

## THE SHARCHOP OF BHUTAN

Samdrup sat at the hospital canteen, relieved that his wife had safely delivered their firstborn son. As he sipped his cup of tea, the **Sharchop** man began carefully planning the next tasks to be done. His firstborn must be named within 3 days before the evil spirits name the child. For that, Samdrup and his wife would give the infant a family pet name. The local lama in the temple would be consulted to pick an auspicious official name for the infant. Samdrup also noted that he would also have to visit the astrologer to get the details of his child's previous life and predictions of the child's present life to get a 'birth chart name'. This name would only be used upon the death of the individual.

The **Sharchop** live in eastern Bhutan, numbering some 63,000 persons. As Bhutan is more open to nearby India than it is to the West, a road now links India and Bhutan. Some **Sharchop** are learning Hindi in order to do business in India.

Traditionally a slash-and-burn dry-rice farming people, the **Sharchop** are increasingly settling into villages, each of which has its own guardian deity of the earth and household spirits to appease. Temples, monasteries and prayer flags are visibly present. Pigs, goats, and cattle serve as food and sacrifices to deities. The **Sharchop** see Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhism as the only way to break the cycle of reincarnation. Only a handful are Christians.

- Pray that the **Sharchop** will receive spiritual cleansing through the blood of Jesus instead of continually offering the blood of sacrificial animals.
- Pray that spiritual powers of darkness may be bound and that Christ may be revealed in visions and dreams.
- Pray that the few known **Sharchop** secret believers will be bold and stand firm in their faith.
- Pray that the **Sharchop** traders, travellers and labourers who travel to neighbouring India will be reached by Christians in India.

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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/>