

The Story Behind the Postcard Scene



"Hooray! The lost sheep is coming home..."

The picture on this postcard was drawn by "Man Tou" (meaning "comic head"), do you know how he got his idea? "Man Tou" is a Hong Kong Christian who has the desire to utilize his gift of drawing to serve in "Mission Education" with the wish of helping more believers learn about what God is doing in churches in China. He was inspired to create this postcard painting after having read a sharing of an evangelist in China.

Who else can serve the locals but someone from within?

This postcard features a young Lisu pastor from the Southwestern region.

In his county, there is a population of more than 300,000, including the minority tribes of Han, Dai, and Jingpo in addition to Lisu, with more than 40,000 Christians and nearly 260,000 nonbelievers.

There are over 200 churches in the county, but there are only a few pastors and 50 evangelists, the rest are volunteers. On average, one pastor/evangelist needs to shepherd nearly 700 believers and visit at least four churches a week to preach and teach the Bible, the congregations which meet in remote areas are not even included in this calculation!

One of the difficulties encountered by the "Minority Evangelism Ministry" is language. The Lisu people only know the Lisu language, although with the wider spread of education, more Lisu people now know both Lisu and Chinese and the number of bilingual speakers is still low. This pastor is young and educated, he is one of the few who can speak three languages (Chinese, Lisu and Jingpo). After graduating from seminary, he could have chosen to serve in a big city, but he was determined to return to his people because he saw and was deeply touched by the lives of missionaries who worked among the Lisu people in the past. He also

has a desire to translate some of the quality spiritual materials (now available in Chinese) into Lisu preaching notes, with the hope of supporting the ministry of other frontline Lisu pastors to meet the special needs of these ethnic minorities.

Test your knowledge:

How much do you know about this ethnic minority?

Lisu

- With a population of nearly 930,000, they mainly live in the Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in northwestern Yunnan Province, near Myanmar.
- In the early 20th century, missionaries preached the gospel to the Lisu people, and it is estimated that 60% of them are believers today (up to 80% in some counties).
- Most Lisu live by way of farming, but due to the high altitude of their living environment, the land is barren and their farming techniques are old, so there are very low crop yields.
- Lisu religions include folk beliefs (including totem worship and pantheism), Catholicism and Christianity.

Situation and needs of the Lisu Church

- There are many believers, but there is a serious shortage of pastors, and even fewer have received formal theological training.
- The believers have limited income and have no concept of providing for the evangelists, most evangelists have to hold a part-time job while serving.
- There are very few Christian literature and spiritual materials available, it is necessary to have bilingual evangelists to have access to suitable resources and handle the translation work.

Lisu Tradition

- "Koushi Festival" (meaning "Broad Festival") is the Lisu New Year, the most important traditional festival of the Lisu, it is a day of worship and prayer for blessing.
- The Lisu are monogamous, unmarried men and women have the freedom of courtship; formal marriages, however, are decided by the parents. The groom's marriage gift to the bride's family is very important, it is calculated in terms of the number of farming cows.

Note: Information partly excerpted from

https://www.cccowe.org/page.php?p=upgc&s=china_ethnic_32

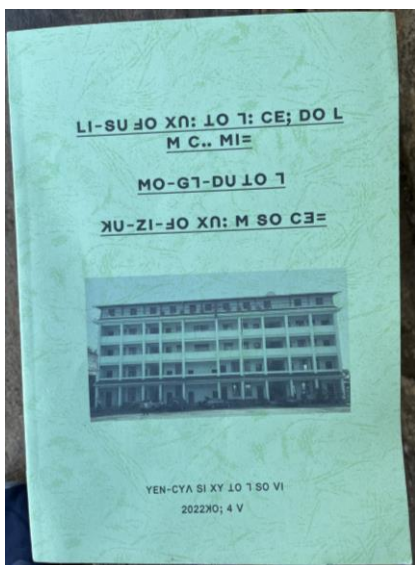
Current Status of Lisu Evangelism



Lisu believers use their unique gift in music to praise God



A local pastor not only preaches in the church but also conducts gatherings in different believers' homes



A young Lisu pastor is working hard to prepare preaching notes in Lisu by translating selected sections from Christian literature published in Chinese

Please support the 2024 “Living Subsidy for Evangelists”

Despite the harsh external environment, pastors of ethnic minority churches are serving very faithfully. Please pray for them and take action to help them meet their needs!

Project goal: To support a total of 40 preachers in the Southwest, Northwest, South Central and Eastern China regions.

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~The above is part of the content of PFC issue369, if you would like to read the full newsletter, please contact us at [pfc@ccl.org.hk](mailto:pfc@ccl.org.hk), thank you!~

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