

## THE NGALONG OF BHUTAN

Dawa stood shyly in her beautiful, shimmering bridal attire. Her bridegroom Kinzang's eyes shone as he stole a glance at her. As the Buddhist lamas chanted prayers evoking the blessings of the deities, the young couple felt extremely fortunate to be married to each other on an auspicious date specially chosen by the village temple's high lama.

Kinzang and Dawa are of the ethnic **Ngalong** people (population: 211,000) of Bhutan. Also called the Ngalop, their people are politically dominant, being Bhutan's largest ethnic group. Bhutan's royalty comes from this ethnic group as well. The mountainous area of western Bhutan where the **Ngalong** live is dotted with big stone fortresses called 'dzong'. Their mother tongue 'Dzongkha' is Bhutan's national language. 'Dzongkha' means "The Language Spoken in the Fortress."

Kinzang and Dawa call their homeland Bhutan by the name 'Druk-Yul', which means "The Land of the Thunder Dragon." Their people refer to themselves as 'Drukpa' which means "The People of the Thunder Dragon". They value their traditions, resist outside influences, and cling to Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhist beliefs, astrology and black magic.

Very few have turned to Christ. The consequences of turning from Buddhism are dire. They face rejection by both families and friends and are denied many educational and job opportunities by the government. Unless a spiritual breakthrough happens, Kinzang and Dawa will also join the countless generations of **Ngalong** who have gone on to an eternal world without Christ.

- Pray against the demonic forces keeping the **Ngalong** in spiritual darkness.
- Pray for tentmakers to reach the **Ngalong** in Bhutan as well as the **Ngalong** students studying overseas. May Christian radio broadcasts soften hearts.
- Pray for Christ to be supernaturally revealed to the Royal Family of Bhutan.
- Pray for the handful of **Ngalong** believers, that they may grow and persevere in their faith in spite of persecution.

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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/>