



PRAY FOR EAST ASIA

Pray for Skylands Peoples

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

— Galatians 6:2

People Profile

About the Skylands Peoples

The Tibetan Buddhist peoples in western and northern China, Mongolia, and Bhutan include the Mongols, the Central, Amdo and Kham Tibetans, the diverse peoples in Sichuan's Ethnic Corridor, and the Drukpa people of Bhutan. Each of these people groups follow a form of Tibetan Buddhism to some degree, and have other features in common, such as nomadic or pastoral lifestyles, harsh geological environments, rapid modernization and urbanization, and questions of identity.

Religion

The Tibetan Buddhist religion is the life-blood of the Tibetan peoples. It is a mixture of Buddhism and the indigenous Tibetan Bon religion. There are still very few Tibetan Christians today, less than 0.005%. Tibetan Christians face ostracism and many other trials. There are a growing number of Chinese Christians who visit or even move to Tibetan areas to share the good news.

The Christian church among the Amdo Tibetans is small, around 100 believers scattered throughout three provinces.

While through the years small handfuls of Kham individuals have accepted Christ, the Kham church has never been firmly established.

The tribes of Sichuan's Ethnic Corridor are classified as Tibetans, but have diverse languages, cultures and religious practices. There are few Christians, and some of the groups are completely unengaged.

Mongolia

There are an estimated 5,000 Mongolian Christians in China, but many more in Mongolia.

In 1990, Mongolia had a Democratic Revolution, opening up beyond the Soviet bloc. At that time, there were less than ten known Christians. In that year, a Mongolian New Testament based on the Good News Bible was published. Many came to faith through this book, through watching the Jesus film shown in Mongolian cinemas, and through the witness of foreign Christian professionals. Today there are more than 50,000 Christians, meeting in over 400 churches, with many Christians being first-generation. Despite this, half of Mongolia's vast, remote counties still have no church. Emerging church leaders and other Christians need a sustained vision for reaching these difficult rural regions.



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Bhutan

Bhutan remains one of the least evangelized countries in the world, in which three quarters of the population are Tibetan Buddhist. However, there is hope. Converts to Christ among the Nepalese peoples in the south are now reckoned to be in the thousands. The number of Christians among Drukpa people, the Buddhist majority, is relatively small as yet; maybe a few hundred nationwide. However, growth is still significantly faster than among Tibetans.

Population

- **Tibetans:** 5.5 million
- **Mongolians:**
 - 7 million in China
 - 3 million in Mongolia
- **Bhutanese:** 750,0000

God, thank you for Tibetan, Mongolian and Bhutanese people who have put their trust in you. Please protect and encourage them as they face opposition and share Your good news with others. We pray for every person to have a chance to hear about the hope of salvation found in you.