to be filled with His boldness, take Him at His word, and share His truth with others around them.

Day 13

Bolikhamsai



In the narrowest section of Laos, you will find Bolikhamsai (bowl-lee-KOM-sigh), stretching across Laos and touching the Mekong River. It is home to beautiful waterfalls and many wild animals, including tigers, bears, elephants, leopards, gibbons, and monkeys. From as early as 1890, missionaries have been laboring to reach Bolikhamsai, but today many who live here have yet to hear the gospel. Praise the Lord for the long history of gospel work in Bolikhamsai, and pray that seeds of truth planted over the decades will bear abundant fruit.

MAIN UPGS

Saek, Tum, Kri, Kuan, Khua, Bo

Day 14 **Khammouane**



Khammouane (KOM-moo-ahn) is in the center of Laos and is known for its beautiful gorges, grottoes, and limestone hills. Most people live in the capital city, Thakek, or rural villages. The capital city of Thakek features many buildings constructed in the French-colonial architectural style, including two Catholic churches, displaying the long-lasting influence of the French occupation of Laos years ago. Please pray for the one evangelical church in Thakek to grow and continue to make disciples. Pray that the believers will remain steadfast and have boldness to share the gospel. Pray for those who have heard the gospel in remote areas to believe and come to salvation. Pray for the economy of Khammouane to regain momentum after Covid-19 and the subsequent lack of tourists.

MAIN UPGS

Yoy, Thay Wang, Trui, Phoua, Ngouan, Kri, Maleng, Chut, Seek, Ngoun,

Day 15

Savannakhet



Savannakhet (sah-vahn-ah-KET) is the largest province, and its capital city is the second-largest city after Vientiane. Because it is a port of entry from Thailand, many Lao citizens returned home from working in Thailand during the pandemic and brought the virus with them. As a result, there was an outbreak across the entire province. Pray that churches in Savannakhet will remain strong and bear fruit. Pray that families impacted by the outbreak will be open to the truth of the gospel.

MAIN UPGS

Arem

Day 16

Salavan



Salavan (SAH-lah-vahn) is located in southern Laos and serves as a major trade route between Vietnam and Thailand. There are few Christians and organized churches in this area, and persecution of believers has been widely reported. The major religion is animism, and many people regularly sacrifice water buffalo to appease the spirits. Pray thousands of people in Salavan who do not know the ultimate sacrifice has already been paid for them will hear and believe the gospel. Pray that Christians will stand firm in their faith.

MAIN UPGS

Tahoy, Pako, Kalang, Kado, Suay, Laven

Day 17

Believers & Leaders



Pray for new Lao believers. When they come to faith, the Bible is so hard for them to understand because it is filled with many new terms and names they have never heard before. Think about the first time you heard the stories of the Bible, if you can remember. Then, imagine never having heard of Jesus or Adam and Eve, or that God created the world. They have so many new things to learn. Pray that God will teach them how to read His word. Pray that they will have access to the word of God and that their Bibles will not be taken away from them. Pray that as they learn and study His word, they will obey it fully.

Day 18

Sekong



Sekong (SAY-gong) is a province in southeastern Laos bordered by Vietnam. It is small but very diverse. Sekong is home to over 14 different ethnic people groups, more than any other province in Laos. Most of them are animists and worship many different spirits. In the city of Sekong itself, ministry is thriving, and local believers are helping to grow the church. Please pray for continued growth and for the gospel to reach remote mountain villages. Please pray for the local believers to remain strong amidst persecution and challenges. Pray that God will send dreams and visions to those in the mountains who have never heard of Jesus Christ.

MAIN UPGS

Katu, Alak, Laven, Katong

Day 19

Champasak



Champasak (JAHM-pah-sahk) is a province in southwestern Laos bordering Thailand and Cambodia. The capital, Pakse, is currently seeing a religious awakening among college students. There are unique opportunities for young believers to hear about Jesus in cities and then take the good news to their families in the villages. Persecution is more intense in rural areas, however. Believers have been jailed for meeting together and worshipping. Ask that the Father will provide safety and boldness for these new believers to share the gospel with their friends and families. Pray for the villages that do know Jesus to remain strong, and for those who face persecution to continue to be steadfast.

MAIN UPGS

Khmer, Laven, PhaKeo, Brao, Kate, Sou (Kui), Nyahon, Laven, Tahanag, Tong, SaLao

Day 20

Attapeu



Attapeu (AT-tha-pue) is one of the southernmost provinces in Laos, and one of the smallest. In 2018, several hundred lives were lost when Saddle Dam collapsed and caused widespread flooding. Thousands were also displaced. Pray that God will provide for those who are still rebuilding their lives several years later. Though it is not illegal in Laos to be a Christian, believers in Attapeu have faced pressure and persecution by local authorities in recent years. Pray that they will be strong in their faith and persevere. Pray that they will have compassion for those around them who do not know the good news.

MAIN UPGS

Sou, Talieng, Brao, Oy, Jeng, Sedang