

THE BUMTHANGPA OF BHUTAN

Shouts of excitement filled the large field outside the Jambay Lhakang temple as the Mewang Fire Ceremony began. Dorje took a deep breath and joined a large file of people running through a huge gate made of grass that was set ablaze. Feeling the intense heat, the **Bumthangpa** man dodged the falling embers, praying that his clothes would not be singed. He thankfully emerged at the other side, with the hope that the ceremony had cleansed him from his sins. Dorje was well aware that all wrongdoings could result in bad retributions in his present life and eventually an unfavourable reincarnation.

The **Bumthangpa** (population: 22,000) live in east central Bhutan's Bumthang Province. This province with its magnificent landscape of lush plains, valleys and mountain peaks is also considered to be Bhutan's most sacred region with its many important religious sites. These tall and athletic people are known to be independent, cheerful and resistant to change. Identified uniquely by their Bumthangkha language and heritage, they are cautious of outsiders.

Predominantly Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhists, the **Bumthangpa** are essentially unreached by the Gospel of Christ. There are a few scattered Christians (0.4%) who remain faithful despite persecution and isolation. Only portions of the Bible have been translated in their language.

- Pray against the strong spiritual strongholds over the Bumthang region.
- Pray for doors to be opened for the Good News to be proclaimed to the **Bumthangpa** people, that they may be truly set free, cleansed and forgiven from all their sins.
- May the few believers in the area be built up and equipped as apostles, anointed for every good work.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info: <https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>, <http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>