

The Cambodian Chinese of Cambodia

“I have scanned the old family photo, Mother,” said Long to his mother Eng Ly. “Linn and I will bring the softcopy to the photo shop to make a few more copies.” “Good,” said Eng Ly, fingering the old photo tenderly. “That way you and Lin can have copies to keep.” “Is it really the only surviving photo from your side of the family?” asked Linn. Eng Ly nodded sadly, saying, “We left behind most of our belongings during the 1975 forced evacuation of Phnom Penh by the communist Khmer Rouge. Apart from me, virtually every person in that photo..your great-grandparents, grandparents, uncles, aunts perished during the terrible Khmer Rouge era. After the Khmer Rouge were overthrown, your father and I returned to my old house in Phnom Penh. The house was looted but this old photo was found inside a drawer..the only one left. Heaven is kind to allow me to have at least one final reminder of my family, now that they are all dead.”

The **Cambodian Chinese** (population: 223,300) can be found across Cambodia. They are the descendants of several waves of Chinese migrant arrivals, the bulk of which arrived during the 19th century. Influential in the business sector, they comprise several sub-groups such as the Teochiu, Cantonese, Hainanese, Hakka and Hokkien. Many have assimilated local Khmer customs and speak Khmer as their mother tongue. Targeted by the communist Khmer Rouge during their reign of terror, possibly 80.0% of the **Cambodian Chinese** perished. They have since regained their control over Cambodia’s business sector.

The **Cambodian Chinese** are largely Buddhists who also blend certain aspects of Taoism, Confucianism and ancestor worship in their religious practices. Christians form 0.8% of their population.

- Pray for the **Cambodian Chinese** that they may be set free from the strongholds of false beliefs, the occult and materialism.
- Pray for outreach to take place in both the urban and rural areas among the **Cambodian Chinese**.
- Pray that the few Christians may grow in their faith and in numbers.

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/>