

THE DBUS TIBETAN OF CHINA

The sounds of chanting and the turning of small prayer wheels by the crowds of pilgrims filled the interior of the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa. Praying fervently, Yonten prostrated himself repeatedly before the large altar of the gilded image of Jowo Rinpoche illuminated by dozens of flickering oil lamps. He had taken a gruelling two day journey from his village to the holiest of all Tibetan Buddhist temples, desperately seeking divine intervention for his teenage son Tashi who was stricken with a mysterious disease. Troubling thoughts continued to mock Yonten. What if Tashi was already fated to die from his sickness? He, Yonten would be faced with the irreplaceable loss of his son. All his time, money and effort would be all in vain. That very thought was too awful for Yonten. He intensified his prayers and prostrations, hoping to move the heart of Jowo Rinpoche.

The **Dbus Tibetans** (population: 921,000) are the largest of the various Tibetan peoples of Tibet, living mainly in the capital Lhasa and its surrounding counties. Throughout their history, they have had brief periods of independence and domination by stronger neighbours. The brutal occupation of their homeland by the Chinese communists in the 1950s unleashed decades of political and religious suppression. Their exiled spiritual leader, the 14th Dalai Lama is deeply revered.

The **Dbus Tibetans** are staunch Vajrayana Tibetan Buddhists who mix Buddhism with their ancient *Bon* religion which centre round the worship of folk deities and demons. Very few (0.01%) have turned to Christ. Most of the Christians living in Tibet are ethnic Han Chinese. Strong prejudices against the Han Chinese have caused the **Dbus Tibetans** to reject the Gospel.

- Pray for power encounters that will prepare the **Dbus Tibetans** to forsake their allegiance to their deities and turn their hearts to the God who created them.
- Pray for a solution towards the injustices suffered by the **Dbus Tibetans** at the hands of the communist authorities.
- Pray for an expansion in outreach among the **Dbus Tibetans**.
- Pray for the spiritual growth of the few **Dbus Tibetan** Christians and for their protection as well.

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/>