



Quick Facts

Population: 8,800,000

China: 6,000,000

Mongolia: 2,500,000

Russia: 200,000

Taiwan: 7,000

Religion: Tibetan Buddhism

Believers: 0.45%

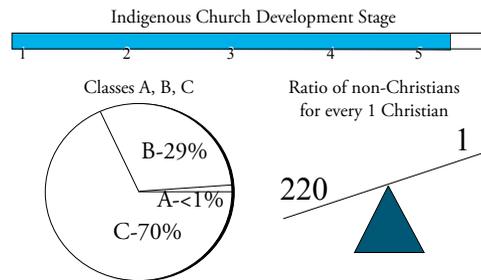
Scriptures: Portions

Ministry Tools: JRGT

C Status: 5

M Status: 4

MS Subgroups: 40+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: The Mongols descend from over sixty Altaic tribes which united together in the 13th century under the great conqueror Genghis Khan. They are closely related to the Tungus tribes (Oirat, Kalmyk) and more distantly to the Turkic peoples of Central Asia (Uiguir, Kirghiz). Around 25% (the Khalka Mongol) claim to be the direct descendants of Genghis Khan.

Lifestyle: The Mongols were once nomadic pastoralists who traveled over the grassland steppes of Central Asia with flocks of sheep, goats, cattle and horses. In the last century most were forced to abandon this traditional lifestyle due to socialist influences. Many tribes had their herds confiscated by the government and became farmers. Transition to a free market economy has been traumatic; a third of the population live in extreme poverty.

Customs: The annual festival of Naadam is believed to be centuries old and

features the three most popular Mongol sports: wrestling, cross-country horse racing, and archery. Originally the festival had religious significance but it now commemorates Mongolia's independence from China in July of 1921.

Religion: The Mongols began converting to Tibetan Buddhism in the 16th century, though practically speaking, the process of conversion continues and is incomplete. Under the orders of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, almost all of Mongolia's 700 Buddhist monasteries were destroyed and many thousands of monks perished. Today, there is an aggressive effort to rebuild Buddhism in Mongolia with government support. The traditional religion of Shamanism, which centers on family-led worship, predominates in rural areas and is considered an official religion in Mongolia.

Christian Outreach: The growth of the Mongol church in Mongolia was rapid in the early days following the opening

of the country to missionary work in the 1990s. The indigenous church has become well established with strong leadership and a missionary sending vision. In China's Inner Mongolia province there are unconfirmed reports of a large response to the gospel, which if true, would mean there are tens of thousands of additional Mongol believers.

How to Pray:

✞ The rural areas of Mongolia are still largely unchurched, encompassing at least 1 million people without access to the gospel, and dozens of unreached tribes. Pray for a strong church planting movement to sweep throughout each of them and for mass movements to Christ.

✞ The Mongol church has begun adopting many surrounding unreached peoples for prayer and outreach. Pray for God's blessing on this exciting development, and for much fruit to result.

✞ There is a potential divisive controversy brewing in the Mongol church over which name to use for God (a controversy which has produced two competing Bible translations). Pray for unity, and for the Lord's will to prevail in every heart.

Every year 80,000 Mongols die without Christ.