

## THE NUPBI OF BHUTAN

The sound of hungry, shrieking vultures resonated across the mountainside. Namgay and his brothers glanced up at the gathering flocks of vultures, knowing that just over the hill, the monks had already hacked his grandmother's stiff corpse into pieces. Tradition dictates that they were not required to be present to witness the entire macabre sky-burial death ceremony but may remain in a nearby location. His grandmother's remains would be left for the birds of prey to devour in accordance with the ancient sky burial ritual. Namgay silently reflected on his grandmother who had lived a simple life, followed the traditional ways, and died quietly. Yet, her remains, violently scattered amongst those of her ancestors, cry out for the Good News which she never got to hear in her lifetime.

Around 2,900 people belonging to the ethnic **Nupbi** group live in central Bhutan. Most of them abide in and around the town of Trongsa. The **Nupbi** people's native Nupbikha language is closely related to the mother tongue of the Bumthangpa, an ethnic group that lives further east. The **Nupbi** do not feel themselves to be ethnically related to the Bumthangpa.

Though the **Nupbi** population are officially Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhists, not all are strong adherents of this religion. There has never been a Christian community among the **Nupbi** people, nor are there print or audio materials in their language. Many of these people are very familiar with death and the grisly aftermath of a hopeless funeral.

- Pray that many from the **Nupbi** people will put their faith in the One who has conquered death, so that they will never have to experience the horrors that surround those who perish without Christ.
- Pray for workers to be raised and sent, and for doors to be opened for them to share the Gospel of Christ with the **Nupbi**.
- Pray that the **Nupbi** will forsake evil practices when they hear of Jesus Christ who can offer an abundant and eternal life to all who follow Him.

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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/>