

THE BLANG OF CHINA

“I don’t know how you can chew that stuff, Granny,” remarked San, handing the small tray of betel nut to Peng, her grandmother. Peng cackled as she popped the betel nut into her mouth and started chewing. “Silly girl! You youngsters are missing out on the finer things in life. It’s refreshing, I can tell you and keeps me alert. Furthermore, black-stained teeth were a mark of beauty in my younger days!” “Oooh!” shuddered San in horror as Peng opened her mouth showing her teeth blackened by decades of chewing betel nut. “How could boys like girls with black teeth?” “Well, I can’t understand you young girls nowadays,” shrugged Peng. “What with you trying to whiten your skin with creams, dying your lovely black hair into an awful copper colour and trying to be thin like famine victims!” Both started laughing, seeing the funny paradox of things.

Also called the Bulang, the **Blang** (population: 103,000) are a distinct people living in southern China’s Yunnan Province. Their language and customs differentiate them from other ethnic groups around them.

For centuries, the **Blang** have been staunch followers of Theravada Buddhism. Temples and shrines are located in their villages.

Before the 1949 communist takeover of China, outreach efforts among the **Blang** had resulted in meagre response, causing these efforts to be largely discontinued. Protestant work among the **Blang** prior to 1949 resulted in 30 families being converted. Most of them gave up their faith during the oppressive Cultural Revolution, leaving a tiny remnant who maintained their faith. Today, few among the **Blang** have ever heard of Christ, and most of them adhere to their ancestral beliefs. Only a very few among them (0.06%) are Christians.

- Pray that God will sustain and revive the tiny remnant of **Blang** believers.
- Pray for renewed outreach efforts by the Protestant Christians in China to take the Gospel to the **Blang**.
- Pray for doors to be opened and the right people to be raised and sent forth to the **Blang** villages in Yunnan Province.
- Pray that the age-old strongholds of Buddhism, the occult and demonic superstitions over the **Blang** may be torn down.

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/>