

SNAPSHOT OF NEPAL

Country Name: Kingdom of Nepal

Country Founded in: The three major kingdoms in the area (Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhadgaon) were unified in 1768 or 1769 by Prithvi Narayan Shah from the Gorkha kingdom.

Population: 27,676,547 (July 2005 est.)

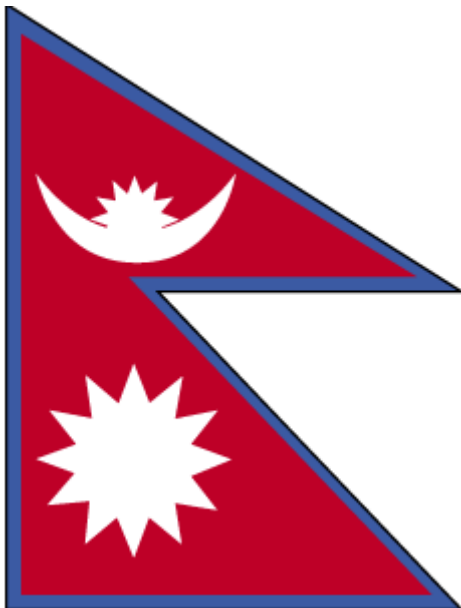
Government Type: (national, regional and local): Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy

The country is divided into 12 zones (Bagmati, Bheri, Dhawalagiri, Gandaki, Janakpur, Karnali, Kosi, Lumbini, Mahakali, Mechi, Narayani, Rapti, Sagarmatha, Seti)

Geography/location in the world: South Asia (nestled between India and China)

Number of people groups: between 115 and 394 depending on how they are classified

Picture of flag:



(picture of flag. (<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/flags/np-flag.html>))

The moon and sun on the flag are Vedic symbols. The moon represents Brahma, a serene mind. The sun represents Kshatra Energy. The angular shape of the flag suggests moral acuteness. (From *Glimpses of Nepal*, by Naresh Chandra Sangla and Dr (Mrs.) Prakash Sangal, 1998). According to Shrestha, the crimson is supposed to signify the blood shed by brave Nepalis of earlier times who safeguarded the country's independence. The sun symbolizes the Nepali soul; the moon signifies the Nepali mind. The blue border is the Himalayan sky and portrays the immensity of the universe of which the Nepalis are a part (<http://www.nepalnews.com.np/ntimes/issue110/heritage.htm>).

Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population: Hindu (74.82%)

From <http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>

All religions and % for each:

- Buddhist (16%)
- Muslim (5%)
- Christian (1.89%)
- Other (2.29%)

From <http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>

Government interaction with religion: (is the government cooperative [i.e. official church-state], supportive, tolerant, non-tolerant, antagonistic, etc.) “The government of Nepal fiercely opposes any form of evangelism. Many Christians have been imprisoned for sharing their faith.”

(<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>)

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

ASIA

Kingdom of Nepal

(*Nepal Adhirajya*)

Basic Facts

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population: 27,676,547 (July 2005 est.)

Age Structure: 0-14 years: 39% (male 5,575,157; female 5,221,794)

15-64 years: 57.3% (male 8,137; female 7,720,691)

65 years and over: 3.7% (male 499,039; female 522,456) (2005 est.)

Population Growth Rate: 2.2% (2005 est.)

Birth Rate: 31.45 births/1,000 population (2005 est.)

Death Rate: 9.47 deaths/1,000 population (2005 est.)

Life Expectancy at Birth: *total population*: 59.8 years

male: 60.09 years

female: 59.5 years (2005 est.)

Total Fertility rate: 4.19 children born/woman (2005 est.)

(<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html>)

LANGUAGE

Nepali is the official language and is spoken by 90% of the population. It is written with the Devnagari script.

According to the Ethnologue there are 123 languages spoken in Nepal and 3 extinct languages associated with the country. A list of those languages and information about them (including number of speakers) is available at

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=NP.

Of the 123 other languages spoken in Nepal, the following are spoken by at least 100,000 people: Arthare, Awadhi, Bagheli, Bhojpuri, Kumauni, Limbu, Magar, Maithili, Mundari, Newari, and Tamang.

There is good information about forty-six of the languages in Nepal at

<http://www.rosettaproject.org/live/search/browsebycountryresult?searchtype=countries&searchkey=Nepal>

Most of the languages in Nepal are from the Indo-European family (e.g. Awadhi, Bagheli, Kumauni, Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri) or the Tibeto Burman family (e.g. Limbu, Magar, Newari, Tamang).

For information on literacy see the section by that name.

(<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html>)

<http://www.sim.org/country.asp?CID=68&fun=1#languages>

A Nepali translation of the Bible was completed in 1915. The Bible is available in 6 other languages spoken in Nepal and the New Testament is available in 11 other languages. (<http://www.sim.org/country.asp?CID=68&fun=1#languages>)

A scholarly paper by Michael Noonan, *Language Documentation and language Endangerment in Nepal*, is available at <http://www.uwm.edu/~noonan/Iceland.handout.pdf>

SOCIETY/CULTURE

Nepal is a Hindu kingdom. Thus, much of its culture is Hindu-oriented. The Hindu caste system has “wide-ranging effects that permeate much of Nepali society. The word ‘caste’ basically means breed, race, or kind. Castes may be defined by occupation or by kinship and lineage, although there are exceptions.” (<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>) The fourfold caste divisions are Brahman (priests and scholars), Kshatriya or Chhetri (rulers and warriors), Vaisya (or Vaisaya, merchants and traders), and Sudra (farmers, artisans, and laborers)... In each system, each caste (*jati*) is ideally an endogamous group in which membership is both hereditary and permanent.

The only way to change caste status is to undergo Sanskritization. Sanskritization can be achieved by migrating to a new area and by changing one's caste status and/or marrying across the caste line, which can lead to the upgrading or downgrading of caste, depending on the spouse's caste. However, given the rigidity of the caste system, intercaste marriage carries a social stigma, especially when it takes place between two castes at the extreme ends of the social spectrum. (<http://countrystudies.us/nepal/31.htm>)

Nepal is officially a Hindu country, but in practice the people practice a religion that is a syncretism of Hindu and Buddhist beliefs with a pantheon of Tantric deities added. The remainder of the population that is not Buddhist or Hindu is either Muslim, Christian, or shamanistic. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/culture.htm>)

More than 90% of the people in Nepal depend on agriculture. However, only 19% of the land is cultivatable because of the mountainous terrain. Further, farming methods are inefficient. For these reasons, Nepal remains poor and undeveloped. Most farms are small and produce barely enough to support one family. The major crops grown are sugarcane, rice, and maize, with some wheat, potatoes, and vegetables. Cattle and water buffalo are important to the Nepali lifestyle as butter and cheese are regular parts of their diet. Farmers trade any surplus crops for other important items, such as kerosene and salt. Others supplement their incomes through craft work and tailoring. (<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>)

Nepal's food is surprisingly dull given that it lies at the intersection of the two nations reknown for their gastronomic skills--India and China. Most meals

consist of a dish called *dhal bhat tarkari* which is a combination of lentil soup, rice and curried vegetables. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/culture.htm>)

The common greeting in Nepal, *Namaste*, is done by “putting the palms together in a prayer like gesture. Consequently, Nepalis who have not been around foreigners might be hesitant to shake hands.

(<http://www.nepalhomepage.com/travel/faq/FAQculture.html#1>)

One interesting aspect of Nepali culture is that the women often paint the houses. The colorful paintings are dedicated to the goddess *Laxmi* in hope that she will be pleased and bring good fortune to the family. The most lavishly decorated painted houses are found in the eastern Terai where different subgroups of *Tharu*, as well as *Maithili*, *Satar*, *Rajbanshi*, and *Muslim* carry on a tradition of painted houses, each in a different way. (Sangal, 105)

These paintings often include important symbols from the Hindu epics, animals, and birds. The paintings are a way that rural women preserve traditions. Young girls watch their mothers mixing the clay, dung, milk, and colorful powders. They see their mothers develop the designs and redo them each year at festival time. The art is passed on from mother to daughter, just as the knowledge of house-building is handed down from father to son. (Sangal, 105)

Nepalis use their left-hand to wash themselves after defecating. For this reason, the left hand is not used in public. The right hand is always used when eating or dealing with people.

(<http://www.nepalhomepage.com/travel/faq/FAQculture.html#1>)

Nepal follows a different calendar system than in the West. According to the Nepali system, 2003-2004 is *Bikram Sambat* 2060. The New Year begins in mid-April.

Like the Julian system, there are 12 months, each month beginning around the middle of a Western month. Festival dates are, however, determined by lunar calendar. (<http://www.nepalhomepage.com/reference/calendar/calendar.html>) Further, the Nepali view of time within a day is very relaxed. “Everything is approximate. Nothing happens on time.” (<http://www.nepalhomepage.com/travel/faq/FAQculture.html#1>)

Common Festivals

Below is a list of common festivals. Most of the festivals have religious significance and are important social events. Singing and dancing are important parts of most festivals. The dates of most festivals are fixed by famous astrologers after consulting the lunar calendar. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

- **Baisakh Purnima**

This celebration is observed on a full-moon day in May to commemorate the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. “People celebrate the

occasion by paying homage to Buddha. Lumbini and Swayambhunath, Bouddhanath in Kathmandu are filled with devotees during Buddha Jayanti.” (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

- **Dashain**

Dashain is Nepal’s most important festival. It is celebrated sometime between mid September and mid October. Nepalis celebrate Dashain by buying new clothes, eating good food, and visiting family members. Card games are popular during this time. Various fairs and celebration events are organized during the Dashain fortnight in both villages and cities.

(<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

- **Dumji**

“Dumji, one of the sacred ceremonies of the Sherpa community, is celebrated in the month of July. Dumji is celebrated by the Sherpas in Namche region. The Sherpas of Kathmandu and Helambu regions also participate in dancing on this day.”

(<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

- **Gai Jatra**

Gai Jatra, an eight-day carnival of dancing, singing, mirth, and laughter, usually falls in July or August. As part of the festival family members of those who died in the past year send people dressed as a cow to parade on the streets. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

- **Tihar**

Tihar is the festival of lights. This five-day celebration of Tihar falls in October or November generally a fortnight after Dashain and is shared with equal joy by all Nepalis. Houses are illuminated at night and special sweets of different varieties are prepared. Tihar, like Dashain, is a series of family events. Goddess *Lakshmi* is remembered and offered worship on Lakshmi Puja Day. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

- **Lhosar**

Lhosar, which falls on a new-moon day in February, is celebrated by Tibetan-speaking population. Songs and dances are organized in Kumbu region of Nepal. On this day devotees throng Bouddhanath in Kathmandu for celebration and worship. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

- **Maha Shiva Ratri**

Shiva Ratri, which literally means “the Night of Lord Shiva,” is celebrated by all Hindus in the month of February. Religious fairs are organized at various locations. Thousands of devotees throng Pashupatinath Temple for a 'darshan' of Lord Shiva on this day. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/festival.htm>)

Popular Musical Instruments

Dhyamaya--A sort of drum played on one side with a cane, twisted into a coil at one end. The other side is played with the bare hand. It is peculiar to the Jyapu caste.

Kahal--A long, straight copper trumpet used together with the nara-Khin and Chhusyam for worship and when dead bodies are taken to be burnt.

Madal--A sort of tantum or drum

Kartal--A pair of castanets

Dholak--Similar to the madal and played with both hands

Dango-Khin--A kind of Dholak

Bansri--A flute

Sitar--Similar to a Bin with one gourd and played with the hand

Sarangi--A sort of fiddle

(*Glimpses of Nepal* by Naresh Chandra Sangla and Dr (Mrs.) Prakash Sangal, 1998)

GOVERNMENT

Nepal has experienced more than a dozen governments since 1991 since beginning the changeover to democracy. Currently, the government is a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy. The capital is Kathmandu. Citizens 18 years of age or older are allowed to vote. Nepal gained its independence in 1768 and are currently using a constitution that was adopted on November 9, 1990.

(http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

Currently, the king of Nepal is *King GYANENDRA Bir Bikram Shah*. He took the throne in 2001 following the death of his nephew, *King DIPENDRA Bir Bikram Shah*. King DIPENDRA Bir Bikram Shah is thought to have been responsible for shootings that took the lives of the king and most of the royal family. He was king for 3 days before dying from self inflicted gun wounds from the shooting.

The Prime Minister is *Sher Bahadur DEUBA*, who has been in office since June 3, 2004. The Prime Minister is a member of the majority party based on elections in the legislature and is appointed by the monarch. The Parliament was dissolved on May 22, 2002.

The legislative branch consists of the National Council and the House of Representatives. The National Council is made up of 60 seats (35 appointed by the House of Representatives, 10 by the king, and 15 elected by an electoral college) with six-year terms. The House of Representatives is made up of 205 seats that are elected by popular vote and serve five-year terms.

The Supreme Court, Sarbochha Adalat, is appointed by the monarch. The Nepali legal system is based on Hindu legal concepts as well as English common law.

(<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html>)

Currently, there are threats from Maoist rebels to overthrow the government.

ECONOMY

Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries with 40% of its population living below the poverty line. Nepal depends on tourism for much of its income.

However, there has been a decrease in tourism lately because of the conflict with Maoist rebels. Further, 90% of Nepalis depend on agriculture for their sustenance but only 19% of the country is cultivatable.

Nepal's GDP is \$39.53 billion. That is \$1,500 per capita with a real growth rate of 3% (2004 est.). 40% of the GDP comes from agriculture, 40% from services, and 20% from industry. The agricultural products produced in Nepal are rice, corn, wheat, sugarcane, root crops, milk, and water buffalo meat. Their industries are tourism, carpet, textile rice mills, jute mills, sugar mills, oilseed mills, cement and brick production, and cigarettes.

(<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mv.html>)

Transportation and communication difficulties have hindered the growth of industry and trade. Biratnagar and Birganj, in the Terai, are the main manufacturing towns, and Katmandu also has some industry. Products include carpets, textiles, shoes, cigarettes, cement, and bricks; there are rice, jute, sugar, and oilseed mills. Wood and metal handicrafts are also important. Significant quantities of mica and small deposits of ochre, copper, iron, lignite, and cobalt are found in the hills of Nepal.

Hydropower is the main source of electricity in Nepal, and there are plans to further develop the potential of the nation's rivers.

Tourism, a chief source of foreign exchange (along with international aid and Gurkha pensions), has been hurt by the escalation of the conflict with the country's Maoist rebels. Nepal's trade is overwhelmingly with India. In recent years, significant deforestation and a growing population have greatly affected the country. (<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0859924.html>)

The currency is the Nepalese rupee (NPR) that has an exchange rate per US dollar in 2003 of 76.1414 and it was 71.0938 in 2000. In 2001, their debt was estimated as \$2.7 billion. (<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mv.html>)

Prospects for foreign trade or investment in other sectors will remain poor, however, because of the small size of the economy, its technological backwardness, its remoteness, its landlocked geographic location, its civil strife, and its susceptibility to natural disaster.

(<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html>)

LITERACY

45.2% of the total population is considered literate. That is 62.7% of the males and 27.6% of the females. These literacy rates are from a 2003 est. with literacy being defined as those over 15 years old who can read and write.

(<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html>)

LAND/GEOGRAPHY

Nepal is located in Southern Asia between China and India. The total land area of the country is 140,800 sq km, which is slightly larger than Arkansas. 4,000 sq km of that area is water. Nepal varies in altitude from 70m above sea level in the south to 8848m at the height of Mount Everest in the north.

(<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html>)

Nepal has three distinct regions: “the *Terai* or flat river plain of the Ganges in the south, the *lower foothills* of the Himalayas with swiftly flowing rivers, and the *rugged Himalayas* forming the border with (Tibet) China in the north.”

(<http://www.sim.org/country.asp?CID=68&fun=1#languages>)

The Terai region contains “cultivable land, swamps, and forests that provide valuable timber.” (<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0859923.html>) “Central Nepal, an area of moderately high mountains, contains the Katmandu Valley, or Valley of Nepal,” the country's most densely populated region and its administrative, economic, and cultural center. Nepal's railroads, connecting with lines in India, do not reach the valley, which is served by a highway and a bridge like cable line. There are a few other modern highways.

(<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0859923.html>)

HISTORY

The country of Nepal as it is today has only been in existence for about 300 years. Recorded history shows people in the area since the 7th or 8th century BC. Kathmandu has been the center of most of Nepal's politics, economics, and culture.

Nepal's recorded history begins with the *Kiratis*, who arrived in the 7th or 8th century BC from the east. The Kiratis were skillful sheep farmers and carried long knives. During this time, Buddhism flourished in the area. In fact *Buddha, Siddhartha Guatama*, was Nepalese by birth.

(http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

The *Licchavi* invaded Nepal from northern India and overthrew the last *Kirati* king in the fourth century. They ruled the area from the 4th to 8th centuries. During this time, Buddhism waned and was replaced by Hinduism with its caste system. Further, this was a “classical age of Nepalese art and architecture.”

(http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

However, the *Licchavi* era came to an end and was followed by the *Thakuri* dynasty. This was a “grim period of instability and invasion often referred to as the ‘Dark Ages.’” Arideva, a Thakuri king, founded the Malla dynasty. The Malla ruled the area from the 12th through the 18th centuries. This time period was characterized by a renaissance in Nepali culture and reached its zenith under Yaksha Malla in the 15th century.

(http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

The dynasties mentioned above claimed to rule the whole area, but only rarely did their effective influence extend far beyond the Kathmandu Valley. (<http://countrystudies.us/nepal/3.htm>) Thus, other kingdoms existed in the other hills and valleys of the Himalayan region. The most eastern of these kingdoms, the *Gorkha*, conquered the others and united the nation in 1768, after 27 years of fighting.

Having won this long fight, the army was carried by momentum to conquer more land. Their progress was stopped in 1792 by a “brief and chastening war with Tibet.” (http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm) In 1816, there was a territorial dispute with Britain. They signed the 1816 *Sugali Treaty*, surrendering Sikkim and most of Terai. This established Nepal’s current eastern and western borders.

In 1846, *Jung Bahadur* seized control by killing several hundred of the most important leaders while they assembled in the Kot courtyard. He took the more prestigious title *Rana*, proclaimed himself prime minister for life, and later made the office hereditary. For the next century, the Ranas and their offspring luxuriated in huge Kathmandu palaces, while the remainder of the population eked out a living in medieval conditions. (http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

Further, in an effort to keep control, the Rana closed Nepal off from the rest of the world, preventing them from modernizing with the rest of the world. “Nepal remained a medieval nation, based on the exploitation of peasants and some trade revenues and dominated by a tradition-bound aristocracy that had little interest in modern science or technology.” (<http://countrystudies.us/nepal/3.htm>)

When the British left India in 1948, the Ranas’ lost their chief support. Many insurrectional movements vied to control the country and eventually, the Ranas agreed to negotiations. King Tribhuvan was anointed ruler in 1951 and established a government comprised of Ranas and members of the newly formed Nepali Congress Party. (http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

The nation became a constitutional monarchy in 1950. The constitutional monarchy only lasted eight years before slipping into a dictatorship under *King Mahendra*. “King Mahendra (Tribhuvan's son and successor) decided that a 'partyless' *panchayat* system would be more appropriate for Nepal. The king selected the prime minister and cabinet and appointed a large proportion of the national assembly, which duly rubber-stamped his policies. Power, of course, remained with only one party - the king's.” (http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

Multi party elections were once again practiced in May 1991. The Nepalese, fed up with years of hardship and suffering under a crippling trade embargo imposed

by the Indians, rose up in popular protest called the *Jana Andolan* or “People's Movement.” In the ensuing months, detention, torture, and violent clashes caused the deaths of thousands. It all proved too much for King Birendra, in power since 1972. He dissolved his cabinet, legalized political parties, and invited the opposition to form an interim government. The *panchayat* system was finally laid to rest.” (http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm)

The changeover to democracy proceeded until another bump in the road in June 2001. The popular King Birendra and much of the royal family was killed in the palace by a gunman, apparently the crown prince, who himself died of a gunshot wound sustained that night (believed to be self-inflicted). Public grief and conspiracy theories about the unknown motivation of the massacre paralyzed the country for several weeks. The country's monarch is now the late king's brother, Gyanendra. (<http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/Nepal/History>)

In their effort to establish their first democracy, Nepal has “seen more than a dozen governments since 1991.”

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm

Currently, the government faces trouble from Maoist rebels. The most recent ceasefire negotiated between Maoist rebels and the government ended on August 27, 2003. The termination of the agreement sparked renewed fighting and bomb blasts in Kathmandu.

(http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/history.htm) There is a story about the effect of the Maoist rebellion on development work at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2004/007/24.21.html>. Still more information about the Maoist insurgency is available at http://www.southasianmedia.net/major_issues/maoist%20Insurgency/index.cfm?did=60 .

Nepal today lives in political turmoil. The royal government has invited confrontation by forcing a new crackdown on civil liberties. Municipal elections on 8 February 2006 will not be free, fair or credible. The confrontation between an increasingly isolated palace and increasingly militant mainstream activists has benefited the Maoists. Since the Maoists ended their unilateral ceasefire on 2 January 2006 they have sustained an intense military campaign concentrating on well planned small urban attacks. The role of the outside world in forcing a rethink is crucial. If King Gyanendra is to take it seriously, international concern, with targeted sanctions against his family and officials and a review of aid, must be both more explicit and more coordinated.

(<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=2929&l=1>)

CHRISTIAN HISTORY

“The earliest Christian contact with Nepal took place in 1662, when Italian Capuchin priests passed through enroute to Tibet. Possibly encouraged by these visitors, in 1703, the Capuchin fathers were assigned by the Roman Catholic

Church to evangelize in North India, Nepal, and Tibet. From their base at Patna in north India several went to work in the Kathmandu valley city-states of the Newars from 1707 to 1769. However, when the Gorkha Prithwi Narayan Shah conquered Nepal, he expelled the priests and the group of Newar Christians they had won, accusing them of being agents in the expansionist plans of European colonial powers.”

(<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Churches%20&%20denominations>)

Eighteenth-century Jesuit missionaries were the first to enter Nepal as they found varying routes through the Himalayas to Tibet. They established a small mission, and a community of 57 Christian converts lived in the Nepal valley until they were banished from the kingdom. Ever since King Prithvi Narayan Shah expelled Catholic Capuchin priests in 1760, the policy of the Nepali government had been to prevent Christians from entering the country and to mistreat those who managed to do so. (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/004/2.56.html>)

Mission stations were established at places of useful contact where Nepalese came in and out of the country, and workers prayerfully waited for the opportunity to enter the country. “For two hundred years many missionary agencies and individuals thus stood praying and knocking at the door of Nepal.”

(<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Churches%20&%20denominations>)

William Carey, the British missionary who spent a lifetime in India, was the first to recognize the need for a Nepali Bible. He began a translation of the New Testament in 1812 in Serampore, India. The translation of the New Testament was completed in 1821. A Nepali pastor, Ganga Prasad Pradhan continued the work and translated the entire Bible by 1914.

(<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/004/2.56.html>)

Further, “the Church of Scotland established a strong base among the Nepalis and Lepchas at Darjeeling in 1835. Over the next century, Darjeeling played a vital role in facilitating the birth and growth of the church in Nepal, Bhutan, and Assam. The first recorded Nepalis who began to follow Christ were some Kathmandu merchants in Lhasa, Tibet.” (<http://www.sim.org/country.asp?CID=68&fun=1>)

Under Panchayat, Christians (as well as other distrusted groups) were persecuted and at least 300 pastors and Christians were jailed. Many Christians suffered police brutality, and at least one died because of it. Through this difficult time, the Church was driven underground and Nepali Christians practiced secret lives of prayer. (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/004/2.56.html>)

However, in 1990 Nepal began to pursue democracy and allow religious freedom. Although there is some religious freedom, the law prohibits converting others and proselytizing. These activities are punishable with fines, imprisonment or expulsion from the country for foreigners. The U.S. Dept of State’s report on Religious Freedom in Nepal is available at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35518.htm>.

As a result of their stance on foreigners bringing religion to Nepal there has not been great foreign influence. The Church in Nepal in many ways has resulted from Nepali and expatriate Christians who prayed and witnessed in India before Nepal was opened up. (<http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/13992.htm>)

As natural disasters or epidemics hit the land, many Nepalis crossed the border into India in pursuit of a better life. Some were drawn into India's Christian enclaves, beginning a vibrant ethnic Nepali church within India. (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/004/2.56.html>)

When *Gurkhas*, world-renowned Nepali soldiers, served in the British army in Malaysia, Singapore, and elsewhere, many became Christians, and on their return to Nepal, moved back to remote areas. The church owes much of its origin to a Nepalese army officer, *Prem Pradhan*, who converted to Christianity in India and returned to Nepal in 1959. His evangelistic activity led to conversions and eight baptisms. Because evangelism was illegal, both he and the converts were imprisoned for nearly five years. More conversions took place through Pradhan while he was in prison, and he continued to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus after his release. (<http://www.sim.org/country.asp?CID=68&fun=1>)

After the revolution of 1950, a new regime took power. The new regime allowed foreign agencies to enter the country. However, the government continued to scrutinize outside agencies. In late 1951 Christian missions were permitted to enter the country, but only under certain conditions. They were to serve the people in such useful ways as would further the cause of nation-building. They were to follow the rules of the department to which they were connected. They were to travel and live only as their visas allowed. They were not to propagate their religion or convert the people.” (<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Churches%20&%20denominations>)

The first missions to take advantage of this new opportunity in Nepal were the Catholic Jesuits from Patna. The Jesuits opened an English boys' boarding school near Kathmandu in 195, following it with a similar school for girls later.” (<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Churches%20&%20denominations>)

The largest foreign mission to enter Nepal was the United Mission to Nepal, formed in 1954. Prior to the granting of official permission to enter, Drs. Robert L. and Bethel Fleming visited Nepal in their winter vacations from Woodstock School in Mussoori, India. When the door was finally opened they were invited to open hospitals at Tansen and Kathmandu. Realizing that their Methodist mission alone was unable to meet the challenge, they helped organize the United Mission to Nepal, which began with ten missions from India under commitment to work as one body of Christians to build one church in the country.

The mission negotiated a five-year term to take medical work in two places initially. It grew rapidly. Agreements were negotiated for new projects, and the

initial agreement was extended for a further period of ten years. In 1969 it entered a third agreement with the government for five years. By now the UMN had grown to about thirty different member bodies from a dozen countries, with more than 180 missionary workers assigned to ten provinces throughout the country. Their work embraces medical, public health, education, agriculture, industrial development, and training projects.

(<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Churches%20&%20denominations>)

In 1982 activities in Nepal began, the Santal Mission becoming part of the NGO, United Mission to Nepal, and in 1991 radio mission was taken up in cooperation with Far East Broadcasting Company. (<http://danmission.dk/?id=883>)

From 15,000 in 1970 to an estimated 400,000 Christians today, Nepal has one of the fastest-growing Christian populations among the 3.6 billion people throughout Asia's 51 countries, according to scholars in Christian missions.

(<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/004/2.56.html>)

RELIGION

Nepal is known as the world's only Hindu kingdom. Thus, many of the people in Nepal practice Hinduism. However, it is often "intertwined in Buddhism and a strong, underlying animism." A complex caste system exists despite its illegality since 1963, because of the Hindu influence.

Next to Hinduism, the most commonly claimed religion is Buddhism. The Buddhism practiced in Nepal is mostly Lamaistic and is practiced by the Tibeto-Burman peoples. The Buddha was born in Nepal.

The Muslims in Nepal live mostly in the Terai region.

Statistically, there is a small percentage of Animists in Nepal. Many of the people groups were originally animistic but have been converted to Hinduism or Buddhism. However, they continue to practice many of their animistic ceremonies in addition to those of Hinduism or Buddhism.

(<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Churches%20&%20denominations>)

It is difficult to discern the percentages of people in Nepal practicing each religion because many practice a mixture of two or more of the religions. For example, even if a person claims to be Hindu, there is a good chance they still practice some sort of animistic beliefs at the same time.

In Nepal "Hindus constitute approximately 81 percent of the population; Buddhists, 11 percent; Muslims, 4.2 percent; and practitioners of Kirant (an indigenous animist religion) and others, 3.6 percent, of which 0.45 percent are Christian." However, Operation World suggests that the "official religion figures

of the 1991 census are suspect with minority religions under represented.”
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35518.htm>

According to <http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html> the breakdown is:

Religions	Population %	Adherents	Ann.Gr.
Hindu	74.82	17,904,793	+2.0%
Buddhist	16.00	3,828,878	+2.4%
Muslim	5.00	1,196,525	+4.6%
Christian	1.89	452,286	+16.1%
Other religions	1.70	406,818	+2.4%
non-Religious/other	0.50	119,652	+7.1%
Sikh	0.06	14,358	+6.2%
Baha'i	0.03	7,179	+2.4%

Non-Christian

Hinduism

Operation world (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that 74.82% of the population of Nepal was Hindu as of 2001.

It seems that the first people to set foot in the ancient Nepal were Aryans. The Aryans' basic beliefs are recorded in the *Vedas*, a collection of over one thousand religious hymns that were to form the foundation of the polytheistic religion of Hinduism.

Hinduism has a basic trinity of three gods - *Brahma* the Creator, *Vishnu* the Preserver, and *Shiva* the Destroyer. Most Hindus, while revering *Brahma*, do not usually include his worship in religious ceremonies as his role in the universe is regarded to be essentially completed. *Vishnu* and *Shiva*, however, are very important to all the Nepalese Hindus.

Vishnu, whose primary duty is to assure the preservation of the world and all living forms, is believed to have visited the earth ten times as "avatars" or incarnations. He is also believed to have come to the earth as a *Varaha*, as *Prince Rama*, as the god *Krishna* and as *Lord Gautam Buddha*.

Shiva, the Destroyer, is believed to have three forms - *Natraj* the god of artistic skill, an anthropomorphic form, and the *Lingam* form, the latter being the most famous. *Lingam* is situated in the north-west of Katmandu. In front of any *Shiva* temple, one usually sees a statue of *Nandi*, the divine bull that serves as *Shiva*'s vehicle. In anthropomorphic form, *Shiva* is depicted with his consort *Parvati* and usually holds a trident and a small drum. Another popular form of *Shiva* is terrifying *Bhairav*, who himself has a number of different forms. Two of *Vishnu*'s

other incarnations - *Rama* and *Krishna* - are especially important to the Hindus. *Rama* and *Krishna* are the heroes of the classic Hindu epics *Ramayana* and *Mahabharat* respectively.

Another widely venerated god is *Ganesh*, one of the sons of *Shiva*. *Ganesh* is revered in Nepal as the god of wisdom and the deity responsible for deciding between success and failure.

In practice, the Nepalese Hindus may choose one particular god as a favorite deity to be worshipped daily, or more likely will give due deference to all the above-mentioned gods and goddesses, along with many other incarnations and deities. Nepal's many Hindu festivals are dedicated to dozens of different deities and with participation by all Hindus, as well as Buddhists.

<http://www.thamel.com/htms/religions.htm>)

Buddhism

Operation world (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there 16% of the population of Nepal was Buddhist as of 2001. According to <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html#People>, the percentage of Buddhists was 10.7% as of 2001.

Beliefs and practices of Buddhism in Nepal date back to the time of its founder, Prince Siddhartha Gautam who was born in Lumbini in the southern Terai region of the country in about 543 B.C. Up to the age of twenty-nine, the young prince led a very sheltered life in the royal palace of his father, completely unaware of the problems and suffering of everyday life outside of the palace walls.

One day, he convinced his charioteer to take him outside the palace and was shocked at the sight of an old man, a cripple, and a corpse. The realization that there was much misery and unhappiness in the world persuaded the prince to abandon his luxurious life in the royal palace in order to search for enlightenment and the real meaning of life.

For many years, Gautam wandered from place to place looking for a solution to the problems he saw all around him. Finally, while meditating under a Pipal tree, he became spiritually enlightened. Henceforth known as Lord Buddha or "the enlightened one," began to preach the "Four Noble Truths" to all who would listen.

According to this doctrine, people suffer because of their attachment to things and people. In other words, the root of all the problems is desire. These desires and consequently, all problems and sufferings, can be totally eliminated by following the "eightfold path"-- right views, right intent, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right meditation.

Buddha journeyed from place to place, teaching and converting hundreds of followers and died at the age of eighty. However, his many disciples continued spreading his teachings. At the same time Buddhism split into two main schools of thought: *Hinayana* and *Mahayana*. The Followers of Hinayana do not worship idols of Buddha as the enlightened prince taught against idolatry. Very few other Nepalese Buddhists have adopted the Hinayana school of thought, choosing rather to follow Mahayana teachings. One of the central beliefs of Mahayanists is that one can achieve nirvana by following the example of Bodhisattvas, Bodhi meaning “enlightenment” and Sattva meaning “essence.”

<http://www.thamel.com/htms/religions.htm>)

Islam

Operation world (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that 5% of the population of Nepal was Muslim as of 2001. According to <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/np.html#People>, the percentage of Muslim was 4.2% as of 2001. Most of the Muslims in Nepal are located in the Terai region.

Jainism

21,500 people in Nepal (0.10% of the population) claimed Jainism as their religion in 1998 (from Gall, Timothy ed. *The Worldbook Encyclopedia of Culture and Daily Life: Vol 3 – Asia and Oceania*).

The only Jain Temple in Nepal is situated in the heart of Kathmandu at Bhagwan Mahavir Jain Niketan, Anuwrat Chowk (Kamalpokhari), Kathmandu.

http://www.nepaljain.com/ktm_jaintemple.htm

Jainism (pronounced *jayn-izm*), traditionally known as Jain Dharma, is an ancient religion known since early recorded times as an independent faith and philosophy. Jainism is based more immediately upon the teachings of the prince *Mahavira* (599–527 BC), or Lord Mahavira to Jains. According to belief, Jain philosophy is an understanding and codification of eternal universal truths which at times lapse among humanity, but later reappear through the teachings of human beings who have gained enlightenment or omniscience (*Keval Gnan*). In this part of the universe, in the present cycle of time, the philosophy is believed to have first been given to humanity by Lord Rishabha.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jain_philosophy

Tenrikyo

Tenrikyo is a religion of Japanese Shinto origin with some Buddhist influence. It was founded by a female peasant, *Nakayama Miki*, who experienced a series of revelatory experiences from 1838 onwards. After this date, she is referred to as *Oyasama* (Honored Parent) by followers. Tenrikyo is estimated to have about 2 million followers world-wide with 1.5 million of those in Japan. The focus of the

religion is to attain *yoki yusan* or *yoki gurashi*, the “joyous life,” on Earth through charity and abstention from greed, a self-serving life, hatred, anger and arrogance. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenrikyo>

According to <http://www.tenrikyo.or.jp/en/links/omd.html>, a Tenrikyo mission is located in Nepal.

Bon Shamanism

There is an article at <http://home.portal.ca/~lonewolf/shaman.htm> that defines and explains *Bon Shamanism*, also known as the unnamed religion. It is an animist-shamanist religion of Tibet and is practiced in Nepal by the Thakuli, Magar, Gurung, and Tamangs.

According to Eileen Kernaghan, “the *rama* shamans of the Magar, the *Paju* of the Gurung, the *aya-lama* of the Thakali, and the Tamang *bombo* belong to a common tradition of trans-Himalayan shamanism which has close parallels with classic North and Central Asiatic shamanism. (Greve 1984:160-161) As we will see, it is a tradition which has both strongly influenced, and in turn been influenced by, Tibetan Buddhist culture.” <http://home.portal.ca/~lonewolf/shaman.htm>

Tantrism

Both Hinduism and Buddhism in Nepal have been strongly influenced by the beliefs and practices of Tantrism. “*Tantra*” is a Sanskrit word referring to the basic warp of threads in weaving. Difficult to define due to its varying types and forms, Tantrism is a religion of moral precepts, meditation, yoga, mantras and a philosophy that believes in interwovenness of all things.

Tantrism has greatly influenced Nepalese Buddhism by creating the path of *Vajrayana*, the “Path of the Thunderbolt.” The main object used in Vajrayana Buddhist rituals is a small thunderbolt-like scepter that is said to represent the infinite in three dimensions. A large thunderbolt or Vajra as it is commonly referred to, can be seen at the entrance of Swayambhu temple at Katmandu on the top of a long flight steps.

“There are basically two types of Tantric gods and goddesses: *Dharmapalas* and *Yidams*. The former is often depicted with flaming red hair, several arms, legs or heads and three eyes. Yidams are tutelary deities often found depicted in thangkhas; like their Dharmapala counterparts, they are ferocious deities with many hands and fierce weapons.”

<http://www.thamel.com/htmls/religions.htm#Tantrik>

Church-type cults and sects

According to an article by Samuel Sangram Rai in Jan 05, *Scaling the Mountains in Nepal*, available at <http://www.evangelical-times.org/articles/jan05/jan05a11.htm>, the

cults that are active in Nepal are Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Christadelphians, and Jesus Only movement.

Jehovah's Witnesses

The 2004 Report of Jehovah's Witnesses Worldwide reports there are 9 congregations with an average of 1,179 attending Bible studies. Further, they claim 68 people were baptized in 2004.

http://www.watchtower.org/statistics/worldwide_report.htm

According to the LDS website (http://www.cumorah.com/cgi-bin/db.cgi?view_records=View%2BRecords&Country=Nepal) there are 6 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses with 430 active members and 1,117 adherents.

Mormons (LDS)

According to http://www.cumorah.com/cgi-bin/db.cgi?view_records=View%2BRecords&Country=Nepal, a website operated by the Mormons (LDS), there are no LDS congregations, active members, or missions in Nepal.

Christadelphians

The Christadelphians are a small denomination. They might best be described as "a conservative Christian movement which differs from conventional denominations in their beliefs concerning the nature of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and Satan." They claim that Jesus was a human who never sinned, but they deny that He was fully God as well as fully man. They do not acknowledge that he existed before the creation of the world. Instead they suggest that he came into existence when he was conceived by the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit. Also, they do not believe in Hell. They claim that "those who do not attain eternal life are in a state of non-existence in the grave."

http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_delp.htm

Further, "Christadelphians reject the doctrine of the Trinity and believe instead in one Supreme God and a plurality of manifestations, or Elohim (the Hebrew title of God that Christadelphians translate as "mighty ones"), among whom is Jesus."

<http://www.toad.net/~andrews/jhandbook.html>

The Christadelphians claim that there are Christadelphians in Nepal however, it is not certain how many. According to one website that claims Christadelphians in Nepal, "records of numbers are not really kept, as Christadelphians don't want to impress people with statistics, we merely want to generate enthusiasm for reading the Bible and help those searching for Truth."

<http://www.bibleinfo.org.uk/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=11>

Jesus Only Movement

The article, *Scaling Mountains in Nepal*, claims that the “Jesus Only Movement” is present in Nepal. <http://www.evangelical-times.org/articles/jan05/jan05a11.htm>

The Jesus Only Movement denies the Trinity. They claim that the name of God is “Jesus” and that He is manifested as the Father and the Holy Spirit. Also, they teach that baptism is necessary for salvation. For more information about the orthodox and unorthodox doctrines of the Jesus Only Movement see <http://www.carm.org/oneness/onessteach.htm>.

Catholics/Orthodox Churches

Italian Capuchin priests, commissioned by the Roman Catholic Church to evangelize North India in 1662, were the earliest Christians to establish permanent contacts in Nepal. They remained in Nepal, primarily in the Kathmandu Valley, until Gorkha Prithwi Narayan Shah conquered Nepal in 1769. This leader expelled the priests and all of their converts.

The country remained closed to Christianity for the next 200 years (1769-1951). The Roman Catholics entered Nepal again in 1951 as soon as it reopened. At present there are about 10 Roman Catholics in the Kathmandu Valley working in education. <http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html>

According to <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dnepa.html> there were 6,195 Catholics and 51 Priests living in Nepal. There is a Catholic college in Kathmandu, St. Xavier’s College. It was founded by Father Eugene Watrin. <http://www.georgiabulletin.org/world/2004/03/01/PEOPLE-5/>

Protestant/Evangelicals/Pentecostals

No denominations as such exist in Nepal. Three church buildings are located in the capital city, Kathmandu. The closest resemblance to an organized body is the Nepal Christian Fellowship. Missionaries from various denominational backgrounds are active in Nepal. Most have become members of the scattered small groups that meet for prayer, worship, and Bible study. The different denominationally-oriented missionaries serving with the interdenominational United Mission to Nepal (UMN) have provided an excellent example of evangelical cooperation in the continuing work of the Lord in Nepal. <http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Current%20Church%20Growth%20Status>

Christian denominations are few but growing. Christian leaders estimate the number of Christians at approximately 400,000, which is higher than the official government estimate. Press reports indicate that 170 Christian churches operate in Kathmandu alone. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35518.htm> Protestant groups together report a growth rate of + 26.2%. Independent Christian groups report as high as + 19.6% growth. (Operation World)

The Brethren in Christ Church is the largest in eastern Nepal. As of December 2001 there were thirty BIC churches in Nepal with more than 665 members. Currently there are ten Nepali church planters and evangelists, all of whom have completed either a two or four year program of training.

<http://www.bic-church.org/wm/global/country/nepal.htm>

According to <http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html> there were a total of 3,044 Christian congregations in Nepal with 237,700 members and 446,800 adherents as of 2001.

Church of Christ http://church-of-christ.org/churches/Nepal/Nepal_S.htm lists two Church of Christ churches that meet in Kathmandu (Baneshwor Church of Christ and Kamal Pokhari Church of Christ) and one Church of Christ church in Narayangarh (Narayangarh Church of Christ). They claim to be non-denominational. They admit that one thing that sets them apart from other churches is that they do not use musical instruments in worship.

National Churches Fellowship of Nepal (NCFN) The National Churches Fellowship of Nepal (NCFN) is an umbrella organization of Christian churches in Nepal and is registered with the government of Nepal.

<http://www.globalministries.org/sasia/spo48.htm> They help develop leadership capabilities and cultivate spiritual growth and mission involvement of Nepali churches and church members. <http://www.globalministries.org/sasia/nepal.htm>

According to <http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html> there were 260 NCFN Congregations with 28,000 members and 60,000 adherents as of 2001.

NCFN is responsible for the Nepal Ebenezer Bible College which provides Biblical foundations for the future leaders of the church in Nepal.

<http://www.globalministries.org/sasia/spo48.htm>

Presbyterian Church of the Kingdom of Nepal, "The Presbyterian Church of the Kingdom of Nepal claims some 18 congregations and entertains privileged links with Korean and Mizoram Presb. It held its first General Assembly in 1996. With the support of the Presbyterian Church in the USA it runs the Ebenezer Bible College as well as a pastor and leadership training center.

<http://www.reformed-online.net/adressen/detail.php?id=13247&lg=eng>

According to <http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html> there were 19 Presbyterian congregations with 3,000 members and 5,000 adherents as of 2001.

Foursquare Gospel Church: According to their website,

<http://www.foursquare.org/redirect.cfm?http://fmi.foursquare.org>, as of 2005 there were 9 churches with a total of 550 members in Nepal. Operation world

(<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 600 churches with 26,667 members and 55,000 adherents as of 2001. Unfortunately, reasons for this discrepancy have not been determined.

Assemblies of God

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 315 churches with 29,000 members and 54,000 adherents as of 2001.

The history of the Pentecostal movement is available at <http://www.aps.edu/ajps/01-2/01-2-bsharma.pdf>.

Pentecostal Church of Nepal

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 300 churches with 25,000 members and 37,000 adherents as of 2001.

Evangelical Church Fellowship of Nepal (ECFN)

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 120 churches with 8,333 members and 20,000 adherents as of 2001.

Believers Group (GFA)

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 200 churches with 8,000 members and 18,000 adherents as of 2001.

GFA has a publishing group that publishes tracts in the Nepali language. Tracts and booklets are also available in minority languages such as Tibetan, Dzongkha, Tharu, Maithili, and Loba. They offer "more than a hundred titles available for students, city dwellers, villagers, etc."

<http://www.tractlist.com/christiantractsgk.html> The contact information for GFA publications (NEPAL) is GPO Box 4272, Kathmandu, NEPAL. Their phone number is +977-1-533163 and their email is gfanepal@wlink.com.np.

Agape Fellowship

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 52 churches with 6,000 members and 15,000 adherents as of 2001.

Nepal Baptist Church Council

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 65 churches with 7,500 members and 12,000 adherents as of 2001. As of 2003, the Nepal Baptist Church Council consisted of 90 churches with 12,000 members according to the Baptist World Alliance.

<http://www.bwanet.org/Contact%20Us/MemberBodies.htm>

According to an article by Samuel Sangram Rai written in January 2005 and found at www.evangelical-times.org/articles/jan05/jan05a11.htm, he claims that the Canaan Baptist Church in Pokhara, begun in 1993, is a church where the doctrines of grace have been taught and separation from false teaching practiced. The author goes on to claim that Canaan Baptist Church has planted 34 reformed Baptist churches in different parts of Nepal.

Seventh Day Adventists

According to the LDS website (http://www.cumorah.com/cgi-bin/db.cgi?view_records=View%2BRecords&Country=Nepal), there are 5 congregations of Seventh Day Adventists with 947 active members and 1894 adherents. Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 5 churches with 785 members and 1,500 adherents as of 2001.

The Adventists have a clinic and hospital in Kathmandu. The Nepal Seventh-day Adventist Clinic has a mailing address of P.O. Box 88; Kathmandu; Nepal. The Scheer Memorial Hospital has a mailing address of P.O. Box 88; Kathmandu; Nepal

Evangelical Alliance Church of Nepal

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 40 churches with 4,800 members and 12,000 adherents as of 2001.

Assemblies (El Shaddai)

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 40 churches with 3,500 members and 7,000 adherents as of 2001.

Emmanuel Church Association

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 32 churches with 3,400 members and 5,200 adherents as of 2001.

Lord's Assemblies

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 13 churches with 2,000 members and 5,000 adherents as of 2001.

Eastern Nepal Charismatic Fellowship

Operation World (<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>) claims that there were 22 churches with 2,200 members and 4,700 adherents as of 2001.

Nazarene

There are 14 Nazarene churches in Nepal. They are Baigundhura Life, Beldangi Grace, Bethany, Damak Sinai, Harakpur Holy Church, Itahari, Kakum Pratigya, Kathmandu Koteshor, Kathmandu Dagurnepani, Khotang Sagarmatha, Machhelu Sinai, Peltimari Sinai, Tulshibari Jeevan Church, and Udayapur Trinity.

<http://nazmrc.nazarene.org/cgi-bin/db2www/wrk011.mac/report> The Nazarene Mission International began working in Nepal in 1998.

http://www.nazarenemissions.org/education/resources/world_area_list.html

Independent Churches

There is information about an independent church, Grace Christian Church, at <http://www.grace-christian-church-ministry-of-nepal.com/>. The founder of this church, Thomas Rai, has a Hindu background and was converted when Klaus Peter and Doris Kugler came from Germany. Their statement of beliefs is available at <http://www.grace-christian-church-ministry-of-nepal.com/church-ministry-statementoffaith.htm>.

Persecution

Nepal changed from being a Hindu monarchical state to a democratic state in the early 1990s, and a new constitution in 1990 supposedly guaranteed each person 'the freedom to profess and practice his own religion.'

Proselytizing is banned and carries a three-year jail penalty, but no one thus far has been prosecuted. Eighty-five percent of Nepal's 24.3 million people are Hindu, although Hinduism is no longer the state religion. In the past three years, extremist Hindu organizations from India have set up offices in Katmandu and aggression against Christians is on the rise.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2001/107/37.0.html>

"Since 1991 there has been freedom for all to profess and practice their religion, but not to proselytize."

<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#Churches%20&%20denominations>

Maoist rebels have been a serious problem since 1996. They are mainly targeting Nepal's political regime, but increasingly Christian churches and organizations are embroiled in the conflict. In June, those who claimed responsibility for an explosion in a Catholic institution said 'all Christians are spies.' Maoists reportedly attack Christian schools, orphanages and houses in search of boys as conscripts for their army. Christian work has become more hazardous. Christian Aid recently reported a national missionary team was captured in a remote mountain village, but was later released. Some expatriate and national missionaries have reportedly had written orders to leave the areas where they work. Travel for evangelism and to conduct Christian seminars is increasingly dangerous, or paralyzed due to Maoists calling transport strikes or blocking the roads in various places at different times.

<http://jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/13992.htm>

PEOPLE GROUPS

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Abdul (1,400 JP)

The Abdul are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus Film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Abdal, Badal, Bediya, Beria, Dafalange, Dafali, Dholakwala, Dholwala, Hashmi, Hashmi Saudagar, and Shaikh Darwesh. There are also Abdul living in Bangladesh and India.

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Aghori (700 JP)

The Aghori are primarily Hindu and speak Maithili. The Bible is not available in Maithili. However, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio

recordings are available. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Aghorapanthi, Bhatuk Gulgulia, Giri, Gosain, Karkarmunda, Sarbhangi, and Surbhang. There are also Aghori living in India.

The Aghoris are a small sect of Sadhus, ascetic holy men. Sadhus are not supposed to eat meat or drink alcohol. However, the Aghori willingly transgress these taboos, believing that “by ‘reversing all values’ they will speed up enlightenment.” Aghori often live on cremation grounds and surround themselves with artifacts of death. They use human skulls for drinking and for performing magic rituals.

<http://www.the-south-asian.com/Feb2001/Sadhu%20sects2.htm>

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Ahar (6,300 JP)

The Ahar are primarily Hindus and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Ahar living in India.

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Amat (20,000 JP)

The Amat are primarily Hindu and speak Maithili. The Bible is not available in Maithili. However, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Amant, Amath, Marar, Panara, and Patel. There are also Amat living in Bangladesh and India.

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Ansari (194,000 JP)

The Ansari are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. In addition to Urdu, many speak Bengali and Bhojpuri. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Dewang, Garana, Jola, Jolha, Julaha, Kabirpanthi, Karikar, Kuchchak, Marwadi, Meman, Momin, Sale, Shaikh Momin, Sheikh Mohmandi, Tari, and Vankar. There are also Ansari living in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and India.

Ansari means “one who helps” in Arabic.

00000

Apapanthi (1,100 JP)

The Apapanthi are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Apapanthi living in India.

00000

Arain, Muslim (1,900 JP)

The Arain, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Baghban, Chaudhari, and Rain. There are also Arain, Muslim living in India and Saudi Arabia.

00000**Arakh (2,600 JP)**

The Arakh are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Arakalu and Yadava. There are also Arakh living in India.

00000**Ath Pahariya Rai (1,200 JP)**

See Rai

6167**Athpare Rai, Rai Kirati (59,826 PG)**

See Rai

6169**Awadhi (534,723 PG)**

The Awadhi live mainly in the southern Lumbini zone. The Awadhi are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. The group is considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Abadhi, Ambodhi, Awadhi Abadhi, Bagheli, and Baiswari.

There is some question as to whether the Awadhi Abadhi even exist as a distinct ethnic group. Some believe that they are simply a landless people who are part of other groups. However, other scholars identify them as an existing group with their own language (Awadhi). Further research is needed to clearly identify these people so they can be reached with the Gospel message.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=100642&rog3=NP>

00000**Badaik (1,100 JP)**

The Badaik are primarily Hindu and speak Sadri. Portions of the Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Sadri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Badak, Badik, Braik, Bharaik, and Surajbansi. There are also Badaik living in Bangladesh and India.

00000**Badhai, Hindu (66,000 JP)**

The Badhai, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. In addition to Bhojpuri, they speak Awadhi, Bengali, and Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Acharia, Ade-Gaur, Badai, Bade, Badhira, Badhoyi, Badhria, Barahai, Barahi, Barai, Baraj, Barariswabrahma, Barariswakarma, Barhai, Barhi, Baroi, Barui, and Barujibi. There are also Badhai, Hindu living in India and Bangladesh.

00000

Badhai, Muslim (3,000 JP)

The Badhai, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. In addition to Urdu, many also speak Bhojpuri and Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Barahai, Barai, Barariswabrahma, Barariswakarma, Barhi, Barjib, Bharai, Chhan, Chourasia, Jangid Brahman, Khati, Kolash, Lote, Mistri, Najar, Panchal, Saifi, and Sharmaji. There are also Badhai, Muslim living in India and Bangladesh.

00000

Badhi, Muslim (600 JP)

The Badhi, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Badhia, Chinaora, Kalbelia, Melori, Odmata, Sheresahbadia, Shersahbadia, Sishoobadia, Sishubadia, and Uranamara. There are also Badhi, Muslim living in India.

00000

Bagdi (200 JP)

The Bagdi are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bagadi, Bagri, Bogada, Byagra Kshatriya, Duley, Malia Bagdi, and Mete. There are more Bagdi living in India and Bangladesh.

00000

Baghban, Muslim (300 JP)

The Baghban, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Bagvan. There are also Baghban, Muslim living in India.

6170

Bagheli (7,179 PG)

The Bagheli are primarily Hindu and speak Bagheli. Portions of the Bible, the Jesus film, and audio recordings are available in Bagheli. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kawathi and Riwai.

00000

Bahelia, Muslim (800 JP)

The Bahelia, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Ahuliya. There are also Bahelia, Muslim living in India.

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Bahna (7,500 JP)

The Bahna are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Behana, Dhunia, Dhunkar, Naddaf, Panjara, Panjwara, Penja, Pinja, Pinjali, Pinjara, Pinjia, and Punji. There are also Bahna living in India.

00000

Baidya, Hindu (100 JP)

The Baidya, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Baid, Baidyakar, and Vaidya. There are also Baidya, Hindu living in Bangladesh and India.

00000

Bairagi, Hindu (27,000 JP)

The Bairagi are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. In addition to Bhojpuri many also speak Awadhi, Bengali, Hindu, Kumauni, and Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Atit, Babaji, Baishnab, Bava, Bavaji, Boishnavo, Boslom, Byragi, Dasnali, Pantaram, Rajpur, Ramat, Sadh, Sadhayo, Sadhu, Sanyasi, Shammu, and Siddh. There are more Bairagi, Hindu living in Bangladesh and India.

Their name is derived from the Sanskrit word *vairagya* which means "freedom from passion."

<http://allaboutsikhs.com/history/his0409.htm>

00000

Baitadi (131,000 JP)

The Baitadi primarily speak Nepali. Their primary religion is unknown. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

00000

Bajhangi (Unknown JP)

The Bajhangi primarily speak Nepali. Their primary religion is not known. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

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Baktapur (Unknown JP)

The Baktapur primarily speak Newar. Their primary religion is unknown. The New Testament, the Jesus film, and audio recordings are available in Baktapur. They are considered unreached/least reached.

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Baloch, Southern (300 JP)

The Baloch, Southern are primarily Sunni Muslim and speak Balochi, Eastern. Some also speak Balochi, Southern. Parts of the Bible, the Jesus film, and audio recordings are available in Balochi, Eastern. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Baloch, Baluch, and Baluchi, Southern. The name, "Baluch," is shrouded in controversy. Some say it means "nomad," while others claim that it is an old Persian word meaning "the cock's crest." Their history is just as mysterious. Some have traced their origins to Nimrod, son of Cush (Noah's grandson). Baloch people also live in southern Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sri Lanka.

Baluchmayar is the honor code by which the Baluch live. These principles include extending hospitality and mercy, dealing with each other honestly, and offering refuge to strangers. The traditions are preserved through both songs and poetry. Children learn proper behavior by watching their elders, and are taunted whenever they misbehave.

The traditional Baluch economy is based on a combination of farming and semi-nomadic shepherding. They usually raise sheep, cattle, or goats. Agriculture is limited because of the harsh climate. It still plays a large role in their economy. Their chief crop is wheat.

While their survival techniques may vary, each community tries to keep a wide variety of animals and grow many different crops. If the local economy does not provide adequate job opportunities, the young men often move to the cities in search of work. One wild plant, called the "dwarf palm," is used as a dietary

supplement. The meat of the palm is eaten, and the leaves are used to make ropes, shoes, mats, and tents.

Baluch societies are organized into kin-based clans and territorially defined tribes. Male elders are the heads of these tribal units. Village settlements are clusters of mud houses, loosely organized around the home of the local chief. They live in these permanent settlements in the summertime. However, in winter, they migrate to the plains and coastal areas, seeking green grass for their livestock. During this time, they live in tents, and move freely across the landscape as the weather dictates. These temporary settlements are smaller. The entire household is responsible for tending the family's herd. Women work in groups, threshing and separating the harvest; while plowing and planting are done by the men. Traditionally, land is not privately owned but belongs to the whole tribe.

http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code/1468.html

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Bania (104,000 JP)

The Bania are primarily Hindu and speak Marwari. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Marwari. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Arayia Vaisya, Arya Vysya, Bandekara, Baniyan, Baqal, Chetti, Gupta, Komati, Kumuti, Lalaji, Mahajan, Mahajan Vania, Padayachi, Sahukar, Sarak, Shetti, Vaisya, and Vani. There are also Bania living in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Malaysia, Mauritas, Mozambique, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

The Bania prefer to live in the plains. Their name is derived from the Sanskrit word, *vanik*, which means "trading."

00000

Bania, Jain (900 JP)

The Bania, Jain primarily speak Marwari and practice Jainism. Jainism is a syncretistic religion, which contains many elements similar to Hinduism and Buddhism. <http://www.religioustolerance.org/jainism.htm> The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Marwari. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Arayia Vaisya; Arya Vysya; Bandekara; Banitan; Baqal; Chetti; Gupta; Komati; Komati, Kumut; Kumuti; Lalaji; Mahajan; Mahajan Vania; Sahukar; Sarak; Shetti; Vaisya; and Vani. There are also Bania, Jain living in Burma and India.

00000

Banjara, Hindu (3,500 JP)

The Banjara, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also

known by the names Bagora, Bajari, Dhari, Gavar, Gawalia, Gormati, Guwaria, Jogi Banjara, Kanjar, Kongadi, Labham, Lamani, Lambadi, Manu Banjara, Naik, Navi Banjara, Sirkiband, and Wanjara. There are also Banjara, Hindu living in India and Bangladesh.

The Banjara are a part of the gypsy people cluster. There is more information about Gypsies available at <http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8007.html>. Traditionally, they were a nomadic people which carried and drove pack-bullocks.

Three opinions abound about the origin of their name. One suggests that the name Banjara comes from the word *bajjika* which translates as “trade” or “business.” Others believe that it came from the Sanskrit word *vanijya* or *banijyakara* which means “trader” or “merchant.” Lastly, a view exists that the word Banjara comes from *banji*, which means “peddler’s pack.” Today, the word means “a trading community.” The people trace their roots to the Lakhi Banjara which moved from one forest to another with his merchandise. Historically, the Banjara kept cattle, traded salt and transported goods. As their habit, they remain isolated away from others even if they are settled.

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Banjara, Muslim (3,000 JP)

The Banjara, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Badi, Bhanjira, Bhorju, Brinjari, Chhakda, Dhali, Guwaria, Lambada, Paracha, Sirkiband, and Wanjara. There are also Banjara, Muslim living in Bangladesh and India.

It has been said that the Badi are extremely straightforward and frank, do not possess any discipline, and are comfortable with using vulgar language.

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Bankariya (500 JP)

The Bankariya primarily speak Nepali. Their religion is unknown. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Bankariya live in Makawanpur district and are known as a disadvantaged tribe that is near extinction. They live in and depend on the forest. The Bankariya are proud that they are the descendants of Lav or *Losari* and Kus or *Kusari*. They believe they must remain in the jungles like their ancestors to keep their customs and culture alive. The Bankariya sell produce from the jungle. Further, they have an extensive understanding of the medicinal herbs available in the jungles. Recently, they have begun to adopt farming as another means of livelihood.

The festival of Nawagi is very important to the Bankariya. Unlike other tribes, the Bankariya celebrate Dasai and Tihar only ordinarily. They offer worship and offerings to their tutelary deity, the Ban Devta, regularly. In many ways, such as their traditional dress and language, they are similar to the Chepangs.

<http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishdaily/trn/2003/jan/jan07/local.htm>

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Bansphor, Hindu (800 JP)

The Bansphor, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. In addition to Bhojpuri, many speak Angika. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Banpar, Bansbakura, Bansphodia, Banswal, Basphor, Basphurdwa, Basud, Benbansi, Katuria, Mehtra, Methur, and Mondal. There are also Bansphor, Hindu living in India.

Their name comes from the word, *ban*, meaning “bamboo” and *phor*, which means “split.” Their traditional occupations included making bamboo articles and raising pigs. Today, some also work as unskilled laborers such as miners, sharecroppers, and government employees.

00000

Bantar (7,000 JP)

The Bantar are primarily Hindu and speak Maithili. The Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Bantar living in Bangladesh and India.

Their name is derived for the word meaning “bamboo.” They can be found thatching houses and fishing, in addition to their bamboo work. Sharecropping, government and private employment is also prevalent. Women are permitted to take part in social, economic and religious aspects of community life.

6174

Bantawa Rai (42,292 PG)

See Rai

6175

Baragaunle (2,376 PG)

The Baragaunle are primarily Buddhist and speak Baragaunle. The Bible is available (People groups.org says the Bible is available but Joshuaproject.org says it is not available). However, no other ministry tools are available. According to Joshuaproject.org the Baragaunle speak Lowa.

http://www.ethnologue.com/14/show_language.asp?code=LOY says that there is 78% lexical similarity between Baragaunle and Lowa. No Bible exists in Lowa.

However, Gospel audio recordings are available. Buddhism that is practiced by the Baragaunle “also incorporates elements of animism.”

http://www.asian-trekking.com/nepal_intro/nepal_mountainpeople.htm

They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bahra Gaunle, Baragaon, Baragaulne, Baragaun, Baragaunle, Bhoti Gurung, Mustang, Panchgaun, and Panchgaunle. The name Baragaunle means “12 village people”. They are “ethnically Tibetan and live in the Muktinath Valley.”

http://www.asian-trekking.com/nepal_intro/nepal_mountainpeople.htm

Dyokyabsi is one of their important festivals. It is similar to the *mani-rimdu* festival of the Sherpas in Solu-Khumbu. It is a five day festival and it is common for boys and girls between the ages of 18 and 25 to sleep in the *gomba* (temple). “All inhabitants of a village are expected to return home for the celebration” (Bista, 159).

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Baram (1,800 JP)

The Baram primarily speak Jerung. The Bible is not available in Jerung. Further, there are not any other ministry tools available in Jerung. “They are animists, but they are coerced to state Hinduism as their religion. Barams worship their family gods, Chandi, Bhume, forest gods and goddesses. They make use of dhamis and jhakris to perform worship rituals and to treat illnesses.” They are considered unreached/least reached.

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/32/42/>

The Baram live in the Gorkha, Dhading, and Tanahun districts. They live in areas where Gurungs and Magars are dominant. As a result, they have assimilated many of their customs. The Baram “claim to be descendants of the Sunwars of Eastern Nepal” (Gautam, 27). According to <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/32/42/>, they believe they are the offspring of the five brothers: Surel, Sunuwar, Jirel, Rai (Khambu), and Limbu.

The husband is considered the head of the household and the wife is responsible for the household chores, most importantly having and rearing children. As long as the father is alive, the sons are to acknowledge him as their leader and mentor. Even after they have families of their own if a sister needs to get married after the father dies, they consider it the joint responsibility of all the brothers.

Most Baram are cremated when they die. However, some are buried. And during the monsoons many are given a water burial. They are not permitted to die within the house. Thus, they are taken outside just before breathing their last breath. The corpse is covered with a saffron and white cloth and tied to a bamboo frame. They perform the *daagbatti dine* ritual by placing a coin in their mouth. Then a burning coal is placed on top of the coin.

Many Baram work in agricultural. Some also keep chickens, cattle, goats, etc for personal consumption or for offerings. Also, some Baram work as hired laborers, soldiers, carpenters, and stone masons. In the past, Brahma were employed to carry *dolas*, or palanquins and were therefore considered a low caste. However, they have formed a tribal union, boycotted the carrying of *dolas*, and have elevated themselves to the level of *pani chalne jat* (tribe with whom water can be used freely), not low caste. They are skilled with carpentry and masonry.

00000

Bardai (500 JP)

The Bardai are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Bardai living in India.

6176

Barhamu (428 PG)

The Barhamu are primarily Animists and speak Baraamu. The Bible is available in Braamu (People groups.org says the Bible is available but Joshuaproject.org says it is not available) but no other ministry tools are available. They are considered unreached/least reached.

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Bari, Hindu (5,800 JP)

The Bari, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. In addition to Awadhi, many speak Bhojpuri, Hindi, and Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Donwar, Panwala, Panwali, Rawat, Soot, and Sut. There are also Bari, Hindu living in Bangladesh and India.

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Barwala, Hindu (500 JP)

The Barwala, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. In addition to Bhojpuri, some speak Awadhi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Barwar, Dalwatia, Mandla, Narwalia, Payaliya, Radha, Radhthiya, Sanjwal, and Soniyal. There are also Barwala, Hindu living in India.

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Bedia, Hindu (1,700 JP)

The Bedia, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Abdal, Abdul, Badia, Bedda, Bedai Kudmi, Bediya, Benia, Berai, Berani,

Beria, Bhantu, Chhotot Bedia, Dafali, Hashmi Saudagar, Mangal, Osthani, Paturia, and San Bedia. There are more Bedia, Hindu living in Bangladesh and India.

The Badis (probably another name for Bedia) “are a tribe found in the mid western and far western regions of Nepal. They are a migratory people moving south from the foothills of the Himalayas under moderate climatic conditions.”
http://web.idrc.ca/es/ev-58036-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

It has become the practice of the Bedia in India to select one girl from each family to be a community prostitute. The rest of the family does not work, but lives off of her earnings. According to http://web.idrc.ca/es/ev-58036-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html, this practice is also done in Nepal among the Badis (probably another name for the Bedia). The Badi community is dependent on females for economic sustenance of the community through the sex trade. They remain migratory today, families continue to travel as a group and family bonds and ties remain strong. The Nepali ‘Badi’s seem to be very similar to the ‘Bedia’ community who are found in Rajasthan.”

http://www.worldsexguide.org/india_child.txt.html
<http://www.gendwaar.gen.in/bgqc8.htm>

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Bedia, Muslim (1,400 JP)

The Bedia, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. In addition to Urdu, many also speak Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Abdal, Bediya, Chhotot Bedia, Dafali, Hashmi Saudagar, Mangal, and San Bedia. There are more Bedia, Muslim living in India and Bangladesh.

For additional information see Bedia, Hindu above.

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Beg (100 JP)

The Beg are primarily Muslim and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Begar. There are more Beg living in Bangladesh and India.

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Beldar, Hindu (16,000 JP)

The Beldar, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. In addition to Hindi, many also speak Bhojpuri or Magahi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bachgotra, Bentkar, Bhujan, Bhujwa, Bunkar, Changar, Chauhan,

Chunar, Chunara, Chunari, Chuncha, Gavandi, Goundi, Govandi, Kannada Naicker, Karpoora Chetti, Kattautia, and Lonari. There are also Beldar, Hindu living in India and Bangladesh.

Their name, Beldar, comes from two words meaning “hoe” and “one who handles it” respectively. They are said to be earth-diggers which would give them their name.

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Belhariya (500 JP)

The Belhariya primarily speak Belhariya. Their religion is unknown. The Bible is not available in Belhariya. Further, no ministry tools are available in Belhariya. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6178

Bengali (71,791)

The Bengali people are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting (joshuaproject.org claims that radio broadcasts are available but peoplegroups.org says they are not), and audio recordings are available in Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bangla Bhasa; Bangladeshi; Bengali, Muslims; and Hindus. There are also Bengalis living in Bangladesh, Burma, Canada, Fiji, France, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Although, the majority of the Bengali’s in Nepal are Hindus, the majority of Bengalis around the world are Muslims, 60%.

<http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8004.html>

“In general, the Bengalis are a proud people, highly ambitious, and always striving for excellence. Although outside influences are being incorporated into their culture, the Bengalis remain very proud of their cultural heritage.”

<http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8004.html>

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Bhand (100 JP)

The Bhand are primarily Hindu and speak Marwari. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Marwari. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhamgat, Bhan, Bhande, Bhanr, Bhand, Bhunt, and Bunt. There are more Bhand living in India.

The Bhand live in the Darchula, Baitadi, and Dadeldhura districts in the western tip of Nepal. They usually live in remote places along river banks and most do not have houses or own land. Instead most live in small thatched huts and work as tenant farmers. The Bhand are considered in the lower caste, the untouchables.

Legend suggests that the Bhand are the descendants of a couple who fled from Kumaon city from the Muslim invasion to protect their Hindu faith. It is suggested that this refugee couple hid in the Nepalese hills and were given shelter by Raja Uday Dev, who later gave them the title Rana Bhand. The fact that the Uday Dev Mandir temple in Patan has the *masane* or *kul* deity (a Bhand deity) standing guard at the entrance serves as evidence that the Bhand settled in Patan at some point along their migration from India. They have continued to migrate to the west in search of better job opportunities and more fertile soil. However, many scholars do not take this story seriously because of a lack of concrete proof.

Today, in addition to agriculture, the Bhand are involved in molding and firing earthenware pots. As a result, they are often misidentified as Kumal. Some also maintain themselves through fishing or begging. The Bhand are “always on the edge of poverty.” (Gautam, 25)

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Bhand, Muslim (29,000 JP)

The Bhand, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhan, Bhangat, Bhanr, Bhant, Naqqal, and Rana Bhand. There are also Bhand, Muslim living in India.

For more information refer to Bhand people group above.

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Bhangi, Hindu (21,160 JP)

The Bhangi, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Angika. Neither the Bible nor any other ministry tools are available in Angika. However, many Bhangi, Hindu also speak Bengali and Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Balmiki, Barvashia, Bhangia, Chuhra, Hadi, Halalkhor, Hari, Harijan, Jamphora, Korar, Lai Begi, Malkana, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, and Zadmalli. There are also Bhangi, Hindu living in Bangladesh and India.

Their name is derived from Bhangi which means “hemp.” This is an allusion to their drinking habits. Tradition holds that they came from the union of a Sudra man and Brahman woman. Saint Balmiki appears as their ancestor and they introduce themselves as Balmiki.

<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Bhangi>

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Bhangi, Muslim (1,740 JP)

The Bhangi, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. In addition to Urdu, many speak Angika. They are considered

unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Balmiki, Barvashia, Bhangia, Chuhra, Halalkhor, Hari, Jamphora, Korar, Lal Begi, Mehmar, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, and Zadmali. There are also Bhangi, Muslim living in India and Bangladesh.

<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Bhangi>

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Bhar (22,080 JP)

The Bhar are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. In addition to Bhojpuri, many speak Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bharat, Bharpatwa, and Rajbhar. There are also Bhar living in Bangladesh and India.

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Bharbhunja, Hindu (13,000 JP)

The Bharbhunja, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. In addition to Hindi, many speak Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhadbhunja, Bhade, Bhaduja, Bharbhuja, Bhooj, Bhuj, Bhujari, Bhujawala, Bhuji, Bhujua, Bhunj, Bhunjia, Bhurji, Kalenera, Kandu, Kashodhay, and Mehre. There are also Bharbhunja, Hindu living in India.

00000

Bhat, Hindu (10,120 JP)

The Bhat, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Mathili. The Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Mathili. However, they do not have a Bible available. In addition to Mathili, many speak Bengali, Bhojpuri, Hindi, Kumauni, or Magahi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bahrot, Batera, Battera, Batterha, Bhaat, Bhaot, Bhatra, Bhatraju, Bhatrose, Bhatu, Bohrot, Brahma Bhat, Brahmabhat, Brahmabhata, Charan, Darpi, Dasund, and Dignpal. There are also Bhat, Hindu living in Bangladesh and India.

00000

Bhat, Muslim (2,150 JP)

The Bhat, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bahrot, Bhaat, Brahma Bhat, Brahmabhat, Brahmabhata, Dasund, Jaga, Kavi, Ramavat, and Rao. There are also Bhat, Muslim living in India and Bangladesh.

Humorous and poetic forms of expression are popular for them along with folkdances and singing

00000

Bhathiara, Muslim (300 JP)

The Bhathiara, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, Jesus Film, God's Story Video, Christian Radio Broadcasting, and Audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhartari, Bhathiyara, Bhatiara, Bhatiyara, Faruqi, and Razzaqi. There are also Bhathiara, Muslim living in Bangladesh and India.

The name Bhathiara is derived from the word for *bhatti* which means "oven" of which they are owners of serais. Another version describes them as "ones who roast and fry meat." Their descendents were Shah Suri and his son, Salim Shah. In the past, they kept inns or eating houses along with sellers of tobacco.

00000

Bhisti (500 JP)

The Bhisti are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Abasi, Bhisti, Mashki, Pakhali, Pakhia, Saqqa, Shaikh Abbasi, and Shaikh Saqqa. There are also Bhisti living in India.

In Urdu, Bhisti means "water carrier."

00000

Bhoi, Hindu (85,000 JP)

The Bhoi, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. In addition to Awadhi, many speak Angika, Bhojpuri, Hindi, and Magahi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bamunia, Besta, Bhoiraj, Boya Bestha, Dhimar, Ghunnya, Haridhania, Harivanshi, Kahar, Kebbera, Kebot, Keot, Keoti, Keotmalia, Keuta, Kewar, Kewat, and Kewrat. There are also Bhoi, Hindu living in India and Bangladesh.

Fishing, farming, and carrying water are their primary occupations. During festivals and other community events, folksongs are very important.

00000

Bhoi, Muslim (400 JP)

The Bhoi, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhoiraj and Kewat. There are also Bhoi, Muslim living in India.

6179

Bhojpuri Bihari (1,311,000 PG)

The Bhojpuri Bihari are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The Bible is available in Bhojpuri. However, there are no other ministry tools available in their language (peoplegroups.org claims they are not available but joshuaproject.org claims that the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri). They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhojpuri, Bihari, Deswali, Hindi, Indo-Mauritian, Indo-Mauritian Muslim, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, and Urdu speakers.

There is not much written literature available in Bhojpuri. However, they have many folk tales. "Their heartland lies in the Bihar Province of India and extends over into Western Terai of southern Nepal. Most Bihari's are involved in agriculture. The majority of the Bihari belong to the lower castes."

<http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8028.html>
<http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8028.html>

00000

Bhote (16,000 JP)

The Bhote are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Bhote living in India.

"The term *Bhote* literally means 'inhabitant of Bhot,' a Sanskrit term for the trans-Himalayan region of Nepal, or the Tibetan region. However, *Bhote* is also a generic term, often applied to people of Tibetan culture or Mongoloid phenotype. As used by the Paharis and the Newars, it often had a pejorative connotation and could be applied to any non-Hindu of Mongoloid appearance." Further, 'Bhote' has "come to be an offensive and derogatory term in somewhat common usage"

<http://countrystudies.us/nepal/31.htm>

6180

Bhotia (23,930 PG JP says there are 60,000)

The Bhotia are primarily Buddhist and speak Dzongkha (although peoplegroups.org says their language is Dzongkha, [Joshuaproject.org](http://joshuaproject.org) says their language is Central Tibetan). The Bible is available in Dzongkha. However, no other ministry tools are available in Dzongkha. The Bhotia are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhokha, Bhot, Bhotia, Bhute, Bhutia, Dalai, Dbus, Dbustsang, Lhasa, Lhasa Tibetan, Llasa, Phoke, Pohbetian, Tebilian, Tibate, Tseku, U, Wei, Weizang, and Zang. "The Bhotia live in the northern parts of Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal, and along the Indo-Tibetan border in Garhwal, Kumaon and Himachal Pradesh."

http://www.asian-trekking.com/nepal_intro/nepal_mountainpeople.htm#BHOTIA

These are mostly Tibetan refugees from the Communist Chinese occupation in 1959.

The name Bhotia is a generic term that identifies several socially unrelated groups. The name is probably derived from the word "Bhot" which means "Tibet."

"Tibetan Buddhism dominates the culture of the Tibetans who live in Nepal. They worship their king, the *Dalai Lama*, considering him a god. He serves as both their spiritual and political leader. Tibetans are very dedicated to their religious beliefs. Prayer flags, *stupas* (dome-shaped monuments used to house Buddhist relics), prayer beads, and prayer wheels are a common sight all over their region."

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=NP&rop3=110033>

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Bhotia of Dolpa, Ngalung (6,100 JP)

The Bhotia of Dolpa, Ngalung are primarily Buddhist and speak Tibetan, Central. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Tibetan, Central. In addition to Tibetan many also speak Dzongkha. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhotia, Bhutanese, Bhutani, Cebumtarp, Drukpa, Drukpu, Dzongkha, Haa, Haaps, Johkha, Krukke, Ngalong, Ngarung, and Zongkhar.

The Dolpa are "considered the highest of any living ethnic group in the world. These people live beyond the mountains, west of the Kali Gandaki river valley."

(http://www.visitnepal.com/nepal_information/people.php)

Although they are almost entirely Buddhists, traditional Tibetan shamanism is also practiced by some. The shamanists believe in an unseen world of gods, demons, and ancestral spirits. Most Buddhist families have shrines for worship inside their homes. A poor family may only have a small Buddhist image or painting rather than a shrine. However, a wealthy family may use an entire room as a shrine, furnishing it with an elaborate altar, lamps, an incense burner, and other religious items. http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code2/1984.html

The extended family is very important in Bhutanese culture, and grandparents often look after younger family members.

http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code2/1984.html

See also the information on the Bhotia.

6221

Bhotia, Humla (2,393 PG)

The Bhotia, Humla speak Humla and practice their ethnic religions. The Bible is available in Humla (although peoplegroups.org claims that a translation is available, joshuaproject.org says the Bible has not been translated to Humla). In addition Christian audio recordings are available in Humla. They are considered unreached/least reached.

See also the information on the Bhotia.

6226

Bhotia, Kagate, Syuwa (1,273 PG)

The Bhotia, Kagate, Syuwa are primarily Buddhist and speak Kagate. The Bible and Christian audio recordings are available in Kagate. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kagate Bhote, Kagate Bhotia, Kagatey, Kagati, Shuba, Syuba, Syuuba, Syuwa, and Yolmo. http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=SYW

See also the information on the Bhotia.

6242

Bhotia, Kutang (3,776 PG)

The Bhotia, Kutang are primarily Buddhist and speak Nubri. The Bible is available in Nubri (although peoplegroups.org claims there is a Bible available, joshuaproject.org says that the Bible is not available). In addition, some Christian audio recordings are available in Nubri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kutang Bhotia, Larke, Larkye, Larkye Tibetans, Nubripa Nupra, Nupraba, and Nupri. In Nepal, the Bhotia, Kutang live in the North Gorkha District near the border with China.

“The Larke area lies among the most important routes of trade between Nepal and Tibet.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/larke.htm> Agriculture and trade are their common occupations. “The Sherpas of Solu-Khumbu frequent the area bringing dzopkyos to sell.” (Bista, 167)

“The customs of Larke totally resemble those of the Tibetans. There are many monasteries in Larke villages. The Larkes say that they are related to the Gurungs who live to their south (Bista, 1996:203). Some call themselves Gurung. But their birth, marriage and death ceremonies are similar to the Tibetans of the north. Their dress, food habit and culture resemble those of the Tibetans.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/larke.htm>

See also the information on the Bhotia.

6291

Bhotia, Sherpa (35,582 PG *JP says 143,000*)

See Sherpa

6304

Bhotia, Thudam (1,800 PG)

The Bhotia, Thudam are primarily Buddhist (although peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist, joshuaproject.org says they practice their ethnic religion. In actuality they probably practice a mixture of both of these) and speak Thudam. According to joshuaproject.org there is not a Bible or any ministry tools available

in Thudam. However, peoplegroups.org claims that a Bible translation is available. They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Bhotia, Thudam live in the district of Sankhuwasabha. They “make their living by tenant-farming the lands of Shingsabas and Walungs and also by looking after their livestock. Additionally, they are also traditionally known as exporters of agro-produces, timber and incense to Tibet.”

http://www.nepaldemocracy.org/ethnicity/nationalities_of_nepal.htm

See also the information on the Bhotia.

00000

Bhuinhar (6,300 JP)

The Bhuinhar are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. In addition to Hindi, many Bhuinhar speak Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Bhuyan. There are also Bhuinhar living in Bangladesh and India.

00000

Bhuinmali (100 JP)

The Bhuinmali are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhisunder, Bhuimali, Malakar, Mali, and Siddiputra. There are more Bhuinmali living in Bangladesh and India.

In mythology, Parvati asked her husband Shiva, to give a feast to her worshippers on the earth. Likewise, all castes assembled. A luckless Bhuinmali was overheard proclaiming, “If I had such a beautiful woman in my house, I would cheerfully perform the most menial offices for her.” Therefore, Shiva made him follow through with this statement by giving him the beautiful wife and the task of sweeping.

00000

Bhuiya (200 JP)

The Bhuiya are primarily Hindu and speak Magahi. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Magahi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Baiga, Bhumia, and Roy. There are more Bhuiya living in India and Bangladesh.

The name Bhuiya is a combination of a root word *bhu*, which means “land” and the suffix *iya*, which means “owner.”

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Bhujel (5,100 JP)

The Bhujel are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Khawas and Pare Gharti. There are also Bhujel living in India.

"The Bhujel are culturally close to the Magars while linguistically they are close to Chepangs." <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/bhujel.htm>

The Bhujel live throughout Nepal, however, there is a higher concentration of them in the low-lying areas of the Tanahun district. "The Bhuji and Nishi area in Baglung are considered the ancestral place of the Bhujels." They prefer to live in the rocky crags. The Bhujel live in thatched houses with walls made from sticks and mud plaster.

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/bhujel.htm>

Their other name Pare Gharti comes from the word "freedom" and "slave." They were slaves who gained their freedom in 1951, when Rana Prime Minister Chandra Shamsheer abolished slavery.

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/bhujel.htm>

00000

Bhuyiar (1,600 JP)

The Bhuyiar are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Bhuihar. There are also Bhuyiar living in India.

00000

Biar, Hindu (1,900 JP)

The Biar, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The New Testament, the Jesus Film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bayar, Bedh, Bhaiya, Biayada, Byadh, and Ghodi Kodana. There are more Biar, Hindu living in India.

00000

Bind (26,000 JP)

The Bind are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bin, Bindani, Bindla, Binedhanie, Binta, Chai, Chatai Bin, Hindustani Bin, Maura, Paschimajati, and Pihari Bin. There are also Bind living in India and Bangladesh.

00000

Binjhia (400 JP)

The Binjhia are primarily Hindu and speak Bijori. There is not a Bible or any ministry tools available in Bijori. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bijori, Bijoria, Binjhwar, Binjoa, Brijia, Brinjlat, Vindhyaaniwasi, and Vindhyaabasini Kshatriya.

00000

Birjia (100 JP)

The Birjia are primarily Hindu and speak Bijori. There is not a Bible or any other ministry tools available in Bijori. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Birjia living in India, 10% of who are Christians.

6181

Bodo (2,362 PG – JP says 1,000)

The Bodo are primarily Hindu and speak Bodo. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bodo (peoplegroups.org says that only a Bible translation is available, but joshuaproject.org claims that other ministry tools are also available in Bodo). They are also known by the names Baro, Bodi, Boro, Boro Kachari, Dimafisia, Kachari, Koirat, Mache, and Mech. There are also Bodo living in India and Bangladesh. 2% of the Bodo in Nepal are adherents of Christianity.

In the 1900s, the Bodo worked as nomadic people that practiced slash and burn agriculture. Now, they work as permanent farmers using bulls, plows, etc. Rice is their cash crop, but they also harvest maize, areca nuts, and betel leaves as well. The earth is considered human mother. Through worship of the Great Mother via animal sacrifice and performing the ritual dance, she will provide them a fruitful harvest.

6182

Bote-Majhi (8,488 PG – JP says 6,100)

The Bote-Majhi are primarily Hindu and speak Bote-Majhi. The Bible and gospel recordings are available in Bote-Majhi (although peoplegroups.org says these are available, Joshuaproject.org says that nothing is available). They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Bote can be found in the Syangja, Gulma, Palpa, Nawalparasi, Chitwan, Sarlahi, Gorkha, Lamjung, and Tanahu districts. They usually live near rivers and make their houses, *bukura*, from river stones and thatch. The Bote are known as a *matwali jat*, or a tribe that drinks alcohol. The women drink as much as the men. In Bote society the women are well respected and are free to choose their own jobs. “The Bote religious practices, language and cultures are quite close to those of Danuwars, Darais and Majhis.”

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/55/43/>

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 2,823 people speak Bote as a mother tongue and there are 7,969 ethnic Bote.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e996>

Although the Bote are considered Hindus, they also hold to their traditional beliefs and perform *puja* to appease supernatural powers (devata, demons, and other unexplainable forces) and prevent them from causing harm. Thus the *shaman*, a hereditary position, is very important. In fact, a Bote Shaman is “considered very powerful even by other tribes and they are called upon to perform healing works, too.” (Gautam, 66)

The Bote can be divided into two groups, Pani (water) Botes and Pakhe (land) Botes. The Pani Botes are involved with fishing and boating as occupations and the Pakhe Botes are involved with agriculture or land labor.

45970

Brahman (Nepali) (2,289,922 PG – JP says 3, 473, 000)

The Brahman (Nepali) are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. In addition to Nepali, many speak Awadhi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Hindi, and Kumauni. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bahun, Bajey, Baman, Bhagavathulu, Dravidulu Brahman, Gaur, Pandit, Sharma, Sourashtra, and Swangla. There are also Brahman living in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka.

A Brahman is a learned priest. The Sanskrit word translates as the ‘possessor of Brahma.’ Their stories declare they originated from the face of Prajapati. It is the highest level of the four varnas or social classes. Most continue their rules of ritual purity. For instance, one must not have contact with lower castes. They consume vegetarian diets. Plowing or handling impure material such as leather or hides is forbidden. They serve as custodians of Brahmanical Hinduism. Some serve as the priestly class while others work in traditional functions such as cooks or genealogists.

The Brahmans “can be recognized by the long thread they wear over their left shoulder.”

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/nepal/0232020416.html>

The Brahmans can be divided in to two different types: Purbiya (eastern) and Kumain (western). “These two types of Brahman must have migrated from India at different periods to different points in Nepal. It is interesting to note that each of these groups considers itself purer and higher than the other.” (Bista, 4) The Brahmans are also divided into the Maithili and Patra. The Maithili are rich land owners, money lenders, and *zemindars* (village land registrars and revenue collectors). “Patra Brahmans can act as priests only during the funeral ceremony and accept gifts given in the name of the dead.” (Bista, 101)

6183

British (2,393 PG)

The British are primarily Christian and speak English. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in English. They are also known by the names Anglo-saxon, Anglophones, Euronesian, Scot, Scottish, and White.

00000

Buna, Hindu (9,510 JP)

The Buna, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. In addition to Bengali, many speak Angika. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhanar and Buner. There are also Buna, Hindu living in Bangladesh and India.

The traditional occupation of the Buna is weaving and cotton making. Some are also involved in agriculture labor and some of the educated have taken white collar jobs.

6184

Byangsi (2,829 PG)

The Byangsi are primarily Buddhist according to people groups.org, but joshuaproject.org claims they practice their ethnic religion. It is very possible that they have mixed the two. They speak Byangsi. The Bible is available in Byangsi (peoplegroups.org claims the Bible is available, but joshuaproject.org suggests that nothing is available in their language). They are considered unreached/least reached.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 1,734 people speak Byangsi as a mother tongue and there are 2,103 ethnic Byangsi.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1016>

00000

Byasi (Unknown JP 2,103 from 2001 census cited at

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/byasi.htm>)

The Byasi speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

There are contradicting views as to whether this group is Hindu or animistic. According to Gautam in *Tribal Ethnography of Nepal* the gods and goddesses they worship are of the Hindu pantheon. The Byasi celebrate Maghe Sankranti, Ghyu Tihar, Bisu Tihar, Badarne Puja Mritu Puja and Kul Devta Puja. “They also perform worship to their own *kul devtas* (ancestral deities). They worship Mahadev in the temple of Byas Rishi (Hermit Byas)....They also worship *posach*

(spirit) known as *Simedung*.” (Gautam, 75) However, according to <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/byasi.htm>, they do not celebrate Hindu festivals. “Byasi are nature worshippers. They worship their ancestral deity, Namjung, as their main god, which is a revered figure in Bon religion. The worship of Namjung is carried out with special rituals. The priest ties a cloth, known as Nipujang, around the waist and a cloth, known as Benthelo, around the head. The priest has a respected place in Byasi society.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/byasi.htm> In reality, the Byasi probably practice a mixture of animism that is influenced by the Hinduism around them.

They live in the northern region of the Darchula District. There is little known about their origins, migration, or even population. However, they are considered a distinct people group because of the cultural traditions that they adhere to. The Byasi have received their name from outsiders. They are also called Saukas but prefer to “call themselves Rango after the name of the Ranga cloth worn by priests of the deity Namjung.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/byasi.htm>

00000

Chain (2,500 JP)

The Chain people are primarily Hindu and speak Magahi. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Magahi. In addition to Magahi, many speak Bengali and Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Chai. There are also Chain living in Bangladesh and India.

When the father dies, each son inherits equally with the widow getting half of the property, but the oldest son succeeds in authority.

00000

Chamar (119,000 JP)

The Chamar are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. In addition to Awadhi, many speak Bengali, Bhojpuri, Hindi, Mathili, and Newar. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Arya, Bhambi, Bhambro, Chamana, Chambhar, Chamling, Chamma, Chammdollu, Changar, Charaimar, Charmkar, Chaudhari, Chitrakar, Dhekaru, Golia Raigar, Hadi, Jatav, and Jatia. There are also Chamar living in India and Bangladesh.

The Chamar are an occupational caste of leather workers. Their name, Chamar, is derived from the Sanskrit word meaning leather worker. Legend says a thousand years ago, a young Sadhu removed a carcass of a male calf. Therefore, the community ostracized him, and he began working with hides for a living. He is believed to be the progenitor of the present day Chamar. Many groups and subgroups exist among them. Most are considered “untouchables” because of their work as leather workers. Hindu teachings declare that they

were born into their families as punishment for the evil deeds of their past lives. Because of being ostracized, many live on the outskirts of towns and villages in order to remain secluded.

00000

Chamar, Muslim (200 JP)

The Chamar, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Maithili. The Bible is not available in Maithili. However, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Maithili. In addition to Maithili, many speak Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Arya, Bhambi, Bhambro, Chambhar, Chamma, Chaudhari, Jatav, Jatia, Mehtar, Mochi, Raidas, Ramdasi, Ramdasia, and Ravidas. There are also Chamar, Muslim living in India.

The Chamar are an occupational caste of leather workers. Their name, Chamar, is derived from the Sanskrit word meaning leather worker.

6185

Chamlinge Rai (10,917 PG, 44,000 JP)

See Rai

6186

Chaudangsi (1,197 PG)

The Chaudangsi are primarily Buddhist (peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist, but joshuaproject.org says they practice ethnic religions. In reality they probably practice a mixture of these two) and speak Chaudangsi. The Bible is available in Chaudangsi (although peoplegroups.org says that the Bible is available, joshuaproject.org says that nothing is available in Chaudangsi). They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Tsaudangsi.

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Chaupal (6,500 JP)

The Chaupal are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. In addition to Bengali, many speak Angika and Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Choupal. There are also Chaupal living in India.

6187

Chaurasia (7,179 PG)

The Chaurasia are primarily Hindu and speak Wambule. This language, Wambule, was known as Chourase in the 14th edition of the ethnologue (the most current edition is the 15th). The Bible is available in Chourase. The Chaurasia are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Tsaurasia.

00000

Chelan (Unknown JP)

The Chelan people speak Nepali. Their primary religion is unknown. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6188

Chentel Magar (5,660 PG)

See Amgar and Magar, Chentel

6189

Chepang (27,472 PG, 41,000 JP)

The Chepang live in the Gorkha, Dhading, Chitwan, and Makwanpur districts. They are primarily Animists and speak Chepang. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Chepang. In addition to Chepang, many speak Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Chyobang, Chewang, Eastern Tsepang, Kacharge, Praja, and Tsepang. There are also Chepang living in India.

"According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 36,807 people speak Chamling as a mother tongue and there are 52,237 ethnic Chepang."

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=1e1076>

"The Chepang are one of the more isolated tribal groups of Nepal. They live in the Lothar Khola region, east and west of Kandrang Garhi. They also inhabit the valleys washed by the Male Khila River, in the mid-region of the Mahabharat Mountains. The altitude of this region is between 4,000 to 6,500 feet above sea level, producing a cool and pleasant climate in the summer, and a chilly climate in the winter. Destruction of the forests and the demands of an increased population have caused vast land erosion, threatening their environment, and their unique culture." <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php> "Less than 15 percent Chepangs are literates and almost 90 percent of them are leading life under utter poverty." <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/pop-chepangs.htm> "There still persists a tendency among the Chepangs to avoid schooling even if the government and other organizations are trying to uplift their living standard."

<http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people3.htm>

"The origin of the Chepang is unclear, but there are numerous legends that tell of their relationship to Lav, son of the Hindu god, Rama."

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php> As descendants of Lord Rama, they worship the bow and arrow. They believe they are descendants of the child of Sita.

According to the legend Sita was staying at the hermitage of the sage Vlamki after her husband, Rama, sent her away. One day she took her son, Lav to play

by the riverside without informing Vlamki. When Vlamki saw that the child was missing, he knew Sita would be upset. So he took some kus grass, placed it in the cradle, and spoke a mantra. A Replica of Lav appeared. When Sita returned with Lav, Vlamki explained what happened and they named the new baby kus, because of the grass he was made from. The descendants of Lav became the Chepang and the descendants of Kus became the Kusari. The Bankariya have a similar tale of their origins.

The Chepang have a couple of unique and important pujas, *Kulain* and *Bhumae*. The *Kulain Puja* involves the worship of dead ancestors. The *Bhumae Puja* is a celebrated once every three years. They worship Rangdinka, the Chepang's oldest deity, and other deities during this time. Also, they have, "their own tribal festival Nwagi, which is performed on a Tuesday during third week of Bhadra (some day in August and September)." <http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people3.htm>

They used to be a nomadic tribe, but have settled in more recent years. However they still have "customs akin to nomadic life, such as using traps to catch birds and gathering various forest products." <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php> As they have settled they earn their living by agriculture, livestock breeding, and as hired laborers.

"Chyuri (an indigenous fruit) is their favorite fruit. A Chepang family not owning a Chyuri tree is considered poor and generally looked down upon." <http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people3.htm>

"The Chepang live as extended family units, often with three generations living in the same house. If a family has many sons, or if a son has many wives, the men will live separately with their wives and children. The family structure is patrilineal (line of descent traced through the males) and predominantly patriarchal (male dominated), but the mother plays an important social role. Marriage among the Chepang is an extremely extravagant affair, more complicated than among other Nepalese hill tribes." <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu. (<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features>)

There is more information about the Chepang available at <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/34/42/>.

6190

Chhathar Limbu (18,426 PG, 4,400 JP)

The Chhathar Limbu people are primarily Hindu and speak Limbu. The Bible is available in Limbu (according to peoplegroups.org the Bible is the only thing

available, however joshuaproject.org says that the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Limbu as well). They are considered the unreached/least reached of people.

00000

Chhetri (3,314,000)

The Chhetri are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Kshetri. There are also Chhetri living in India and Bangladesh.

The Chhetris, like the Brahmans, are a high Hindu caste and are considered a warrior class. The royal family and the Ranas who ruled Nepal for more than 100 years are from the Chhetri caste.

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/nepal/0232020416.html>

In Nepal, Chhetris and Thakuris are among the most influential and well-to-do social classes. They are mostly in the government services, in high ranked positions in the army and the police. Others have remained farmers and are relatively poor and live like any other ethnic group.

<http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people2.htm>

The Chhetri have not fared well as a result of tourism in Nepal. The establishment of the Lake Rara National Park in western Nepal "resulted in the forcible expulsion of several hundred Chhetri people from their traditional highlands onto the lowlands. The Chhetri found this transition difficult because they received less land than they previously owned, and they were seen as unwelcome newcomers by other ethnic groups."

<http://www.fathom.com/course/21701788/session2.html>

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Chhintang (1,000)

The Chhintang primarily speak Chhintange. Their primary religion is unknown. The Bible is not available in Chinttange. In fact, there are no ministry tools available in Chittange. They are considered unreached/least reached. They live in the Dhankuta District, in Eastern Nepal.

6192

Chhulung (1,197 PG)

The Chhulung people are primarily Animistic and speak Chhulung. The Bible is available in Chhulung (peoplegroups.org claims the Bible is available in Chhulung, however according to joshuaproject.org the Bible is not available). There are no ministry other tools available in Chhulung. They are considered unreached/least reached. They live in the Dhankuta district, in Eastern Nepal.

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Chidimar (1,200 JP)

The Chidimar are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Chidimar living in India. The Chidimar in India are considered untouchables, but in Nepal they are treated as equals.

The Chidimar were a nomadic tribe in the past. However, recently they have settled in the village of Belaspur in the Banke district. The Chidimar claim that they came from India in hopes of obtaining land. However, most Chidimar remain landless. They are very poor and often need to find ways other than hunting birds to earn money. Many have started cattle rearing and selling milk. Most Chidimar are illiterate, but they are beginning to send their children to school.

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Chik Baraik (900 JP)

The Chik Baraik people are primarily Hindu and speak Panchpargania. The Bible is not available in Panchpargania. However, there are Christian audio recordings available. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Pan. There are also Chik Baraik living in India and Bangladesh.

In the past, they served as weavers, but most work as cultivators. In addition, they gather forest produce and hunt to supplement their income.

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Chik, Hindu (400 JP)

The Chik, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Chaikwa, Cherihan, Chikwa, and Suthbansi. There are also Chik, Hindu living in India.

00000

Chimtan (300 JP)

The Chimtan are primarily Buddhist. Their primary language is unknown. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Chimada, Chimang, and Chimtan Tibetans. The Chimtan live in the District of Mustang.

“Reinhard Greve of the University of Hamburg has made a study of the Thakali peoples of Northwest Nepal, whose language is closely related to that of the Gurungs. Officially Buddhists, the *Thin-Syangtan-Chimtan-Thakali* people are still dominated by the lamaist *Ningmapa* and *Ngor-po* sects, as well as by the reformed “White Bon.” At the same time they keep alive the old shamanist-animist tradition, as practiced by the *dhom* or *aya-lama*. At the time of Greve's

study there were six surviving *aya-lama* practicing in two Thakali villages. They trace their tradition back to *Naro-bon-chung*, the mythical hero of the Black Bon, who fought and lost a magical duel with the Buddhist saint Padmasambhava. (Greve 1984:157) The duty of the *aya-lama* is to worship and make offerings to the gods of the upper, middle and lower worlds; to provide protection against disaster; and to perform rituals for the fields. In his role as healer, he acts as intercessor between the sick person and the gods. (Direct healing rituals, on the other hand, are performed by itinerant Indo-Nepalese practitioners, the *Jhakri*.) (1984:160).” <http://home.portal.ca/~lonewolf/shaman.htm>

6193

Chitwan Tharu (35,850 PG 45,000 JP)

See Tharu and Tharu Chitwan

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Chukwa (100 JP)

The Chukwa primarily speak Chukwa. Their religion is unknown. The Bible is not available in Chukwa. Further, there are no ministry tools available. The Chukwa are considered unreached/least reached.

6310

Chumba (4,786 PG)

See Tsum

00000

Churaute (2,300 JP)

The Churaute primarily speak Nepali. Their primary religion is unknown. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. The Churaute are considered unreached/least reached.

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Damai (5,200 JP)

The Damai are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Charmala, Dami, Darjee, Darzo, Dharmai, Dhami, Dhamin, Dosad, Goparia, Karoria, Kurenor, and Madhukatta. Their name, Damai, is derived from the words meaning drum, which they often play. There are more Damai living in India and Bangladesh.

6195

Dang Tharu (357,105 PG - 265,000 JP)

See Tharu and Tharu Dang

6196

Danuwar Rai (20,745 PG – 30,000JP)

See Rai

6197

Darai (5,791 PG – 8,200JP)

The Darai are primarily Hindu and speak Darai. The Bible is not available in Darai. Further, no ministry tools are available in Darai. In addition to Darai, many speak Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Darain, Dargai, and Daryai. There are more Darai living in India.

Most Darai live in the Chitwan and Tanahun districts. According to their oral tradition, they initially had a kingdom in Darbhanga, which is in the present day Bihar state in India. The Darai are a subtribe of Tharu. The traditional occupation of the darai is boatmen. They also use agriculture to earn a living.

<http://www.webindia123.com/himachal/People/peopleintro.htm>

Although Darais profess Hinduism, they are actually ignorant of many Hindu doctrines and still practice animistic traditions. They worship the Hindu deities Mahadev, Vishnu, Paravati, and Bhawani. The Darai place a stone at the base of a tree at the edge of their village to represent a deity. When someone in a Darai family is sick, the other family members promise one of the village deities that they will offer blood sacrifices of fowls, ducks, pigeons, and such as a thanksgiving offering if the person recovers.

6198

Darmiya (1,197 PG – 1,800 JP)

The Darmiya are primarily Hindu and speak Darmiya. The Bible is available in Darmiya (although peoplegroups.org says that the Bible is available, joshuaproject.org says it is not available). No other ministry tools are available. The Darmiya are considered unreached/least reached.

The Darmiya live “in the Mahakali valley with the other Bhotiya tribal groups.” The Hinduism that the Darmiya practice is actually “an interesting blend of Hinduism and the Animistic Bön religion.” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhotiya#Darmiya>

00000

Darzi, Hindu (300JP)

The Darzi, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhavsar Kshatriya, Chhipa, Chippollu, Darji, Idrasi, Idrissi, Khayat, Mavi, Mera, Merai, Mirai, Namdev, Nangdev, Nilari, Pipavasi, Rangari, Sai, and Sai Sutar. There are more Darzi, Hindu living in India.

“The Darzis work as tailors, traders, needle workers and cloth dealers.”

<http://ime.imb.org/southasia/stories.asp>

00000

Darzi, Muslim (24,000)

The Darzi, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Chopan, Darji, Idrasi, Idrissi, Khayyat, Merais, Nangdev, Pipavasi, Sai Sutar, Sais, Ses, Setch, Shimpi, Simpi, Sise, Sochi, Suis, and Thalavadi. There are more Darzi, Muslim living in India and Bangladesh.

00000

Dauta (Unknown JP)

The Dauta primarily speak Nepali. Their primary language is unknown. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6199

Dehati Maithili (7,179 PG – 6,700 JP)

The Dehati Maithili people are primarily Hindu and speak Mewari (peoplegroups.org says their main language is Mewari, however, joshuaproject.org says their main language is Maithili). The Bible and the Jesus film are available in Mewari. The Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Maithilli. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6200

Deokri Tharu (125,300)

See Tharu and Tharu Deokri

00000

Devhar (400 JP)

The Devhar are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Hindi. In addition to Hindi, many speak Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Deohar. There are more Devhar living in India.

00000

Dhanuk (199,000 JP)

The Dhanuk live in the Saptari, Siraha, and Dhanusa districts. The Dhanuk are primarily Hindu and speak Maithili. The Bible is not available in Maithili. However, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Maithili. In addition to Maithili, many speak Awadhi, Bengali, or Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known

by the names Dhakna Rajput, Dhanak, Harijan, Jamadar, Julaha, Kabirpanthi, Mahatroji, Mandatji, Methur, and Rajbanshis. There are more Dhanuk living in Bangladesh and India.

“According to the census of 2001, the population of all types of Dhanuks is 188,150.” <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/62/44/> The Dhanuk are very similar to the Tharu. Their main occupation is working for landowners and farming. Since they live near the rivers and forests, they also participate in fishing and animal husbandry to earn a living.

“The houses of Dhanuks are built in cluster in the river basins and edges of forests. A group of ten or eleven households makes a bindar committee and five bindars constitute a praganna. The chief of praganna is called majjan. There is one post, called Chaurasi, above him. These institutions manage tribal reconciliation and settlement of disputes. Those who do not abide by rules are expelled from the ethnic group.” <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/62/44/>

“Dhanuks believe in magic, witchcraft and ghosts. They are divided into two groups in terms of religion: those who worship Kali are called Kaliyaha and others are called Maharkhiya. Those who worship Kali eat meat of pig (pork) and drink spirit or wine, whereas Maharkhiyas do not do so. They worship a goddess called Gahil, who is one of five sisters. The other goddesses are Shitalmata and Goureya Gaiya.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/dhanuk.htm>

There are a few different legends about the origin of the Dhanuk. One claims that they are a clean caste who came from a Chamar father and a Chandal mother. Others say they are a low caste who worked as servants for others. Still others argue that they come from a low tribe of farmers. Whatever the case, their name is a Sanskrit word for “archer.”

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Dhanwar (300 JP)

The Dhanwar are primarily Hindu and speak Bengali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Bengali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Baiga, Dhaner, Dhanohar, Dhanuhar, Dhanvar, Dhenvar, Dhenwar, Dhenyar, Lodha, Palita, and Seonta. There are more Dhanwar living in India.

Their name is derived from the word meaning “box.” Oral tradition dictates that they were formed from the unions of the Lodha and Ahir.

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Dharhi, Hindu (1,000JP)

The Dharhi, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are

available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Pawaria. There are more Dharhi, Hindu living in India.

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Dharhi, Muslim

The Dharai, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Darrhi, Dhar, Dhari, Kingharia, and Pawaria. There are more Dharhi, Muslim living in India.

00000

Dharkar

The Dharkar are primarily Hindu and speak Awadhi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Awadhi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Basor Bhakt, Bentbansi, Dhirkar, Dom, and Supa Bhakt.

6201

Dhimal (20,626 PG)

The Dhimal live in the Morang and Jhapa districts at the eastern end of Nepal. The Dhimal are primarily Buddhist (although peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist, joshuaproject.org claims they are animists. In reality, they probably practice a mixture of the two) and speak Dhimal. The Bible is available in Dhimal (although peoplegroups.org claims a Bible translation is available, joshuaproject.org says there is not a Bible available). There are no other ministry tools available in Dhimal. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Agnia, Dhimar, Jharwa, and Maulik. There are more Dhimal living in India and Bangladesh.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 17,308 people speak Dhimal as a mother tongue and there are 19,537 ethnic Dhimal.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1096>

The Dhimal worship two categories of gods: home and forest. The chief god and goddess of their home are Masan and Kali. Their main festival is Asadhepuja, which they call Sirijat. This festival is celebrated from the month of Jestha to the end of Asadh. On the day of Asadh, the whole village participates by eating and drinking, offering the same to others. Also, they participate in songs, dances, sports, and comedy. In addition to Asadhepuja, the Dhimal celebrate Nau Bangi and Parwa.

The Dhimal were nomadic hunters in the past. But now, they rely on agriculture. They cultivate paddy and the cash crop-jute. In addition to agriculture, they earn income by “making khungi (a kind of long basket useful for fishing), making

bamboo containers to protect seeds, making spinning wheels of bamboo, bhakari (a bamboo mat made of straps) and chitra (mats made of split canes) of bamboo, making ropes, bows and arrows, making ploughs and yokes, making herbal medicines, painting the walls with figures of flowers, peacock, water pots, etc.” <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/63/44/> Every Dhimal woman has a loom in her house and she is very skilled at weaving on the loom. They are known by other tribes as excellent weavers and make the *kharki* for the Tharu and the *petani* for the Rajbansi and Satar women.

Dhobi (72,000 JP)

The Dhobi are primarily Hindu and speak Bhojpuri. They live in southern Nepal along the border with India. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, radio broadcasting, and gospel recordings are available in Bhojpuri. In addition to Bhojpuri, many speak Awadhi, Bengali, Hindi, and Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Agasa, Agasaru, Agheria, Bana, Batham, Bhai, Chakala, Chakali, Chakka, Chandbar, Charhoya, Chauhan-Bhatti, Chawla, Chhimba, Darhi, Dharhiadu, Dharhiannari, and Dhob. There are also Dhobi living in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

The Dhobi are an occupational caste of launderers.

Dolkhali (Unknown JP)

The Dolkhali speak Newar. Their primary religion is unknown. The New Testament, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, and gospel recordings are available in Newar.

6203

Dolpa Tibetan (7,074 PG – 12,000 JP)

The Dolpa Tibetans live in the Dolpa District at an altitude of 13-14,000 feet. “They are probably the highest settlements in the world.”

<http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people3.htm> They are the indigenous inhabitants of the area. They inhabit the following VDCs: Reme, Saldang, Bejer, Thinje, Charka Bhot, and Chhau. The Dolpa Tibetan are primarily Buddhist and speak Dolpo. The Bible and gospel recordings are available in Dolpo. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Dhopa, Dolpa, Dolpali, Dolpali Bhot, Kaikhe, and Phoke Dolpa.

Because they live at such high altitudes where it is so cold, they wear thick, warm clothes called bakhu, which are similar to that of the Lobas of Mustang. The women wear aprons with bright colors like red and blue and wear expensive ornaments.

Their primary way of getting income is yak breeding. In addition, they are involved in business and farming. Their most important festival is Lhosar (New Year). They celebrate by drinking *rhaksi*, *chang* (millet beer), eating meat, and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

“Dolpa society is divided into a number of exogamous clans. Each of the clans has a totem animal which they worship. The particular totem animal is never slaughtered by the clan member.” <http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people3.htm>

“The ancient custom of polyandry or a group of men (brothers generally) marrying a single female is still very much prevalent among these people and so is the other follow-up custom of a brother inheriting his deceased elder brother’s wife.” (Gautam, 180)

“The Dolpa people are Buddhist, but the Bon- po sect of Buddhism also co-exists.” <http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people3.htm> Upon death, the corpse is either buried, cremated, or dismembered and fed to the vultures depending on the *lama*’s decision, based on the deceased’s nature, character, and deeds.

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Dom, Hindu (11,000 JP)

The Dom people are one of many tribes that inhabit the Terai region. The Dom, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Magahi. The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Magahi. In addition to Magahi, many speak Bengali, Bhojpuri, Hindu, and Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bansmalik, Chandel, Dhangad, Domahra, Domar, Domara, Domban, Dombari, Dombo, Dombo Dumna, Dombu, Dome, Domra, Doom, Doomna, Doris, Dum, and Dumar. There are more Dom, Hindu living in India and Bangladesh.

“For many centuries, these Dom lived as slaves and untouchables in Hindu society, and so they have lost many of their traditional customs and cultures and are seen to have undergone a drastic metamorphosis. The terai Dom are still considered untouchables and accordingly are found to do all the dirty, lowly work like cremating corpses, even today.” (Gautam, 185)

The traditional occupation of the Dom is weaving bamboo baskets and *sikuls* (maize cob sheaths dried and woven into bedsized mats). However, today, more than half are involved in agriculture.

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Dom, Muslim (2,500 JP)

The Dom, Muslims are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Dhangad, Domahara, Domar, Dombo Dumna, Domra, Doom, Doomna, Dumar, Dumna, Mahasha, and Murdafarash. There are more Dom, Muslim living in India and Bangladesh.

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Dumi (1,000 JP)

The Dumi primarily speak Dumi and their religion is unknown. No ministry tools are available in Dumi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Duraj and Durra. There are more Dura living in India and Bangladesh.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 5,271 people speak Dumi as a mother tongue.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1116>

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Dura (5,800 JP)

The Dura live in the Lamjung and Tanahun districts. Their specific villages are Thuloswanra, Turlung Kot, Bhorletari, Chisankhu, Neta, Tandrung, Kunchha, Amdanda, Sisaghat, Ramche, Kyamin, Dharmapani, Ramthumki, and Tanahun Sur. The Dura are primarily Buddhist and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Duraj and Durra. There are more Dura living in India and Bangladesh.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 3,397 people speak Dura as a mother tongue and there are 5,169 ethnic Dura.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1136>

Their main basis for existence is farming. They grow paddy, maize, wheat, and millet. In addition to agriculture, they participate in animal husbandry. Because of their indulgent lifestyle (including entertainment and consuming liquor) they often do not have enough supplies and can be seen going to other villages in search of food grains.

They require the presence of a *lama* at the death ceremony. In fact, they believe that the dead souls will not be able to attain heaven in the absence of a *lama* or a *ghyabring*.

The specifics of their history of origin is unknown. However, “their sons are fitted with bows and arrows on the very day of their naming ceremonies, a fact that reflects on their martial heritage.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/dura.htm>

6206

Eastern Gurung (84, 884 PG)

See Gurung and Gurung, Eastern

6207

Eastern Magar (323,062) PG

See Magar and Magar, Eastern

6209

Eastern Tamang (427,741 PG)

See Tamang, Eastern

00000

Gaine (20 JP)

The Gaine live in the Kavre district. They are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Gaine living in India.

The Gaine believe that Brahmaji, the creator according to Hindu tradition, created 4 rishis. One of the four rishis was less cunning than the others. The other rishis made a plan for getting rid of Gandharva, the less cunning rishi. They gave him the leg of a cow and told him to go beg for alms. When he returned with the alms they said he had defiled himself by using the leg of a cow and he would have to be a beggar for the rest of his life. Gandharva is believed to be the ancestor of the Gaine. The main profession of the Gaine is singing and begging. They do this as a group and split the proceeds evenly. In addition to begging and singing, some are also involved in fishing and manual labor.

6211

Galle Gurung (25,189 PG)

See Gurung and Gurung, Galle.

6212

Gamale Kham (13,123 PG)

The Gamale Kham people are a subgroup of the Kham living in western Nepal. They are primarily Hindu and speak Kham, Gamale. The Bible and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KGJ) are available in Kham, Gamale. In addition to Kham, Gamale, many speak Tamali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Gamale and Kham.

“Traditionally, the Kham were known as semi-nomadic shepherds, selling wool to earn money. Today, however, many of them farm the land and raise cows, pigs, and chickens for survival.” http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code1/325.html

See also Kham - Magar

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Gangai (12,000 JP)

The Gangai live in the Jhapa and Morang districts. They are primarily Hindu and speak Bagheli. The Bible, the Jesus film, and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=BFY) are available in Bagheli. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Nagesh, Ganesh, and Mandel. There are also Gangai living in India.

The Gangai migrated from the Bengal area almost three hundred years ago. They are involved in agriculture to earn a living. Some are also involved in rearing livestock and business.

“Because of their flat nose, plain face, wheatish complexion and rough curly hair, anthropologists have compared them to the Lepchas. In socio-cultural practices, they are akin to Rajbansi or Koche.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/gangai.htm>

46449

Gurung (56,033 PG 78,000 JP)

The Gurung primarily live in the Kaski, Lamjung, Tanahun, Syangja, Parbat, and Gorkha districts. Most of their villages are located at elevations between 1,000 and 2,000 meters (3,000 to 6,000 feet). They are primarily Hindu (although peoplegroups.org says they are Hindu, joshuaproject.org says that they are Buddhist) and speak Gurung, Eastern (also known as Daduwa). The Bible is not available in Gurung, Eastern. However, Audio recordings are available (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=GGN). In addition to Gurung, Eastern, many speak Tamu Kyi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Daduwa, Eastern Gurung, Gurkha, Gurun, and Tamu. They prefer to call themselves Tamu.

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/pop-gurung.htm>

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, there are 543,571 ethnic Gurung who account for 2.39% of Nepal's total population, of whom 338,925 speak the Gurung language as a mother tongue.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1153>

Traditionally, the Gurung were sheep-herders and involved with trans-Himalayan trade (<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Gurung>). While some Gurung remain in villages farming for a living, many have moved to cities. Those Gurungs who migrate to Nepali cities or serve in the Gurkha division of the British Army are well off by Nepali standards. Many Gurung own shops, rent houses, and own buses and trucks for transporting people and things throughout the kingdom.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu.

The Gurung have established a museum to preserve their culture and history. An article about the establishing of the museum is available at <http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=5887>.

For more information on Gurung culture go to <http://www.alanmacfarlane.com/FILES/gurungs.html> or <http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/oldworld/asia/gurungs.html> or <http://1040window.org/nepalprayerguide/day24.htm>

6206

Gurung, Eastern (84,884 PG)

The Eastern Gurung live in the Lamjung and Gorkha districts. Most of their villages are located at altitudes from 1,000 – 2,000 meters (3,000 – 6,000 feet). They are primarily animists (although peoplegroups.org says they are animists, joshuaproject.org says they are Buddhist. In reality, they probably practice a mix of these two) and speak Gurung, Eastern (also known as Daduwa). The Bible is available in Eastern Gurung (according to peoplegroups.org the Bible is available, but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). In addition, Christian audio recordings are available through http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=GGN. In addition to Gurung, many speak Tamu Kyi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Daduwa, Gurung Eastern, Gurkha, Gurun, Gurung, and Tamu.

“Most of the Eastern Gurung are farmers. Despite the fact that they are hard workers, most of them are very poor. The meager amount of food that they are able to produce is barely enough to sustain them. Their main food sources are millet, maize, and some rice. They also raise soybeans, grains, and string beans. In the northern part of the Lamjung district, the Eastern Gurung raise sheep and goats. Wool is used to make woven crafts, which are sold in tourist markets.” <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

6211

Gurung, Galle (25,189 PG)

The Galle Gurung live in the Gorkha district which is in central Nepal. They are primarily Hindu (according to peoplegroups.org they are Hindu, however, joshuaproject.org says they are Buddhist. In reality they probably follow a mixed religion of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Shamanism.) and speak Ghale, Southern. The Bible and Christian audio recordings (see http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=GHE) are available in Ghale, Southern. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhotte, Bhotte Ghale, Bote, Galle, Ghale, and Lila.

Today, the Galle Gurung have the reputation as valiant soldiers and many are enlisted in the Gurkha regiments of the Nepalese Army. http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code3/1111.html

The Ghale are the highest clan of the highest division of the Gurung, *charjat*. They are traditionally a clan of chieftains.

6271

Gurung, Northern (6,964 PG)

The Northern Gurung live in the Manang district. They are primarily animist and speak Manangba. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says a Bible translation is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=NMM) are available in Manangba. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Manang. The southern Gurung “do not acknowledge the people of Manang as real Gurungs.” (Gautam, 55)

“These people inhabit the pleasant valley of Manang in the upper reaches of the Marsyangdi river northwards in the central Nepal. The Manang district encloses three distinct areas of Neshyang, Nar and Gyasumdo; all of them culturally interrelated.” <http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people3.htm> Although some Northern Gurung are farmers, many follow other pursuits because they live at high altitudes where it is difficult to farm. Some are involved in sheep and cattle breeding. Still others are involved in business and trade.

A new village chief, Dhawa, is chosen every two years. The new Dhawa must be from a different family than the previous one. The Socio-Tribal council also includes a Sherpa, who fetches people for the Dhawa, and a Katuwal, who informs villagers of meeting times. The Dhawa from the Manang village is considered the Head Chieftain. He has the power to summon all villages to a meeting when necessary.

6314

Western Gurung (127,327 PG)

The Western Gurung live mostly in the Kaski and Syangja districts of the Gandaki Zone of central Nepal. Their villages are usually found at elevations of 1,000 – 2,000 meters (3,000 – 6,000 feet). They are primarily animist (peoplegroups.org claims they are animist, but joshuaproject.org says they are Buddhist – in actuality they probably practice a mixture of the two) and speak Gurung, Western. In addition to Gurung, Western, many speak Nepali. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but according to joshuaproject.org only the New Testament is available), the Jesus film, and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=GVR) are available in Gurung, Western. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Gurkhal, Gurum, Gurung, Manang, Syangja, Tamu, and Tamu Kyi. There are also Western Gurung living in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India.

Most western Gurung are farmers. “In the northern part of the Lamjung district, the Western Gurung raise sheep and goats. Wool is used to make woven crafts which are sold in tourist markets.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=110781&rog3=NP>

Western Gurung are not considered adults until they are married. Most marriages are arranged by parents when the children are still young.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=110781&rog3=NP>

6216

Han Chinese (16,751 PG)

The Han Chinese are primarily Buddhist and speak Mandarin. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=CHN) are available in Mandarin.

They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bejinhua; Cantonese; Chinese; Chinese Mandarin; Guanhua; Guoyu; Hakka; Han Chinese; Han Chinese, Mandarin; Han Chinese, Sino-Mauritian; Hoton; Huizui; Kreol; Mandarin; Northern Chinese; Pei; Potinhua; and Putonghua. There are Han Chinese living in 98 countries of the world.

The Han Chinese are the largest ethnic group in the world. Most of the Chinese living outside of China live in the cities and are involved in business. “In most countries, the Diaspora Han Chinese continued living by their traditional Chinese customs, especially those regarding marriage and the family. One of the primary reasons they have kept their own languages and customs is because they have a deeply ingrained belief in the superiority of their culture.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=103686&rog3=NP>

6312

Hayu (2,826 PG)

See Vayu

6218

Helambu Sherpa (14,148 PG)

See Sherpa

6219

Hindi (263,235 PG)

The Hindi people are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, Christian radio broadcasting, and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=HND) are available in Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bazaar, East India, High Hindi, Hindustani, Indo-Pakistani, and North Indian.

There are Hindis living in 22 other countries. The majority of Hindis outside of India live in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Nepal, and Afghanistan.

"The Hindi speakers are divided into a number of social groups. The Hindus, who constitute the largest group, are divided into four main social groups called "castes." These have a hierarchical order based on the principles of "purity and pollution." In order of rank, these hereditary groups are: Brahmans, the priests and scholars; Kshatriyas, the rulers and warriors; Vaisyas, the merchants and professionals; and Sudras, the laborers and servants. These four castes have many sub-castes, which are further divided into circles."

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

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Hudke

The Hudke live in the Surkhet district. They are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Hudke earn their living by playing an instrument called a Hudko as well as dancing and begging. In addition, they sell wood, sell stones beaten into gravel, and participate in manual labor. Most Hudke live in poverty.

6221

Humla Bhotia (2,393 PG)

See Bhotia, Humla

6222

Janggali (23,024 PG)

The Janggali are primarily Hindu and speak Rawat. The Bible and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=JNL) are available in Rawat. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Dzanggali.

6223

Jerung (1,914 PG)

See Rai

6224

Jirel (7,074 PG)

The Jirel live in the Dolakha district in eastern Nepal. Many also live in the Sindhupalchok district. The Jirel are primarily animistic (although peoplegroups.org says the Jirel are animistic, [joshuaproject.org](http://www.joshuaproject.org) claims they are Buddhist. In reality, they probably have mixed animism with Buddhism.) and speak Jirel. The Bible and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=JUL) are available in Jirel. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Jiri, Jirial, Jirpa, and Ziral. They call themselves Jiripa.

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/jiral.htm>

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 4,919 people speak Jirel as a mother tongue and there are 5,316 ethnic Jirel.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1222>

Most Jirels are agriculturists. In addition, many sell things such as butter, chickens, ducks, goats, baskets, etc at the bazars. Further, very few of the Jirels are literate enough to know the alphabet.

00000

Jogi, Hindu (13,000 JP)

The Jogi, Hindu are primarily Hindu and speak Angika. There are no ministry tools available in Angika. In addition to Angika, many also speak Awadhi, Bengali, and Hindi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Aughan, Banjogi, Bans, Bharadi, Chillar, Deuri, Devari, Faqir, Gandhi, Goliya, Gosai, Gosain, Gosavi, Joatin, Jogali, and Joganand. There are also Jogi, Hindu living in India and Bangladesh.

Gorakhnath, being an incarnation of Shiva, is worshipped as a deity by the Jogis, and has a number of temples dedicated to him. The Jogis are therefore often designated as 'Gorakhnathis', or more simply 'Nath-Babas.'"

<http://www.the-south-asian.com/Feb2001/Sadhu%20sects2.htm>

00000

Jogi, Muslim (1,000 JP)

The Jogi, Muslim are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus Film, God's Story video, radio broadcasts, and Gospel audio recordings (<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode?lang=URD>) are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Gosavi, Namgiri, Nath, and Yogi. There are also Jogi, Muslim living in Bangladesh and India.

6226

Kagate Bhotia (1,273 PG)

See Bhotia, Kagate, Syuwa

6227

Kaika (2,393 PG)

The Kaika live in the Dolpa district in the Karnali zone. They are primarily animistic and speak Kaika. The Bible is available in Kaika. However, there are no other ministry tools available in Kaika. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Ka-ne, Khanigaon, Tarali Kham, Tarali Magar, and Tichurong.

6228

Kalinge Rai (19,307 PG)

See Rai

Kami (398,000 JP)

The Kami are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Biswakarma, Lohar, and Viswakarma. There are also Kami living in India.

The Kami are an occupational caste of blacksmiths and are found throughout the entire kingdom of Nepal. The Kami are classified as untouchables in the traditional Hindu hierarchy.

The Kami are related to the Lohar.

There is an article, *A Settlement and Smithy of the Blacksmiths (Kami) in Nepal*, by Andras Hofer available at

http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_04_04_04.pdf. If the link does not work, it can be found from the main menu at

<http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

6303

Kathoriya Tharu (95,722 PG)

See Tharu and Tharu Kathoriya

6230

Kayort (23,930 PG)

The Kayort live in the Morang District. They are primarily Hindu and speak Kayort. The Bible is available in Kayort (peoplegroups.org says it is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Kayort are a group in the Bengali people cluster. "The various Bengali tribes, like most other people groups of South Asia, have a clear division of labor. Regardless of a family's occupational specialty, the men do jobs that take place outside of the home, while the women are responsible for the tasks that can be performed inside the home. Among these tribes, land has always been individually owned. Small family farms, which are usually about one hectare in size (about 2.5 acres), are often sub-divided."

<http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8053.html>

6232

Kham-Magar (19,685 PG)

See Magar and Magar, Kham-Magar

6234

Kharia (4,786 PG)

The Kharia are primarily Christian and speak Kharia. The Bible (joshuaproject.org says a New Testament is available but peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available) and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KHR) are available in Kharia. They are also known by the names Haria, Khaire Kunbi, Kharve, and Kunbi. There are also Kharia living in India and Bangladesh.

00000

Kisan (19,000 JP)

The Kisan live in the Jhapa district in the Dhulabari and Dhajian villages. They are primarily Hindu and speak Sadri (joshuaproject.org says they speak Sadri, but <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/66/44/> suggests they speak Dravidian or Maithili). The New Testament, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings are available in Sadri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Birhor, Dhangar, Kuda, Kurla, Mircha, Morvas, and Nagesia. There are also Kisan living in Bangladesh and India.

According to the 2001 census there are 2,876 Kisans in Nepal. This number differs from Joshuaproject.org population estimate of 19,000.

“They celebrate Bhadra Ekadashi (11th Lunar day during late October to early September) as a special festival. They believe in ghosts and spirits. They are fully confident of the existence of witches. In fact, the Kisans had the infamous practice of killing their women accused of being witches.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/kisan.htm>

The primary occupation of the Kisans is farming and almost 90 percent are illiterate. In addition to farming, many also make straw and bamboo mats to sell in market or raise chicken and pigs. “The head of society is called Raja (king), who decides the social rituals and practices. Kisans have many thars (clans) or family titles. They are nature worshippers. Their family deity is ‘Samalai Mahaprobha’. Their religious and social functions are officiated by a priest called ‘Baiga.’”

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/66/44/>

6235

Koi (1,414 PG)

The Koi are primarily Hindu and speak Koi. The Bible is available in Koi (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). No other ministry tools are available. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6236

Kulunge Rai (18,187 PG)

See Rai

6239

Kumhali (4,786 PG)

The Kumhali live in the Morang, Jhapa, Biratnagar, Dhading, Gorkha, Lamjung, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Deokhuri, Tanahun, Parbat, Syangja, Gulmi, Argha Khanchi, and Palpa districts. The Kumhali are primarily Hindu and speak Kumhali. The Bible (joshuaproject.org says a Bible is not available, but peoplegroups.org says there is one available) and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KRA) are available in Kumhali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Kumal.

“The census of 2001 records their population at 99,383.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/kumal.htm>

The Kumhali are known for making and selling earthenware pots. Many are still involved in this traditional occupation; however, some have begun to work in agriculture and animal husbandry. The Kumhali are in the *matwali* category which means they are allowed to drink alcohol. Consequently, they spend extra money on alcohol and do not save.

The Kumals “share physical characteristics and ways of life with the Tharus, Danuwars, Darais, Majhis and Botes.”

Although they worship the Hindu gods, the Kumhali still hold many ancient traditions and superstitions. When someone is sick, they believe the source is a deity and make a vow for the person to recover while offering a blood sacrifice.

When a couple gets married, “a cock is slaughtered and they walk on the track smeared with the blood of the cock. The future life of the couple is usually forecast on the basis of the direction in which the cock is seen lying dead.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/kumal.htm>

6242

Kutang Bhotia (3,776 PG)

See Bhotia, Kutang

6244

Kyerung (4,786 PG)

The Kyerung live in the Rasuwa district specifically in the villages of Rasua Gari, Birdim, Thangjet, Syabru, and Syabrubensi. There are also Kyerung living in Kathmandu. The Kyerung are primarily Buddhist and speak Kyerung. The Bible is available in Kyerung (joshuaproject.org says there is not a Bible available but peoplegroups.org says it is available). They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Gyirong and Kyirong. There are also Kyerung living in China.

The Kyerung are ethnic Tibetans. The Kyerung “have a greeting, *Tashiteleg*, which means ‘I recognize the divine qualities in you.’” (Hattaway, *Operation China*, 260)

6242

Larke (Nupriba) (3,776 PG)

See Bhotia, Kutang

6247

Lepcha (3,204 PG)

The Lepcha are primarily Buddhist and speak Lepcha. The New Testament, the Jesus film, and Christian audio recordings are available in Lepcha. 25% of the Lepcha are adherents to Christianity and 7.5% are evangelical. They are also known by the names Lap-cha, Lapche, Mutanchi Rongkup, Nunpa, Rong, Rongke, and Rongkup. There are also Lepcha living in India, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.

Lepcha is the name given them by the Nepali and is derogatory. They call themselves Rong, which means rock dwellers. They believe they are from the legendary kingdom of Mayel near Mount Kangchenzonga. They are probably the oldest inhabitants of Sikkim in India. At one time they were dominant in the area, but now they are among the poorest people in Sikkim. The Lepcha also believe they were lovingly created out of Mother Nature and that is why they call themselves Mutanchi Rongkup, or Mother’s loved Ones.

<http://sikkim.nic.in/north/html/lepcha.htm>

A Bibliography of resources on the Lepcha language and culture is available at <http://www.lepcha.info/>.

Lhomi (5,660 PG)

The Lhomi live in the eastern hills of the Sankhwawasawa District in eastern Nepal. The Lhomi are primarily Animists (Peoplegroups.org says that they are animists, but joshuaproject.org says they are Buddhists - in reality they probably practice a mixture of both) and speak Lhomi. The New Testament, the Jesus Film, and gospel audio recordings are available in Lhomi. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kar Bhote, Kathe Bhote, Lhoket, Shing Saapa, Shingsaba, Shingsawa, and Singsawa. Some of these names result from the fact that the area is known as the Shingsa region (where the Arun River enters Nepal from Tibet). There are also Lhomi living in China.

“The Lhomi are a Tibetan people who have been influenced by non-Tibetans over the course of many centuries.”

<http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/profiles/china/chinaPeoples/L/Lhomi.pdf> Their name, Lhomi, means ‘southern people.’ “Among the various indigenous peoples living in the northern part of country, the area inhabited by Lhomis is considered the most difficult. Although the lifestyle of the Lhomis is similar to the Tibetans to the north, they also display some of their own specialties.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/lhomi.htm>

6249

Limbu (275,201 PG)

The Limbu live in the Sankhuwasabha, Tehrathum, Dhankuta, Taplejung, Panchthar, and Ilam districts in “eastern Nepal between the Arun River and the border of the Sikkim district in India.” <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php> The Limbu are primarily Buddhist (Peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist but joshuaproject.org says they are Hindu) and speak Limbu. “Limbus have their own script called Sirijunga. There are many books written in the Limbu language.” <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/45/42/> The Bible

(peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available), the Jesus Film, Christian radio broadcast

(<http://newlins.net/wbr/jplang.php?ethcode=lif>), and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=LIF) are available in Limbu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Monpa and Yakthunga. Furthermore, the Tibetans of the north call them Monap while the Lepcha, Bhotia, and Tibetans in other areas call them Tsong. There are also Limbu living in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India.

“Scholars state that at one time in the past the Yakkha, Rai, and Limbu were one large tribe with a genealogy known as the vamsavali which cannot be located today” (Gautam, 1). The Limbu are a subgroup of the Kirant and are one of the largest people groups in Nepal. According to the 2001 census there are 359,255 Limbu in Nepal. This differs a little from Peoplegroups.org’s number.

Their primary occupation is farming. The men are responsible for plowing while the women plant the seeds. Families work together at harvest. “The word limbu means an archer or bearer of bow and arrows.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/limbu.htm>

Recordings of the Limbu language with phonetic transcription and translation are available at

<http://lacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr/servlet/myxsl?XML=http%3A%2F%2Flacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr%2Farchives%2FAll%2Fmetadata.xml&XSL=http%3A%2F%2Flacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr%2Farchives%2Fstyles%2FlistRsc.xsl&keyword=&lg=Limbu&valid=validate>. If there are any problems with the link, choose to consult the Limbu text at <http://lacito.vjf.cnrs.fr/archivage/limbu.htm>.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu.

<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features>

Loba (28,295 PG)

The Loba live in the Mustang District in Northern Nepal. Their villages are found between 11,000 and 13,000 feet. They are primarily Buddhist and speak Lopa. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says there is a Bible but joshuaproject.org says there is not a Bible available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=LOY) are available in Lopa. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Lhopas, Lo, Lo Manthang, Lo Montang, Loba, Lopa, Lowa, Loyu, Mustang, Mustang Bhote, Mustang Tibetans, Mustange, and Sat Thapaule Bhote.

“The Loba are primarily farmers, shepherds, or merchants. They build their homes out of stone, making the roofs out of thinly chiseled stone squares. The roofs are extremely uniform and smooth; and on each corner, a small square is constructed so that prayer flags may be hung there. Most houses are built close together and have no windows, only holes in the walls to protect against the high speed winds that race up the mountains. In fact, their homes are never built toward the South because of the fierceness of these winds.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

6252

Lohorong (16,976 PG)

The Lohorong are primarily Hindu and speak Lohorong, Northern. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=LBR) are available in Lohorong, Northern. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Lohorong, Lohorong Rai, Northern Lorung, and Pidiso.

6253

Lumba-Yakkha (1,197 PG)

The Lumba Yakkha are primarily Buddhist (peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist, but joshuaproject.org says they are animists) and speak Lumba-yakkha. The Bible is available in Lumba-Yakkha (peoplegroups.org says there is a Bible available but joshuaproject.org claims there is not one available). They are considered unreached/least reached.

46448, 6188, 6207, 6232, and 6315

Magar

The Magar have been divided into at least five different categories based on living location, language, and culture (Khamkura, Chentel, Eastern, Kham-Magar, and Western). Much of their culture is similar and will be described in general. Then a section on each division follows with specifics for that particular group.

“The Magar are one of the oldest known tribes in Nepal; however, their origin is unclear. They are believed to be of Tibetan descent because their language and dances are similar to those within the Tibetan culture. Some of the Magar live in the plains where the Himalayan hills begin; others occupy the lower hills of the Mahabharat Lekh; a few inhabit the high altitude mountain areas.”

“Most Magar are craftsmen, although some who own their own land have become farmers. Others work as miners, blacksmiths, or basket weavers. They tend to be simple minded, hard-working, honest, self reliant, and self sufficient people. They are very jovial and love to sing and dance. They have several kinds of dances, as well as tribal games that they frequently play.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

The article, *Death and Kin Amongst the Northern Magar*, by Michael Oppitz is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_09_04_05.pdf. Also, the article, *The Wild Boar and the Plough: Origin Stories of the Northern Magar*, by Michael Oppitz is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_10_0304_01.pdf. If these links do not work, they can be accessed from the main menu at <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu.

<http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features>

46448

Magar (Khamkura) (1,252,653 PG)

The Magar (Khamkura) live in the Palpa, Argha-Khanchi, Gulmi, Syangja, Kaski, Parvat, Dolpo, Myagdi, Baglung, Rukum, Rolpa, Piuthan, Salyan, Dailkeh, and Jajarkot districts. They are primarily Hindu (peoplegroups.org says they are Hindu but joshuaproject.org says they practice ethnic religions – in reality they probably practice a mixture of both of these) and speak Magar, Eastern. The Bible (joshuaproject.org says only the New Testament is available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=MGP) are available in Magar, Eastern. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also

known by the names Bara Magar, Eastern Magar, Gurkha, Magari, Mangar, Mangari, Thami, and Thapa. There are also Magar living in India and Bangladesh.

6188

Magar, Chentel (5,660 PG)

The Chentel Magar primarily practice their ethnic religions and speak Chantyal. In many places, Chantyal is being replaced by Nepali. http://www.ethnologue.com/14/show_language.asp?code=CHX The Bible is available in Chantyal (although peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available, joshuaproject.org says the Bible is not available). In addition, Christian audio recordings are available. The Chentel Magar are considered unreached/least reached.

According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 5,912 people speak Chantyal as a mother tongue and there are 9,814 ethnic Chantyal. For more information on the language, visit the [South Asia Bibliography](#).

Mark Turin 2004-06-01

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1056>

6207

Magar, Eastern (323,062 PG)

The Eastern Magar are primarily animists and speak Magar, Eastern. The Bible and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_language.php/4241) are available in Magar, Eastern. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bara Mangar, Gurkha, Magar, Magari, Mangar, Mangari, Thami, and Thapa. There are more Eastern Magar living in India and Bangladesh.

6232

Magar, Kham-Magar (19,685 PG)

The Kham-Magar are primarily Animistic and speak Kham, Takale (also known as Parbate, Western). The Bible (joshuaproject.org says the Bible is not available, but peoplegroups.org claims that a Bible is available) and Christian radio broadcast (<http://newlins.net/wbr/jplang.php?ethcode=kjl>) are available in Kham, Takale. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kham and Walli.

6315

Magar, Western (239,305 PG)

The Western Magar are primarily Animists and speak Magar, Western. The largest populations of Western Magar can be found in the Bheri, Dhawalagiri, Gandaki, Karnali, Koshi, Lumbini, Mechi, and Rapti provinces. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=MRD) are available in Western Magar. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6254

Mahotari Tharu (50,120 PG)

See Tharu and Tharu Mahotari

6255

Maitili (2,306,087 PG)

The Maitili are primarily Hindu and speak Maithili. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it isn't available), the Jesus Film, Christian radio broadcast and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=MKP) are available in Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Maithili, Tharu, and Tirahutia.

Most Maitili are in the Brahman caste. "The Maitili are a very religious people, extraordinarily devoted to religious law. They are so orthodox in their beliefs that they would dare not tell a lie, especially when referring to their religious lives."

http://ase.org.sg/the_maithili.pdf

All Saints Church English Congregation in Singapore has adopted the Maitili and committed to "part in the outreach to this unreached people group, the Maitili. We have been focusing on the region of Janakpur. We will render prayer, manpower and financial support to as many Maitili-related works as God so enables us. Our hope is also to form a network for working relationships to be built."

<http://www.ase.org.sg/nepal.htm>

6256

Majhi (14,849 PG)

The Majhi are primarily Hindu and speak Majhi. The Bible is not available in Majhi. Further, there are no other ministry tools available in their language. In addition to Majhi, many speak Panjabi, Eastern. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Deshwali Majhi, Maghi, Manjhi, and Panjabi. There are also Majhi living in India and Pakistan.

Joshuaproject.org says that their primary religion is Hinduism. However, the Majhi website says their religion is Tantrik. "Tantrik religion is the Majhi religion. The Majhi have no temples or man made places of worship. They establish gods or goddesses at the base of a tree near a river, a primarily animist religious belief. The main god of the Majhi people is Gharbhimsen."

<http://www.pantribalconfederacy.com/majhi/introduction.php>

According to their own website, the Majhi claim that from the dawn of time they "have had a special and intimate relationship with the rivers of Nepal."

<http://www.pantribalconfederacy.com/majhi/introduction.php> Their name comes from the word "manjhi" which means "ferryman." Their traditional occupation is building

boat and river transport services, which was very respectable. However, as the occupation of ferrying people across rivers has decreased, they are “farmers who earn their livelihood by cultivating rice, wheat, and vegetables. Very few Manjhi own their own land; thus, most of them work as laborers on others' property. In addition to farming, many Manjhi also make bamboo baskets and sell them in the markets.” http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code3/673.html

6257

Malayali (7,179 PG)

The Malayali are primarily Hindu and speak Malayalam. The Bible, the Jesus Film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasts

(<http://newlins.net/wbr/jplang.php?ethcode=mal>), and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=MJS) are available in Malayalm.

They are also known by the names Cochin Jew and Moplah. There are Malayali living in 16 countries other than Nepal.

Almost 32% of the Malayali in Nepal are adherents to Christianity. Light of Life is an online ecumenical Christian News Magazine for Kerala Malayalee Christians. It can be found at <http://www.lightoflife.com/Default.htm>. Also, St Johns Mar Thoma Church in London has a Malayali congregation. More information is available at <http://www.marthoma.org.uk/parishhi.htm>. There are Malayali divine songs available at <http://www.missionofjesus.com/downloads.htm>.

There is a book available titled, *Selected Malayalam Short Stories*. A review of this book is available at

<http://www.hindu.com/mp/2004/07/15/stories/2004071501330400.htm>.

00000

Manang, Manangba (6,964 PG)

See Northern Gurung

6259

Mugali (3,724 PG)

The Mugali live in thirteen villages in the Mugu Kara area of the Mugu District in Northwest Nepal. They are primarily Buddhist and speak Mugu. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available, but joshuaproject.org says it is not) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=MUK) are available in Mugu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kham, Khan, Mugali Tamang, and Mugu.

“The population of Mugu district, according to the census of 2001 is 44,000.”

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/24/40/> This differs from what peoplegroups.org reports.

“The Mugali earn their living in different ways depending on where they live. Because farmable land is in short supply in the mountain areas, the Mugali living there do little agricultural work and are quite poor. Most make their living by trading, weaving, or breeding livestock. In the main bazaars, however, there are a number of wealthy Mugali.” http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code/335.html

6260

Munda (7,179 PG)

The Munda are primarily Hindu and speak Mundari. The Bible, the Jesus Film, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=MUW) are available in Mundari.

They are also known by the names Colh, Haroko, Hor, Horohon, Kaur, Manki, Mundus, Mundu, and Mura. There are also Munda living in Bangladesh and India. 21% of the Munda are adherents of Christianity.

The Munda-Santal are comprised of nine different but closely related people groups: Santal, Bhumij, Koda, Mahili, Ho, Agariya, Juango, and Gadaba.

Most Munda are farmers. Some are also involved in weaving or hunting and gathering.

“The Munda-Santal have a rich artistic heritage, especially in music and dance. Most tribal villages have a dance floor where worship is offered by a village priest. Though the villages are run by ‘headmen,’ the panchayat (religious scholar or monk) is consulted concerning the most important matters. Most conflicts within the tribe’s concern land rights or marriage.”

<http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8026.html>

“In places where the Gospel is being preached to the Munda-Santal, the listeners almost immediately receive after the village council talks it over. These precious tribes are ripe unto harvest; they simply need people to show them the way back to the Genuine God!” <http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8026.html>

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Musahar (159,000 JP)

The Musahar live in the Morang, Sansari, Udaypur, Siraha, Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Janakpur, Saptari, Mahottari, Malangawa, Rautahat, and Guar districts in the South East corner of Nepal. They are primarily Hindu and speak Angika. The Bible or other ministry tools are not available in Angika. In addition to Angika, many speak Bhojpuri and Maithili. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Banmanus, Banraja, Gaur, Mushar, and Musr.

Their main occupation is to work on others’ land, working as hired laborers. Although the Musahar claim to be Hindus, they worship many deities and devatas

over the Hindu gods. Dina Bhdri is their greatest deity and is worshipped once a year during any suitable month.

6261

Musasa (9,572 PG)

The Musasa are primarily Hindu and speak Musasa. The Bible is available in Musasa (peoplegroups.org says it is available but joshuproject.org says there is not a Bible translation available). They are considered unreached/least reached.

6263

Nachering (2,393 PG)

See Rai and Rai – Nachering

6265

Nawa Sherpa (708 PG)

See Sherpa

6266

Nepalese (11,054,148 PG)

The Nepalese are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcast (<http://newlins.net/wbr/jplang.php?ethcode=nep>), and audio recordings are available in Nepali. In addition to Nepali, many speak Awadhi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Hindi, or Kumauni. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Eastern Pahari, Gurkha, Gurkhali, Gurung, and Paharia. There are also Nepalese living in Bangladesh, Brunei, Burma, India, Malaysia, and the United States.

“Most of the Nepalese live in small villages in hilly terrain and are accustomed to traveling long distances on foot. They are known for their cheerfulness, good humor, resourcefulness, and self-confidence. Their population consists primarily of three "castes," or social classes: the Brahmans (priests and scholars); the Kshatriyas (rulers and warriors); and the Achut (laborers and servants). The Achut perform the most polluting tasks such as cleaning bathrooms. Many also beg and scavenge for a living. As "untouchables," they are excluded from and considered ritually unclean by the other classes of Hindus.”

<http://www.joshuproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=107204&rog3=NP>

6267

Newange Rai (4,238 PG)

See Rai

6268

Newar (707,376 PG)

The Newar are primarily Hindu and speak Newari. “While most of the Newar are Hindu, there are also a significant number of Buddhists.”

(<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php> The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says only a New Testament is available), the Jesus film, God's Story video, and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=NEW) are available in Newari. In addition to Newari, many speak Nepali or Newar: Totali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Nepal Bhasa, Nethura, Newah, Newar, Newari, and Tamraokar. There are also Newar living in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India.

“Newars speak their own language, ' Newari' better known as Nepal Bhasa which belongs to Tibeto - Burman family of languages. It has its own scripts and has no linguistic connection to Nepali, Hindi or Sanskrit. The Newari script, the 'Ranjana lipi' is exceptional. The Newari literature is also very rich.”

<http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people2.htm> “The written history of the Newars is 2,500 years old during which they developed their impeccable culture and arts into a great civilization.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/pop-newars.htm> They “maintain a highly literate culture and their members are prominent in every sphere, from agriculture, business, education and government administration to medicine, law, religion, architecture, fine art, and literature. Newar architects are responsible for inventing Asia's hallmark (an Asian temple; usually a pyramidal tower with an upward curving roof) pagoda architecture. Newar devotional thangka painting, sculpture and metal craftsmanship are world-renowned for their exquisite beauty. The fine temples and palaces of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur are largely the product of Newar architects, artisans, and sculptors.” <http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/encyclopedia/N/Ne/Newar.htm>

“Newari life is centered around two important institutions: the family and the guthi.” The guthi is a cooperative with membership based on occupations, religious, and social ties. Guthis are taking care of temples and their members. Some guthis own land. “The guthi is so important in Newari life that few Newars are ever willing to do anything to put them into disfavor with their guthi.” <http://www.newars.org/peopleofnepal.html>

The article, *A medical-cultural system among the Tibetan and Newar Buddhists: Ceremonial medicine*, is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_01_03_03.pdf. If the previous link does not work, you can go from the main menu at <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu. <http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features.html>

6269

Nisi Kham (11,965 PG)

The Nisi Kham are primarily Hindu and speak Kham, Nisi (also known as parbate, Eastern). The Bible is available in Kham, Nisi (according to peoplegroups.org it is available, but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Kham live in the Rolpa and Rukurn districts of West Nepal. They are divided into smaller groupings based on their language (Takale, Maikote, Shesi Nisi, and Gamale). The Khams were traditionally known as semi-nomadic shepherds, selling wool to earn money, but today many of them farm the land and raise animals. <http://1040window.org/nepalprayerguide/day4.htm>

“There is a belief amongst the Khams in a creator God, but they believe that many centuries ago, their ancestors lost touch with Him. The Kham people sacrifice a ram once a year, which they believe takes away the sins of the village for the past year. The ram must give his consent by nodding his head, which they believe is a sign that he is willing to be the sacrifice for their sins. If it does not nod its head, they cannot kill it, and they must carry their sins for another year. This redemptive analogy has been hidden in their culture for many centuries and is now being used to help them understand the message of the true sacrificial lamb who died for the sins of the whole world.”

<http://1040window.org/nepalprayerguide/day4.htm>

6270

Northern Ghale (3,027 PG)

The Northern Ghale are primarily Buddhist and speak Ghale, Northern. The Bible is available in Ghale, Northern (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available, but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). No other ministry tools are available. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhotte, Bote Ghale, Galle, Galle Gurung, Ghale, Ghale Gurung, and Lila.

6271

Northern Gurung (6,964 PG)

See Gurung and Gurung, Northern.

6316

Northwestern Tamang (306,853 PG)

See Tamang, Northwestern

6273

Oraon (9,572 PG)

The Oraon are primarily Hindu and speak Kurux, Nepali. Portions of the Bible and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KXL) are available in Kurux, Nepali. More than 10% of the Oraons are evangelical

Christians. They are also known by the names Dhanka, Kurka, Orang, Sadri, and Uraon. There are also Oraon living in Bangladesh and India.

“According to anthropologists, Oraons, Mundas, Malpaharis and Santals belong to the same group of aborigine people.”

http://banglapedia.search.com.bd/HT/O_0030.htm

6274

Palpa Pahari (7,562 PG)

The Palpa Pahari are primarily Hindu and speak Palpa. The New Testament is available in Palpa. They are considered unreached/least reached.

“The minority group of Paharis is mainly found in the villages of Khopasi, Saldhara and Palanchok of Kavrepalanchok District. However, they consider Dailekh District as their ancestral place. They are also scattered in Lalitpur of Kathmandu Valley and elsewhere. Paharis have their own Pahari language, which is quite akin to the Tamang and Newar languages.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/pahari.htm> There is a district in the southwest part of Nepal called Palpa. It would make sense that the Palpa Pahari come from this area.

There are a couple of conjectures about where the name Pahari came from, but no one knows for certain. One theory suggests that, “the Paharis are said to have been degraded from the Newars, they are said to have been so named as they had come from a place called Pahari in Dailekh in West Nepal.” Another idea suggests their name comes from the Nepali word meaning “hilly areas,” *pahad*, since they moved to live in the hilly areas.

Although there are similarities between the Pahari and the Newars or Tamangs, there is “no doubt that the Pahari are a distinct indigenous people different from other indigenous peoples like the Newars and Tamangs and from caste groups like Chhetris.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/pahari.htm>

00000

Phri (900 JP)

The Phri live in the Lalitpur, Kavre, Makwanpur, and Sindupalochok districts. (Gautam, 141) They are primarily Hindu and speak Phri. They are considered unreached/least reached. Scholars agree that the Phri are a branch of another tribe, but there are several opinions as to which tribe they are a branch of. They are a branch of the Tamang, Newars, or Ksetri. There are also Phri living in India.

There are several different ideas about the origin of the tribe and how they received their name. It is believed that their name is a derivation of *pho ho ri*, which means “dirty” in Nepali. (Gautam, 142) Their main occupation is

agriculture. Some have also taken government jobs or hired themselves out for other jobs.

The Phri language is closely related to Newar and does not have a written form. Many young Phri do not speak their language so it is fading.

6279

Puma (3, 633 PG)

The Puma are primarily Buddhist (peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist but joshuaproject.org says they are animists - in reality they probably practice a mix of these two) and speak Puma. The Bible is available in Puma (peoplegroups.org says there is a Bible available but joshuaproject.org says there is not a Bible available). They are considered unreached/least reached.

6280

Punjabi (11,965 PG)

The Punjabi are primarily Sikhs (a combination of Islam and Hinduism) and speak Panjabi, Eastern. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=PNJ) are available in Panjabi, Eastern. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Eastern Punjabi, Gurmukhi, Mirpur Punjabi, and Panjabi. There are Punjabi's living in 24 other countries, mostly in India and Pakistan.

"The 'caste' system is India's strict organization of social classes. The Punjabi are divided into castes called jati. For the Punjabi, a caste is described as a group of families in an area, with common ancestry, who marry among themselves and have a common traditional occupation based upon a common type of inherited productive property. Castes generally have origin stories that explain how they came into an area, and/or their present occupational position." <http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/clusters/8044.html>

6167, 6174, 6185, 6196, 6223, 6228, 6236, 6263, 6267, 6286, 6287, 6288, 6298, 6305, 6308, 6319

Rai

The Rai are the largest ethnic group in eastern Nepal. "Each of the Rai groups speaks a different dialect and has its own religious beliefs. Their languages have transformed from the original language to a mixture of local dialects from which most take their names." <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php> Further, their different dialects are usually unintelligible to those speaking other dialects. The Rai live in the districts of Solu-Khumbu, Okhaldhunga, Khotang, Bhojpur, and Udaipur. The Rai have been divided into at least seventeen different categories based on living location, language, and culture. Much of their culture is similar and will be described in general. Then a section on each division follows with specifics for that particular group.

“Collectively, the Rai are known as very courageous, daring, and fearless people. In recent history, they have won worldwide respect for their bravery in the Royal Nepalese Army. Joining the army is often a way out of enduring economic hardship. It also brings respect and honor, especially for those of high military rank.” <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

“Rai are mainly farmers; therefore, their main occupation is farming. Hunting is their profession from time past, and they like to use bow and arrows. In the past they used to weave their own clothes (Khandi) to wear. Nowadays, the Rais are also employed in foreign military service and in foreign employment.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/rai.htm>

All Rai people worship Pangdangba as the deity of their *pitree smhu*, or paternal/agnatic lineage. Marga is the chief deity for most of the Rai people. They appeal to Marga when people want to be purified, ask for pardon, or want to make vows or promises in time of illness. Further, each sect among the Rai have their own deities that they worship. The deities are believed to cause famines, drought, sickness, household trouble, barrenness, etc when they are angry. Thus, the people live in fear and perform *puja* on schedule. The people who offer prayers to appease the gods are called priests. This is a hereditary position that is passed down to the eldest son. Each sect has its own priest.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu. <http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features>

Below is a list of the Rai thars. “The Rai thars are more often endogamous units than not.” (Bista, 35) More information on some of these specific Thars follows the list.

THAR	LOCALE
Kulunge	Maha Kulung: The valleys of Hongu and Rawa Rivers
Chamlinge	Rawa River Valley
Khalinge	Rawa River Valley and in Solu
Pelmange	Rawa River Valley and in Solu
Falinge	Rawa River Valley and in Solu
Thulunge	Aiselukharka
Rumdali	near Okhaldhunga
Sotange	Sotang
Sampange	Phali and near Dingla
Tamachhange	Chirkhuwa valley in Dingla
Bainge	Bhojpur
Bantava	Bhojpur

Lohorong	upper Arun river valley
Yamphu	Seduwa and Waleng in upper Arun
Ketra	Seduwa and Waleng in upper Arun
Saam	north of Sankhuwa
Athpare	Dhankuta
Chaurasia	near Dhankuta

6167

Rai - Athpare Rai, Rai Kirati (59,826 PG)

The Athpare Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Dungmali. The Bible is available in Dungmali. However, no other ministry tools are available. The Athpare Rai are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Dungmali, Athpariya, Belhare, Belhariya, Dungmali Rai, and Rai Kirati.

00000

Rai - Ath Pahariya Rai (1,200 JP)

The Ath Pahariya Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Kumarbhag Paharia. Many also speak Athpariya. Their language does not have a written script of its own. Instead they use the Limbu script, *Srijunga*. The Bible has not been translated into Kumarbhag Paharia. Further, there are no other ministry tools available. The Ath Pahariya Rai are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Athpare Rai, Rai Kirati, and Athpariya.

6174

Rai - Bantawa Rai (42,292 PG)

The Bantawa Rai are primarily animists and speak Bantawa (a word list and other information about Bantawa is available at <http://robbie.eugraph.com/bantawa/>). The Bible is available in Bantawa. However, no other ministry tools are available in their language. They are considered unreached/least reached.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 371,056 people speak Bantawa as a mother tongue.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e947>

6185

Rai - Chamlinge Rai (10,917 PG, 44,000 JP)

The Chamlinge Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Camling. The Bible is available in Camling (although peoplegroups.org claims that the Bible is available, joshuaproject.org says the Bible is not available). In addition, Christian Audio recordings are available. The Chamlinge Rai are considered unreached/least reached.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 44,093 people speak Chamling as a mother tongue.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1033>

“While the majority of Chamlinge Rai are Hindus, there are also a large number of animists (believe that non-human objects have spirits). In addition, they have been heavily influenced by Buddhism. This mixture has created a wide variety of gods and worship practices among them. These customs are most evident during such events as births, marriages, and deaths. The influence of Hinduism has led to many of the dead now being cremated instead of being buried.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

6196

Rai - Danuwar Rai (20,745 PG – 30,000JP)

The Danuwar Rai live in the Sindhuli, Makwanpur, Siraha, Udayapur, Sarlahi, Nuwakot, and Dhading districts and prefer to live along the river banks. They are primarily Hindu and speak Dhanwar. The Bible is not available in Dhanwar. However Christian audio recordings are available. “Danuwar language may be dubbed as Bhojpuri mixed with Nepali.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/danuwar.htm> In addition to Dhanwar, many speak Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Dhanwar. The Danuwar live in the central part of Nepal, just southwest of Kathmandau. They prefer to live on riverbanks. There are more Danuwar Rai living in India.

“Only 24.5 percent Danuwars are literate and 60 percent of them live below poverty line. According to census 2001, their population is 53,229.”

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/56/43/>

Their traditional occupation is hunting. However, now they “are primarily rice farmers. Unfortunately, they have been limited by insufficient knowledge of technology, causing a poor yield in crops. They farm rice in the low-lying areas, and raise potatoes, maize, wheat, and barley at higher altitudes. The men are responsible for plowing the fields, while the women take care of planting the seeds. Families often unite to help each other at harvest time. Farmers trade any surplus crops they may have for needed items such as kerosene and salt. Others supplement their meager incomes through craftwork and tailoring.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

6223

Rai - Jerung (1,914 PG)

The Jerung are primarily Hindu and speak Jerung. The Bible is available in Jerung (joshuaproject.org says the Bible is not available but peoplegroups.org says that the Bible is available). They are considered unreached/least reached. The Jerung are a Rai ethnic group.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 271 people speak Jero as a mother tongue.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1202>

6228

Rai - Kalinge Rai (19,307 PG)

The Kalinge Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Khaling. The Bible is available in Kaling (Peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available, but joshuaproject.org says that only the New Testament is available). No other ministry tools are available in Kaling. They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Kalinge Rai live in the Rawa River Valley and in Solu (Bista, 35). “According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 9,288 people speak Khaling as a mother tongue.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1242>

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6236

Rai - Kulunge Rai, Pelmung (18,187 PG)

The Kulunge Rai are primarily animistic and speak Sotang or Kulung (Sotang is a dialect of Kulung). The Bible (joshuaproject.org says the Bible is not available but peoplegroups.org says it is) and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KLE) are available in Kulung Sotang.

They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Pelmung.

“According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 18,686 people speak Kulung as a mother tongue.”

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1262>

The article, *Structure and division in Kulunge Rai society*, by Charles McDougal is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_01_03_04.pdf. If this link does not work, you can find it on the main menu at <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

6263

Rai - Nachering (2,393 PG)

The Nachering are primarily animists and speak Nachering. The Bible is available in Nachering (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says the Bible is not available). They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Kirati Rai.

“Kirati mainly consists of Rai and Limbu people. Literally Rai or Limbu means ‘headman.’ They are decedents of the Kiratis who first formed the kingdom in the Kathmandu Valley. They now mainly live in far eastern Nepal. Kirati people are well known for their courage and bravery and are often recruited into armies abroad like the more famous Gurkhas.”

http://www.nikkistravel.com/Nepal/nepal_culture.htm

6267

Rai - Newange Rai (4,238 PG)

The Newange Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Meohang, Western. The Bible (peoplegroups.org claims the Bible is available, but Joshuaproject.org says it is not) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=RAF) are available in Meohang, Western. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Meohang Rai.

6286

Rai - Rumdali Rai, Bainge Rai (10,295 PG)

The Rumdali Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Bahing. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=RAR) are available in Bahing. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Bainge Rai. The Rumdali Rai can be found near Okhaldhunga (Bista, 35).

According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 2,765 people speak Bahing as a mother tongue. For more information on the language, visit the [South Asia Bibliography](#). Mark Turin2004-06-01.

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e927>

6287

Rai - Saam Rai (47,861 PG)

The Saam Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Saam. The Bible (peoplegroups.org claims the Bible is available, but Joshuaproject.org says it is not available) is available in Saam. They live in the northeast corner of the east end of the country. They are considered unreached/least reached. The Saam Rai can be found north of Sankhuwa (Bista, 35).

“The Saam Rai are primarily rice farmers” and families work together at harvest.

http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code1/1271.html

6288

Rai - Sampange Rai (7,268 PG)

The Sampange Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Sangpang (also known as Sampang). The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available, but joshuaproject.org claims it is not) and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=RAV) are available in Sangpang.

The Sampang Rai live in the east part of Nepal. They live about halfway between Kathmandu and the eastern border with India. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6298

Rai - Tamachhange Rai (47,861 PG)

The Tamachhange Rai live on the eastern end of Nepal. They are primarily animist and speak Kulung and Rang. The Bible is not available, but audio recordings are available in Kulung

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KLE). They are considered unreached/least reached.

6305

Rai - Thulunge Rai (26,324 PG)

The Thulunge Rai are primarily Hindu and speak Thulung. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=TDH) are available in Thulung. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Deosali Rai.

6308

Rai - Tilung (1,197 PG)

The Tilung are primarily animists and speak Tilung. The Bible is available (according to peoplegroups.org it is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) but other ministry tools are not available in Tilung. They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Tilung are a Rai ethnic group located in eastern Nepal. "According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 310 people speak Tilung as a mother tongue."

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1696>

6319

Rai -Yamphu Rai (4,786 PG)

The Yamphu Rai can be found in the Koshi and Mechi zones of eastern Nepal. These people are primarily Hindu and speak Yamphu. Christian audio recordings are available in their language. They are considered unreached/least reached with less than two percent Evangelical Christians living among them and no reports of active church planting among them within the past two years. Alternative names for the Yamphu Rai include Yamphu Kha, Yanphu, and Yamphe. The Yamphu Rai can be found in Seduwa and Waleng in upper Arun (Bista, 35).

6281

Rajbansi (138,983 PG)

The Rajbangsi live in the Jhapa and Morang districts (Gautam, 176). They are primarily Hindu and speak Rajbangsi. The Bible (Peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available), the Jesus film, and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=RJB) are available in Rajbangsi. In addition to Rajbangsi, many speak Bengali and Koch. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bahey, Desi, Kocch, Koch, Konch, Paliya, Raghubansi, Rajbansim, and Tajpuri. There are more Rajbangsi living in India and Bangladesh.

“Most Rajbangsi are farmers who survive on the produce of their own labor. Although they raise some livestock, they do not seem to consider the animals as a primary source of income. Instead, animal products are used as items to sell to purchase necessities that they can't make or grow themselves.”

http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code2/666.html

“This proud high-caste group has been resistant to the gospel and is in great need of a consistent gospel witness. Despite the fact that most Rajbangsis have heard the gospel message, this group remains very closed to Christianity, with well under 1% being Christians.”

<http://1040window.org/nepalprayerguide/day20.htm>

6282

Raji (4,226 PG)

The Raji are traditionally from the Dang and Surkhet districts. Now they are also found in the Bardiya, Kailali, and Achham districts since “almost 90 percent Rajis have been displaced from their ancestral lands.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/raji.htm> They are primarily animist and speak Raji. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available, however joshuaproject.org says there is not a Bible available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=RJI) are available in Raji. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Ban Manush, Ban Raja, Ban Raji, Ban Rawat, Banmari, Faas, Fans, Janggali, Raute, and Rawat. There are also Raji living in India.

“Their population, according to Census 2001 is 2,399.”

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/raji.htm>

Jana Fortier argues in her article, *End of the road for Rautes?* (available at <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/ntimes/sep20-2000/raute.htm>), that settling this nomadic hunting and gathering tribe will be detrimental to their way of life. “Raji women are adept at collecting roots and shoots from forest. Those Rajis permanently involved in farming had plenty of land in the past, but hundreds of hectares of their land was confiscated by those close to the powers-that-be; hence, they are now forced to live lower class and lower middle class lives. Most Rajis have been deprived of education.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/raji.htm>

The Raji are featured in a National Geographic article, *Golden Harvest of the Raji*, in the June 1998 edition.

An ethnographic study on the Raute (another name for Raji), *The Raute: Notes on a Nomadic Hunting and Gathering Tribe of Nepal*, by Johan Reinhard is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_02_04_01.pdf. Further, the article, *Encounter with the Raute: the last hunting nomads of Nepal*, by Dor Bahadur Bista is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_04_04_01.pdf. If there is a difficulty with either of the previous links you can find it on the main menu at <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>

6283

Rana Thakur Tharu (303,853 PG)

See Tharu and Tharu Rana Thakur

6284

Rangkas (407 PG)

The Rangkas are primarily Buddhist (peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist, but joshuaproject.org says they practice ethnic religions – in reality, they probably practice a mixture of these two) and speak Rangka. The Bible is available in Rangka (peoplegroups.org says there is a Bible available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). They are considered unreached/least reached.

6285

Raute (282 PG)

The Raute are a nomadic tribe that live in the forests in the Dailekh, Jajarkot, Surkhet, Salyan, Achham, Jumla, Darchula and Baitadi districts. They are primarily animist and speak Raute. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available, but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) is available in Raute. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Rawat and Raut. There are more Raute living in Bangladesh.

“According to Census 2001, their total number is 658.”

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/61/43/>

“A minority indigenous nationality Rautes are a tribe rare in the whole of Asia itself. It is a hunter-gatherer tribe and a nomadic band. Rautes roam in the edges of the mountainous jungles of Salyan, Pyuthan, Dang, Jajarkot, Surkhet, Dailekh, Achcham, Jumla, Doti, Darchula and Baitadi districts. They erect temporary huts to settle there, gather root food and fruit available in the vicinity, hunt wild animals, make wooden goods and exchange them for food grain and move to other places as and when the sources of food are exhausted. The word ‘Raute’ is derived from the term ‘Rautee’, which means ‘one who lives in huts/sheds’ (Shahi, BS2057).” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/rautes.htm>

An ethnographic study on the Raute (another name for Raji), *The Raute: Notes on a Nomadic Hunting and Gathering Tribe of Nepal*, by Johan Reinhard is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_02_04_01.pdf. Further, the article, *Encounter with the Raute: The last hunting Nomads of Nepal*, by Dor Bahadur Bista is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_04_04_01.pdf. If there is a difficulty with either of the previous links you can find it on the main menu at <http://www.digitalthimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

6286

Rumdali Rai (10,295 PG)

See Rai

6287

Saam Rai (47,861 PG)

See Rai

6288

Sampange Rai (7,268 PG)

See Rai

6289

Santal (56,591 PG)

The Santal are primarily Hindu and speak Santali. The Bible, the Jesus film, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=SNT) are available in Santali.

Theological training is available in the Santali language in Dumka in Northern India through the Northern Evangelical Lutheran

Church.<http://www.elca.org/countrypackets/india/nelc.html> They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Doya, Har, Hor, Mahili, Mahle, Paharia, Sandal, and Satar. There are more Santal living in Bangladesh and India. In Bangladesh, 12.5% of the Santal are evangelical Christians. In Nepal, they live in the south east corner near the border with India in the districts of Jhapa and Morang.

The Santal are one clan in the larger Munda-Santal group. The other clans are the Agariya, Bhumij, Gadaba, Ho, Juango, Koda, and the Mahili.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

In "Eternity In Their Hearts," Don Richardson tells of their ancient God called Thakur Jiu, or "Genuine God." They thought that He had forgotten them because they had turned away from Him in fear of the Maran Buru, or "spirits of the great mountains." Their ancestors had made an oath with the Maran Buru when migrating to their present lands. They began to practice spirit appeasement, sorcery, and sun worship.

Today, their supreme god is the sun god. However, they have also adopted the Hindu deities in addition to tribal gods and goddesses. The Hindu village priest is the ritual specialist, and they observe many Hindu festivals. They do have a firm belief in an almighty creator and also in 'mother earth.'"

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

Christian missionaries have been functioning among the Santals since 1862. However, Christianity has not had a large influence on Santal culture. Part of the problem is the perception that those who become Christians lose their Santal identity.

There are a few books available concerning the Santals:

1. Biswas, P. C., *Santals of the Santal Parganas*. Delhi, Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, 1956. (230, p. illus., map)
2. Culshaw, W. J., *Tribal heritage: a study of the Santals*. London, Lutterworth Press, 1949. (222 p. illus., map)
3. Orans, Martin. *The Santal; a tribe in search of a great tradition*. Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1965. (154 p. tables)
4. Mukherjea, Charulal. *The Santals. Rev. 2d ed.* Calcutta, A. Mukherjee, 1962. (459 p. illus., tables)

6290

Saptari Tharu (93,975 PG)

See Tharu and Tharu Saptari

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Sarki (1,900 JP)

The Sarki are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it isn't available) and audio recordings (<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode?lang=NEP>) are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Cobbier, Sarkar, Tapa, Tapoli, and Thapa. There are also Sarki living in India and Bangladesh.

The Sarki are believed to be the ancestors of the Brahmin and Ksteri people who ate the dead carcasses of buffalo, bulls, or cows. Since this was taboo, they were demoted "within the Hindu social structure. The Sarki are an occupational tribe and can be found in most areas of Nepal, due to their profession, they are as widely spread out as their kinsmen the Kami and Damai." (Gautam, 215)

6218, 6265, and 6291

Sherpa

The Sherpa have been divided into at least three different categories based on living location, language, and culture (Bhotia, Helambu, and Nawa). Much of

their culture is similar and will be described in general. Then a section on each division follows with specifics for that particular group.

“Most Sherpa live in the Solu-Khumbu region in the northern part of the Sagarmatha district. However, several thousand Sherpa live in colonies in the Nepali capital of Kathmandu, in the city of Darjeeling, and in Indian hill towns. Most Sherpa villages are located on the southern slopes of the Himalayan range around the base of Mount Everest. The name Sherpa is derived from the Tibetan word *sharpa*, meaning ‘people from the East.’”

http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code5/717.html

The Sherpas came from Tibet in the 1500s and settled in the area around Mount Everest. Today, they are well known for their ability to carry supplies on treks to the peak of Everest. They began to receive this recognition in 1953 when Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa, helped Sir Edmund Hillary reach the summit of Mount Everest. “Most Sherpas probably have lost a friend or relative to a mountaineering accident. A few high-altitude porters stop climbing after a friend's death. But most see it as an inevitable hazard and go on, motivated by the money the job brings in.”

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0305/feature2/index.html>

The western idea of the “abominable snowman”, or the yeti, comes from Sherpa folklore. According to legend, there used to be many more yeti and they would attack local villagers. So, the village elders went to a high alpine pasture with beer and weapons. While the yeti were watching, the villagers pretended to get drunk and fight with the weapons. When they left, the yeti came and drank the beer and began to fight each other. Most of the yeti died as a result, but a few survived and hide in the mountains. Occasionally they attack humans for revenge. (from Worldbook Encyclopedia of Culture)

The article, *Myths and Facts: Reconsidering some data concerning the clan history of the Sherpas*, by Michael Oppitz is available at

http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_02_0102_04.pdf. If the link does not work, you can find it from the main menu at

<http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu. <http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features>

Additional links:

<http://www.ianhills.net/phortsecommunityproject/sherpas.htm>

<http://www.bena.com/sherpa1/SFA/sSherFac.htm#What%20does%20SHERPA%20mean>

6291

Sherpa, Bhotia (35,582 PG *JP* says 143,000)

The Bhotia, Sherpa are primarily Buddhist and speak Sherpa. Portions of the Bible, the Jesus film, and audio recordings are available in Sherpa. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Bhotia, Bhotia of Bhutan, Bhotia of Nepal, Drukpa, Khambuwan, Serwa, Sharpa, Sharpa Bhotia, Solu, Toto, Xiaerba, Xiarba, and Yelmo. There are also Bhotia, Sherpa living in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, South Korea, and the United States.

6218

Sherpa, Helambu (14,148 PG)

The Helambu Sherpa live in the Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok districts of the Bagmati zone. They are primarily Buddhist and speak Helambu Sherpa. The Bible and Christian audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=SCP) are available in Helambu Sherpa. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Helambu, Serwa, Sharpa, Sharpa Bhotia, Xiaerba, Xiarba, Yohimu Tam, and Yolmo.

6265

Sherpa, Nawa (708 PG)

The Nawa Sherpa are primarily animists and speak Naapa. The Bible is available in Naapa (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Sherpa, Nawa.

6292

Sheshi Kham (11,965 PG)

The Sheshi Kham are primarily Hindu and speak Kham, Sheshi. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it isn't available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KIP) are available in Khma, Sheshi. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6310

Siyar (4,786 PG)

See Tsum

6294

Sonha (14,148 PG)

The Sonha live "in the mountains of western Nepal along the Karnali, Bheri, and Mahakali Rivers." http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code5/735.html They are primarily animist and speak Sonha. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says it is available but joshuaproject.org says it isn't available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=SOI) are available in Sonha. They are considered unreached/least reached.

The Sonha are closely related to the Dang Tharu.

6296

Southwestern Tamang (128,267 PG)

See Tamang, Southwestern

6297

Sunwar (42,453 PG)

The Sunwar are primarily animist and speak Sunwar. The New Testament (<http://www.worldscriptures.org/pages/sunwar.html>) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=SUZ) are available in Sunwar. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Sunbar.

The main occupation of the Sunwar is agriculture. "They grow rice, wheat, and barley in the river valleys, and maize and grain on the hill slopes. Tobacco is grown in the lowland regions, with the surplus being exported. Rice and oil seed also serve as exports." <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

The article, *The Role of the Priest in Sunwar Society*, by Alain Fournier is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_02_03_01.pdf. If the link does not work, it can be found through the main menu at <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

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Surel (300 JP)

The Surel live in the Dolakha district. Their primary religion is unknown and they speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus Film, God's Story video, radio broadcasts, and audio recordings (<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode?lang=NEP>) are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached.

"Although influenced religiously by Hinduism and Buddhism, they are worshippers of nature and shamanists. Their jhankri is called Nasko. Bastu (Bumbu) is the creator god. The creator god is offered the produce of the first harvest and there are gods and goddesses who are worshipped regularly (Gautam and Thapa Magar, 1994:341-345)."
<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/51/42/>

“The Surels are educationally very backward. Only one Surel student has been educated up to Grade 10 in spite of the fact that a secondary school exists in the same village. Only an insignificant number of children go to school. Almost all adults are illiterate. Almost all are dependent on agriculture for their subsistence but their earnings are hardly sufficient for three months.”

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/51/42/>

6298

Tamachhange Rai (47,861 PG)

See Rai

6209, 6296, and 6316

Tamang

“The Tamangs are an ancient and major indigenous people of Nepal. Their traditional area is the hilly region between the Budhigandaki River and the Likhu River. At present, they live in large numbers in the districts of Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Makawanpur, Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchok and Kavrepalanchok in the Central Development Region. They are also scattered all over the country.” <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/pop-tamang.htm>

The Tamang have been divided into three different categories based on living location, language, and culture (Eastern, Northwestern, and Southwestern). Much of their culture is similar and will be described in general. Then a section on each division follows with specifics for that particular group.

“Tamangs are strong in their convictions and beliefs and can be aggressive in fighting to defend those beliefs. This quality though, makes them good leaders, and has kept them from being exploited by other groups. In recent years, quite a number of Tamangs have become Christians and they are actively reaching out to their own people.” <http://1040window.org/nepalprayerguide/day18.htm>

“The Tamang are the largest Tibeto-Burman ethnic group in Nepal and they claim to have come from Tibet. The name Tamang comes from the Tibetan words *ta* (horse) and *mang* (trader). Traditionally, the Tamang have been known for their ability with crafts like making, bamboo baskets, receptacles for storing grain, and leaf umbrellas. “Tamangs are very skillful in making woolen garments from sheep wool. Some of them are also trained to paint beautiful thankas.”

<http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people1.htm>

There are recordings of the Tamang language with phonetic transcription and translations available at

<http://lacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr/servlet/myxsl?XML=http%3A%2F%2Flacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr%2Farchives%2FAI%2Fmetadata.xml&XSL=http%3A%2F%2Flacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr%2Farchives%2Fstyles%2FlistRsc.xml&keyword=&lg=Tamang&valid=validate>. If there is a problem

with the link choose to consult the Tamang texts at

<http://lacito.vjf.cnrs.fr/archivage/tamang.htm>.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu.

6209

Tamang, Eastern (427,741 PG)

The Eastern Tamang live in eastern and central Nepal. They are primarily animists (although peoplegroups.org says they are animists, joshuaproject.org says they are primarily Buddhist. In reality, they probably have mixed these two) and speak Tamang, Eastern. The Bible, the Jesus film, and Christian audio recordings are available in Tamang, Eastern. More than 5% of the Eastern Tamang of Nepal are adherents of Christianity. They are also known by the names Lama, Murmi, Nishung, and Tamanglama. There are more Eastern Tamang living in Bhutan and Burma.

6316

Tamang, Northwestern (306,853 PG)

The Northwestern Tamang live in the Bagmati zone of Nepal. They are primarily animist (peoplegroups.org says they are animist but joshuaproject.org says they are Buddhist. In reality they probably practice a mixture of these two) and speak Tamang, Western (peoplegroups.org says they speak Tamang, Western but joshuaproject.org says it is Tamang, Northwestern). The Bible is available in Tamang, Western, but no other ministry tools are available ([Joshuaproject.org](http://joshuaproject.org) says the Bible is not available in Tamang, Western). They are also known by the names Lama, Murmi, and Nishung.

6296

Tamang, Southwestern (128,267 PG)

The Southwestern Tamang live in the plains of southern Nepal. They are primarily animist (peoplegroups.org says they are animist but joshuaproject.org says they are Buddhist – in reality they probably practice a mixture of these two) and speak Tamang, Southwestern. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available), and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=TSF) are available in Tamang, Southwestern. They are also known by the names Lama, Murmi, and Nishung.

6300

Thakali (8,615 PG)

The Thakali are primarily Buddhist and speak Thakali. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=THS) are available in Thakali. They

are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Tapaang, Thanksya, and Thakuri. There are also Thakali living in India.

The Thakalis are originally from “the Thak Khola region of Mustang district in the Dhaulagiri zone of Nepal.” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thakali> However, as a result of their extensive trade, many have settled around Kathmandu and in the Kali Gandaki valley area.

The Thakali tribe is divided into four clans: Gau Chan (or Chyoki), Tula Chan(or Salki), Sher Chan (or Dhimzen), and Bhatta Chan (or Bhurki). These clans are further divided into family groups, or *ghyupas*. The names of the *gyupas* are only used with other Thakali.

The article, *Ritual Practice and Group Maintenance in the Thakali of Central Nepal*, by Andrew E. Manzardo is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_12_0102_03.pdf. If that link does not work, it can be accessed from the main menu at <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu. <http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features>

Additional links: <http://www.manang.com/People231.htm>

00000

Thakuri (59,000 JP)

The highest concentration of Thakuri are found in the Jumla district. However, they live throughout the far western part of the kingdom. They are primarily Hindu and speak Nepali. The Bible, the Jesus film, God’s Story video, radio broadcasts, and audio recordings (<http://globalrecordings.net/langcode?lang=NEP>) are available in Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Thakuri living in Bangladesh and India.

In Nepal, Chhetris and Thakuris are among the most influential and well-to-do social classes. They are mostly in the government services, in high ranked positions in the army and the police. Some of them have remained farmers and are relatively poor and live like any other ethnic group.

<http://www.socialtours.com/guide/people2.htm>

6301

Thami (28,295 PG)

The Thami live in the Dolakha district just east of Kathmandu. They have also been found in the Sindupalochok and Solukhumbu districts. They are primarily animists and speak Thami (also spelled Thangmi). The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=THF) are available in Thami. In addition to Thami many speak Nepali. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Thangmi. There are also Thami living in China and India.

“Thamis call themselves Thangmi. Thangmi means ‘people of pastureland’ or ‘people living in borderlands’.” <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/53/42/> They were originally nomadic. Most Thami work in the stone quarrying business. They have been described as “hard working and extremely honest.” <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=110002&rog3=NP>

There is an article by Sara Shneiderman and Mark Turin, “Preliminary Etymological Notes on Thangmi Clan Names and Indigenous Explanations of their Provenance” that was published in *The Journal of Nepalese Literature, Art and Culture*. Volume 3, Number 2. 69-83 available at <http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/ss364/downloads/thangmiclans.pdf>

Also, another article by Sara Shneiderman and Mark Turin, “Thangmi, Thami, Thani? Remembering a Forgotten People” in *Himalayan Culture*. Volume 5, Number 1. Kathmandu, Nepal. 5-21 is available at <http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/ss364/downloads/remember.pdf>

There is a video of a Thasmi Shaman available at <http://www.himalayan-mercantile.com/VideoClips/Video%20Thami%20Shamans.htm>.

6193, 6195, 6200, 6254, 6283, 6290, 6302, and 6303

Tharu

The Tharu have been divided into at least eight different categories based on living location, language, and culture (Tharu, Chitwan, Dang, Deokri, Kathoriya, Mahotari, Rana Thakur, and Saptari). Much of their culture is similar and will be described in general. Then a section on each division follows with specifics for that particular group.

“The Tharu are one of the major and indigenous ethnic groups of Nepal. They traditionally live throughout the jungles of the southern Terai lowlands of Nepal in Bardia, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Morang, Saptari and Jhapa districts, as well as in the inner Terai valleys of Chitwan, Dang, Surkhet and Udaipu.r” <http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Tharu>

“The Tharu live on the edge of the forests, farming and raising livestock on the plains. They also use the forests to trap animals, collect fruits, roots, herbs, and to fish the small rivers and streams. Their staple foods are rice (eaten with fish), chicken, pork, rabbit, pigeon, and tortoise, as well as dahl (a mash eaten with

rice), and vegetables. Using wheat and barley, the women make alcohol.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=102426&rog3=NP>

“Among the Tharu, every home contains a household god. This deity is offered blood sacrifices of a chicken and a pigeon, as well as milk and silk cloth. In many homes they also appease the god with the blood of the male of the household. This takes place in a ceremony where he makes superficial cuts on his forehead, arms, throat, legs, and chest. Even so, “most Tharu have a concept of a creator or supreme god, but would not have heard of the name of Jesus. About 90% of the Tharu have no Gospel witness readily available to them, and there are only a handful of known believers.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=106045&rog3=NP>

The Nepal Ethnographic Museum has a permanent exhibit of eleven ethnic communities in Nepal (the Thakali, the Sherpa, the Tamang, the Gurung, the Rai, the Limbu, the Chepang, the Jyapu of Newar group, the Magar, the Sunwar, and the Tharu). The museum is located on the first floor of the Tourist Service Center (TSC). The TSC is located at Bhrikuti Mandap, to the east of the Tundikhel parade ground in Kathmandu. <http://www.asia-planet.net/nepal/museum.htm#features>

THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE THARUS: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY by Gisèle Krauskopf is available at

<http://www.macalester.edu/~guneratne/Teaching/tharus.html>.

“The Tharu divide themselves into at least seven major clan groups; Chitwan, Dangora, Deokhari, Kathariya, Mahottari, Rana Thakur, and Saptari. Each clan group has a distinct dialect, ethnic identity and culture.” There are probably actually 32 groups. Some of the other well known Tharu groups are Chitauniya, Dangaura, Dangbadiya, Kathariya, Khas, Kochila, Lalpuria, Lampuchhuwa, Majhaura, Mardaniya, Morangia, Rajhathiya, Rana, Rautar, Solariya, and Sunaha. Below is more information on some of these specific groups.

<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Tharu>

6302

Tharu (1,061,925 PG)

The Tharu primarily speak Bhojpuri. Their primary religion is unknown. The New Testament, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings

(<http://www.himalayanmercantile.com/VideoClips/Video%20Thami%20Shamans.htm>) are available in Bhojpuri. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kathoriya, Kathoriya Tharu, and Mahatu. There are also Tharu living in Bangladesh and India.

6193

Tharu Chitwan (35,850 PG 45,000 JP)

The Chitwan Tharu are primarily animists and speak Tharu, Chitwan. The Bible and Christian audio recordings are available in Tharu, Chitwan. They are

considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by Chitwan or Tharu Chitwan. The Chitwan Tharu live in the central part of Nepal, just southwest of Kathmandau.

6195

Tharu Dang (357,105 PG - 265,000 JP)

The Dang Tharu are primarily animist and speak Tharu, Dangaura. The Bible is available in Tharu, Dangaura (peoplegroups.org claims that there is a Bible available, however joshuaproject.org says that it is not available). However, the Jesus film and audio recordings are available. The Dang Tharu are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Dang, Tharu Dang, and Dangha. The Dang Tharu live in the central part of Nepal, just southwest of Kathmandau.

The article, *Tharus of Dang: The People and the Social Context*, by Drone P. Rajaure is available at

http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_08_0304_02.pdf. Also the article, *Tharus of Dang: Rites de Passage and Festivals*, by Drone P. Rajaure is available at http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/texts/reprints/kailash/kailash_09_0203_04.pdf. If these links do not work, they can be found on the main menu at <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/kailash/nonjavascript.php>.

6200

Tharu Deokri (125,300)

The Deokri Tharu are primarily animistic and speak Tharu, Dangaura. The Bible is not available in Tharu, Dangaura. However, the Jesus film and audio recordings are available in Tharu, Dangaura. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Deokri and Tharu, Deokri.

6303

Tharu Kathoriya (95, 722 PG)

The Kathoriya Tharu are primarily animistic and speak Tharu, Kathoriya. In addition to Tharu, Kathoriya they speak Awadhi: Tharu and Bhojpuri: Tharu. The Bible is available in Tharu, Kathoriya. However, no other ministry tools are available in Tharu, Kathoriya. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Kathoriya, Mahatu, and Tharu Rana. There are also Kathoriya Tharu living in India and Bangladesh.

6254

Tharu Mahotari (50,120 PG)

The Mahotari Tharu live in the Mahotari district in the Terai zone of Nepal. The Mahotari Tharu are primarily animist and speak Tharu, Mahotari (a dialect of Tharu, Kochila). The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but Joshuaproject.org says it is not available), the Jesus film, and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=THQ) are available in Tharu. They

are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Mahotari and Tharu.

6283

Tharu Rana Thakur (303,853 PG)

The Rana Thakur Tharu live in the southwestern corner of Nepal. They are primarily animist and speak Tharu, Rana. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaprojet.org says it is not available), the Jesus film, and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=THR) are available in Tharu, Rana. They are considered unreached/least reached. There are also Rana Thakur Tharu living in Pakistan.

In the past the Rana Tharu were secluded because of the mosquito infested swamps and tiger filled forests. However, foreigners brought DDT to get rid of the mosquitoes in the 1950's and the forests are being cut down which causes the tigers to be increasingly scarce. As a result, the Rana Tharu receive more pressure from outsiders to change.

The Rana Tharu women were the subject of the featured article in the September 2000 issue of *National Geographic*.

6290

Tharu Saptari (93,975)

The Saptari Tharu live in the Saptari district. They are primarily animists and speak Tharu, Kochila. The Bible (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says the Bible is not available), the Jesus film, and audio recordings (http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=THQ) are available in Tharu, Kochila. In addition to Tharu, Kochila, many speak Maithili and Nepali. The Saptari Tharu are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Saptari and Tharu, Saptari.

6304

Thudam Bhotia (1,800 PG)

See Bhotia, Thudam

6305

Thulunge Rai (26,324 PG)

See Rai

6306

Tibetan (115,840 PG)

The Tibetans are primarily Buddhist and speak Tibetan. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcast, and audio recordings are available in Tibetan, Central. They are considered unreached/least reached.

There are more Tibetans living in India and China because they fled there when China took control of Tibet.

Many Tibetans live in the Mustang district of Northwest Nepal. Before it was part of Nepal, it was a small independent Tibetan kingdom.

<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/BuddhistTempleArt/culture.html> There is a very good interactive map of Mustang with photos at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tibet/tour.html>.

“Tibetan Buddhism dominates the culture of the Tibetans who live in Nepal. They worship their king, the *Dalai Lama*, considering him a god. He serves as both their spiritual and political leader. Tibetans are very dedicated to their religious beliefs. Prayer flags, *stupas* (dome-shaped monuments used to house Buddhist relics), prayer beads, and prayer wheels are a common sight all over their region.” http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code1/358.html

There is more information about Tibetan culture available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibetan_people.

6307

Ticherong (2,417 PG)

The Ticherong are primarily Buddhist and speak Tichurong. The Bible is available (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available), but no other ministry tools are available in Tichurong. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6308

Tilung (1,197 PG)

See Rai

6309

Tseku (4,786 PG)

The Tseku are primarily Buddhist (peoplegroups.org says they are Buddhist but joshuaproject.org says they are animists – in actuality they probably practice a mixture of these two) and speak Tseku. The Bible is available (according to peoplegroups.org the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) but no other ministry tools are available in Tseku. They are considered unreached/least reached.

6310

Tsum (4,786 PG)

The Tsum are primarily Buddhist and speak Tsum. They live in the Northern Gorkha District of the Gandaki Zone. The Bible is available (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) but no other ministry tools are available in Tsum. They are considered unreached/least

reached. They are also known by the names Chumba, Shar, Siar, Siyar, Tsumba, and Tsumge. "They are called Siyars because they live on the banks of the Siyar River." <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/29/40/>

Their primary occupations are farming and trade with Tibetans. Most are illiterate but a few of the Tsum men are literate in the Tibetan language and script. Many of their customs are similar to the Tibetans. "The centre of activity for them is the monastery." <http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/29/40/>

6311

Urdu (2,393 PG)

The Urdu are primarily Muslim and speak Urdu. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=URD) are available in Urdu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Hindi, Islami, Muhajirs, and Undri. There are Urdu living in 24 other countries, most of which live in Pakistan and northern India.

"The Urdu speakers are the descendants of immigrants who were the "cream of society" in their own countries. Some are the descendants of Arab merchants and soldiers. Others descended from Turks, Persians, and Pushtuns. Presently, there is such diversity among the Urdu speakers that it is difficult to generalize their lifestyles. Within any given region, their differences are related to class distinctions." <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

6312

Vayu (2,826 PG)

The Vayu are primarily animists and speak Wayu. They live along the Maryang River in the Sindhuli and Ramechhap districts. "The village of Ratanchura in Sindhuli is considered their ancestral home."

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/content/view/39/42/> Vayu have also been found in the Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Siraha and Kabhre districts.

<http://www.magarstudiescenter.org/hayu.htm>

The Bible (peoplegroups.org says it is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available) and audio recordings

(http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=VAY) are available in Wayu. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the name Vayu, Hayu. "They are called 'Hayu' in Nepali and 'Wayu' in their own language (transcribed 'Vayu' by Brian Hodgson in the 19th Century)."

<http://lacito.vjf.cnrs.fr/archivage/hayu.htm>

According to the 2001 census of Nepal, 1,743 people speak Hayu as a mother tongue and there are 1,821 ethnic Hayu. For more information on the language, visit the [*South Asia Bibliography*](#). Mark Turin2004-06-01

<http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/xml/showEssay.php?xml=/collections/cultgeo/cultures/index.xml&l=d1e1182>

The Hayu used to sacrifice bulls as part of their culture. However, they are not able to sacrifice bulls any longer because of poverty. (from the article *Bankarias, Chepangs sans Citizenship* from Wednesday June 15, 2005 at <http://www.southasianmedia.net/cnn.cfm?id=213771&category=Minorities&Country=NEPAL>)

Recordings of Hayu with phonetic transcriptions and translations are available at <http://lacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr/servlet/myxsl?XML=http%3A%2F%2Flacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr%2Farchives%2FAll%2Fmetadata.xml&XSL=http%3A%2F%2Flacito.archivage.vjf.cnrs.fr%2Farchives%2Fstyles%2FlistRsc.xml&keyword=&lg=Hayu&valid=validate>. If there are problems with the link, choose to consult the hayu texts at <http://lacito.vjf.cnrs.fr/archivage/hayu.htm>.

6272

Walangchung Gola (15,627 PG)

The Walangchung Gola are primarily Buddhist and speak Walungge.

6314

Western Gurung (127,327 PG)

See Gurung and Gurung, Western.

6315

Western Magar (239,305 PG)

See Magar and Magar, Western

00000

Yadava (664,000)

The Yadava are primarily Hindu and speak Hindi. They also speak Awadhi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, and Maithili. They are located in the southern strip of the low country. The Bible, the Jesus film, God's Story video, Christian radio broadcasting and audio recordings are available in their language. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Abhir, Adavigolla, Ahir, Ahir, Ahirani, Asthanagolla, Ayar, Ayar-Boricha, Dhangar, Erumakar, Gaolan, Gaoli, Gauvali, Gawal, Gawli, Ghasi, Ghosh, Goala, and Gol. There are more Yadava people living in Bangladesh and India.

Yakha (10,900 PG)

The Yakha can be found throughout the Koshi Zone in the mountains of eastern Nepal. They are primarily Buddhist and speak Yakha. The Bible is available in Yakha (peoplegroups.org says the Bible is available but joshuaproject.org says it is not available). They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Dewan, Dewansala, Lhorong, Phaga, Phhaga, Roi, Yakkha, Yakkhaba Cea, and Yakthomba. There are also Yakha living in India.

The Yakha are of Mongolian descent. "The Yakha subsist primarily as mountain farmers, but the men do have a tradition of migrating to the cities for work. Many

Yakha intermarry with members of the Limbu and Rai tribes because their cultures are all very similar.”

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>

6319

Yamphu Rai (4,786 PG)

See Rai

00000

Yamphe (3,100)

The Yamphe people can be found in the Koshi zone of eastern Nepal. They are from the Tibetan/Himalayan affinity block. They are primarily Hindu and speak Yamphe. There are no ministry tools available to them in their language. They are considered unreached/least reached. These people are also known by the names Yamphe Rai, Yamphu, Newahang Yamphe, and Yamphe Kha.

6317

Yakha (10,900)

The Yakha people can be found in the Koshi zone of eastern Nepal, more specifically the majority of them live just south of the city of Chainpur. They are also known by the names Dewan, Dewansala, Lhorong, Phaga, Phhaga, Roi, Yakkha, Yakkhaba Cea, and Yakthomba. There are also Yakha living in Sikkim, India.

Many of the Yakha intermarry with members from the Limbu and Rai tribes because the similarity of their cultures. In most cases the boy chooses the girls that he wants to marry, and if the family agrees they are married regardless of how the girl feels.

Historically the Yakha were animists, but today many are Buddhist. These people speak Yakha, however many are now bilingual in Nepali. There are no ministry tools available to them in their language. They are considered unreached/least reached. They are also known by the names Dewan, Dewansala, Lhorong, Phaga, Phhaga, Roi, Yakkha, Yakkhaba Cea, and Yakthomba. There are also Yakha living in Sikkim, India.

http://www.ksafe.com/profiles/p_code5/1340.html

The following sources were used to obtain much of the people group information:

www.joshuaproject.org

www.peplegroups.org

People of Nepal by Dor Bahadur Bista (Sree Saraswaty Press Ltd, Calcutta, 1967)

Tribal Ethnography of Nepal Vol 1 by Dr Rajesh Gautam and Asoke K. Thapa-Magr (Book Faith India, Delhi, 1994)

Tribal Ethnography of Nepal Vol 1 by Dr Rajesh Gautam and Asoke K. Thapa-Magr (Book Faith India, Delhi, 1994)

Other specific sources used for specific people groups are listed under the specific people group.

MISSIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Evangelical Christians should pray for the progress of the Gospel in Nepal and for increased religious freedom for the people. These prayers would include thanksgiving for the remarkable growth of Christian groups since 1959. Presently, Protestant groups report has high as + 26.2 % growth rate, Independent groups + 19.6%; Roman Catholic + 19.1%; marginal groups +15.6%. These data show the strong possibility of spiritual openness and responsiveness.
2. Evangelical Christians should seek to cooperate with local believers in Nepal to provide increasing Christian literature (printed and digital) in the various languages of Nepal. Continued use of the Jesus Film should be encouraged.
3. Evangelical Christians should cooperate with local Nepalis believers to provide leadership training for the churches
4. Evangelical Christians should intensify efforts to provide Bible Storying methods in Nepal in all the many language segments. The Nepali's have a low literacy level. So, oral forms of ministry, such as Chronological Bible Storying (<http://www.chronologicalbiblestorying.com/>), and using tapes, CDs, or videos are important.
5. Evangelical Christians should cooperate with Nepali Christians to continue the good start at Bible translation. Bible translation is in progress in 12 languages but at least 83 languages remain without any Scriptures at all and 16 others have a definite need for translation.
<http://www.gmi.org/ow/country/nepa/owtext.html>
6. Evangelical Christians should cooperate with local believers to provide increasing levels of correspondence courses that have proved an effective evangelism methodology. In 1995 over 50,000 persons were enrolled in such studies and churches had been planted as one result of the courses (See Operation World)
7. Evangelical Christians should continue to pray for and cooperate with local believers to reach the many unreached and marginally reached ethnic groups. Many mountain peoples are basically unreached. The higher caste peoples remain far from the gospel. University students are a spiritually needy group and to some degree responsive group.
8. Evangelical Christians should seize the opportunity to evangelize Nepalis who live outside the country. Large groups of Nepalis live in India (Sikkim), in Bhutan, in West Bengal, and other areas. Some converted Nepalis have returned to the country and led in exciting Christian movements.

9. Evangelical Christians should seek ways to meet, in the Name of Jesus, the many social problems that exist. Poverty and lower possibilities remains realities for many in Nepal. Caste and discrimination continue to cause suffering. Child labor is a growing problem. Limited educational possibilities contribute to the problems. Christian groups can work with Nepali groups to seek to alleviate these social problems.

LINKS AND OTHER SOURCES

"Nepali Around the World: Emphasizing Nepali Christians of the Himalayas (Ekta Books, 1997) is a very hard to find book. But for those truly interested in the subject, Cindy L. Perry's book is apparently the only major work on the subject. A review is available at the Web site of Studies in Nepali History and Society (SINHAS) at <http://www.asianstudies.emory.edu/sinhas/kprb0312b.html>." <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/004/2.56.html>

Blood against the Snows: The Tragic Story of Nepal's Royal Dynasty (Harper Collins Publishers, 2003) by Jonathan Gregson. "This work provides a portrait of Nepal's doom-laden royal dynasty from its staggering expansion in the 18th century to the massacre in June 2001 - a sequence of events worthy of a Greek tragedy." <http://www.abbeys.com.au/items/23/86/37/>

<https://www.vedamsbooks.com/nepal.htm> A Bibliography of books about Nepal.

<http://www.nefin.org.np/mainsite/> The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities. This site has information on people groups. It is found by clicking on one of the categories under the Nationalities title on the lower right side of the screen.

<http://1040window.org/nepalprayerguide/day1.htm> A Nepal Prayer Guide that highlights 31 different people groups.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35518.htm> The U.S. Dept of State's report on Religious Freedom in Nepal

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/004/2.56.html> is an article summarizing the growth of the church in Nepal and the struggles that Nepali Christians face.

<http://www.biblesociety.org/bs-nel.htm> The Nepal Bible Society website includes some statistics and information about the Nepal Bible Society.

<http://www.sim.org/country.asp?CID=68&fun=1> SIM-Serving in Mission Nepal Profile

<http://www.acts.edu/oldmissions/nepalhist.html#National%20Religions> This website includes Christian History, National Religions, Composition of Peoples, and a Bibliography.

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/nepal/ The Lonely Planet travel guide's information about Nepal

<http://www.nepaldemocracy.org/index.htm> This site provides information on Nepali politics, government and civil society. It also aims to serve as a resource and transit site for the subject areas such as civic education, human rights, caste and ethnicity, gender and women, conflict resolution and media.

<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/demographics-of-Nepal> This is a great site for general information on many people groups in Nepal. Also, it provides links to other sites to gather more information.

<http://www.southasianmedia.net/profile/nepal/index.cfm> A great site with lots of information and links for Nepal and all South Asian countries.

<http://countrystudies.us/nepal/> This site covers the history, geography, society, economy, and government of Nepal in depth. Further, it provides a bibliography.

<http://www.nepalhiking.com/nepal.html> A tourism site with some good information

<http://www.visitnepal.com/> This site has everything a tourist could need to know and more. It has a very good section on different people groups and where they live. Among other things, this site includes festival dates, history, culture, art, and religion.

http://www.mypage.bluewin.ch/raonline/rao_promonp.html Another tourist site full of good information.

<http://www.radionepal.org/> This is the website of Radio Nepal. It is possible to listen online.

<http://www.dxasia.info/html/nepal.html> lists radio broadcasts available in Nepal.

<http://www.southasiabibliography.de/index.html> A Bibliography for information on seldom studied and endangered South Asian languages.

Resources for Urdu language

<http://www.fcbh.org/products/viewProduct2.cfm?ethCode=urd>

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=URD

<http://www.audiotreasure.com/mp3/Urdu/>

Resources for Bagheli language

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=BFY

Resources for Maithili, spoken by the Aghori, Amat

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=MKP

Resources for Hindi

<http://www.fcbh.org/products/viewProduct2.cfm?ethCode=hnd>

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=HND

Resources for Awhadi

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=AWD

Resources for Kumarbhag Pahari

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KMJ

Resources for Bhojpuri

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=BHJ

Resources for Kham, Gamale

http://globalrecordings.net/show_langcode.php?lang=KGJ