

THE KHAMPA OF CHINA

“Where’s your mother?” asked Tenzin to his 6-yr old son, Nawang. “She’s over at Uncle Jampa’s room,” answered Nawang. Tenzin strode over to his brother Jampa’s side of the house where he saw his wife Drema carefully sponging the face of little Phalden. “I’ll have to stay with Phalden tonight,” said Drema, looking worried. “She is still sick and having a fever. Jampa says he will help me watch over her tonight.” “Stay over, then,” said Tenzin at once. “I’ll take care of Nawang tonight. Should we take Phalden to the clinic?” “I’ll take her tomorrow,” said Jampa, entering the room. “There’s a storm coming up the horizon and it will be risky to travel on the mountain roads on the motorcycle.” Drema nodded. She quickly got up, remembering that it was time to prepare for dinner. Being married to two brothers and having two households to manage was challenging. Yet, the **Khampa** woman was thankful that both the two brothers were trustworthy men and treated her well.

The **Khampa** (population: 1.96 million) are a large ethnic group living in a vast ‘Kham’ region that stretches from the northern Tibet, parts of Sichuan into southern Qinghai. Their forefathers terrorised the highlands by pillaging and robbing travellers and settlements. Till today, the **Khampa** have an unfortunate reputation of being a fierce, warlike people. Polyandry, the practice of two brothers sharing one common wife still exists though gradually decreasing.

The **Khampa** practise a combination of Vajrayana Tibetan Buddhism and the *Bon* spirit worship. Their remote location and suspicion of outsiders, along with communist rule have limited outreach efforts. Only a small handful of believers (0.05%) exist among them.

- Pray against the spiritual strongholds of Buddhism and the *Bon* religion over the **Khampa**.
- Pray for the softening of hearts hardened by pride, violence and unbelief.
- Pray that God’s servants will discern and act upon open doors to proclaim the Gospel to the **Khampa**.
- Pray for the safety and spiritual growth of the few **Khampa** believers.

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/>