5x5x5 Prayer: Five Minutes, Five Days, Five Topics

The Baiku Yao People (BAONUO)



We invite you to pray for the Baiku Yao people, for just five minutes a day, for five days, for FIVE STRATEGIC AREAS. Your prayers will open doors in powerful ways, encourage believers, release strongholds and bring great glory to God.

The United Nations describes the Baiku Yao (Baonuo) of Southern China as the ethnic minority that best retains its old culture in the world. With approximately 32,000 people, the Baiku Yao still live out age-old traditions, like wearing traditional dress, conversing in their own unique language, singing improvised songs about love and nature, and practicing a specific way to mourn death.

Having had no access to the gospel, the Baiku Yao believe in their own ethnic blend of shamanism, animism and Buddhism. Only 0.3 percent are reported as Christian and there is currently no known church.

Hidden high in remote mountains, cloaked in their long-held traditions, this unique people may be unseen to many in the outside world. Yet, they have not been overlooked by our heavenly Father. Baiku Yao brothers and sisters will join us for worship in our Lord's throne room in heaven one day. Your prayers will be part of seeing this come to reality.





Day One

FROM MOUNTAINTOP TO MODERN WORLD

Today, life for the Baiku Yao is changing quickly. For most of the year, many able-bodied adults live far from their homes to work in factories. They leave behind their children and elderly parents in the villages, with little water, food or clothing. These families are split up for most of the year, but working adults see no other option to support their families.

Lord, may the Baiku Yao in Chinese cities have a chance to hear the gospel and believe. Lead Christians to cross their paths and even commit to spending regular time with them. Compel Christian business owners to hire them and minister to them.

Lord, may the Baiku Yao drink of living water, eat the bread of life and be clothed in Christ's righteousness.

Lord, send water, food, clothing, teachers, work and training to the Baiku Yao as provision from your hands.

Lord, do not forget the elderly and children in the villages. Send your church body to care for the elderly and train up the children in the way they should go (Prov. 22:6).

Day Two

OUT OF DARKNESS AND INTO LIGHT

The Baiku Yao have many practices that don't honor Christ. For example, if someone is sick, the entire clan must cease working in response to the village witch doctor's orders. They also believe that the traditional copper drum will usher souls of the deceased into the afterlife. Each drum has a spirit to be revered. These strongholds of spiritual darkness are centuries-old.

Lord, thank you for your desire to see nations come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn (Isa. 60:3).

Lord, prevent Satan from blinding the Baiku Yao to the light of the gospel in Christ. Lift the veil from their eyes (2 Cor. 4:2-3).

Lord, you gave us Jesus to destroy the power of death, the fear of death and even death itself. May the Baiku Yao no longer fear spirits and uphold superstitions, but instead, revere you, Jesus.

Lord, you are the Holy One, the Light of the World. You are the way, the truth and the life. Lead the Baiku Yao to follow you, so that they will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life (John 8:12, 14:6).

My sheep listen to my voice;

I KNOW THEM & THEY FOLLOW ME.





Day Three

READY THE SOIL, READY THE SEED

As a people group begins hearing the gospel, prayer is an important part of seeing gospel seeds take root. Many Baiku Yao are guarded against outside ways. Christian workers have yet to discover ways to connect the truth to their worldview, and very few can speak the Baiku Yao language.

Lord, we ask for good soil in the hearts of Baiku Yao leaders and families. Protect gospel seeds from being choked out by the cares of this world or plucked out by the Evil One.

Lord, prepare Bible stories in the Baiku Yao language. May Baiku Yao receive them as the word of their Creator God (1 Thess. 2:13).

Lord, reveal gospel links within the Baiku Yao worldview. May these culture keys unlock understanding of Jesus Christ for the Baiku Yao.

Lord, lead workers to Baiku Yao persons of peace who will receive the messenger and the message with gladness. Prepare their hearts specifically so that their community may be saved.

Lord, may Baiku Yao culture display your beauty and truth, bringing glory to your name.

Day Four

CALLING MORE WORKERS AND ENTERING THE FIELD

It is not easy for Christian workers to engage in Baiku Yao life. The generational differences between children, parents and grandparents are wide. Many Baiku Yao are friendly but only speak their own language. Even in the middle of large cities, many stay within their own communities. Genuine relationships and common ground can be difficult to build.

Lord, send more workers. Fill them with power through your Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). In you is all peace and love, wisdom and strength. Abiding in you and following your lead is more powerful than strategy and action alone.

Lord, call people willing to serve in business, children's ministry, teaching, farming and through learning language and culture. Call workers who will not only ask "what can I do?" but are also willing to ask "what needs to be done?"

Lord, provide workers an opportunity to work among the Baiku Yao long-term. Open doors for laborers to reach people in the villages and cities.

Lord, raise up Baiku Yao Christians to reach their own people and neighboring people groups. You saved them so they could be your kingdom and priests as well (Rev. 5:9-10).

I give them *eternal life*, & THEY NEVER PERISH.
–JOHN 10:27–28





Photo by Leah Gutierrez

Day Five

A FULLY INDIGENOUS BAIKU YAO CHURCH

There has yet to be a group of Baiku Yao believers committed to worshiping, singing, giving and evangelizing together. When this day comes, all the culture, language, arts and traditions of the Baiku Yao will begin to be redeemed and restored to our Lord. Oh, for that day!

Lord, on behalf of the future Baiku Yao church, we praise you as Lord of all creation. You are the only true God. We love you and adore you. Hallelujah!

Lord, build your church among the Baiku Yao through signs and miracles, endurance in persecution and obedience to your Spirit. Strengthen them to withstand trials for the sake of your name and for the sake of their own people's salvation (Acts 17:17-18).

Lord, may Baiku Yao disciples teach others to obey your commands, baptize and go to all nations with the gospel message. May love, joy, peace and holiness characterize the Baiku Yao church.

Lord, may entire clans worship you. May there be one church in every village. Thank you that the gates of hell shall not prevail against your church (Matt. 16:18).

NEXT STEPS

Is God drawing you to more focused prayer or involvement with the Baiku Yao? Consider additional ways to nurture God's love among these people.

PRAY. Go deeper in prayer by requesting a copy of *Prepare for Harvest: A Baiku Yao (Baonuo) Prayer Guide*. Or ask to receive updates on current efforts to reach the Baiku Yao. For more information, contact *prayforthebaikuyao@gmail.com*.

MOBILIZE. Invite your church, family and friends to join you in prayer. For helpful resources, contact *prayforthebaikuyao@gmail.com*.

LEARN. Read stories of God at work in Asia (*omf.org/news-and-stories*). You can also look for a *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* course near you (*perspectives.org*).

PARTNER. Join with others to welcome people from different nations already at your doorstep. Check out more creative ways to be a part of missions work with the *6 Ways to Reach God's World* resources (*omf.org/us/6-ways*).

GO. Take a prayer walk and experience God's work among unreached people in Asia. Contact *info@omf.org* to explore opportunities.

How do you want to get involved? Share with us at *prayforthebaikuyao@gmail.com*.