

THE TEBBU OF CHINA

“How has Lubunu responded to your note?”, Rujia asked his best friend, Choden as they both strolled home from school. “She hasn’t said anything yet,” answered Choden, gloomily. “I get all tongue tied whenever I see her in class! I’m beginning to wonder if she’s too good for me. After all, her father is a cadre in the Communist Party. My parents are just farmers.”

As Rujia comfortingly patted his rather crestfallen friend on the shoulder, he couldn’t help but think of the irony of the whole matter. They had always been taught to appreciate how the Communist Party had liberated the peasant class and had abolished class distinctions within their **Tebbu** community. Yet the reality of it was that class distinctions remained between peasants, traders and the communist cadres. It still came back to a matter of one’s wealth and power. But then again, didn’t Buddhism teach that one’s current position in life was determined by the actions of his past life? Rujia sighed. The **Tebbu** youth found both Buddhism and communism to be equally contradictory in addressing the questions of life.

The **Tebbu** (population: 25,000) live in the Minshan Mountains in southern Gansu Province in north central China. These mountains have long formed a natural barrier for the **Tebbu** people from the outside world. They are a distinct ethnic people despite the Chinese Government lumping them together with the official Tibetan ethnic minority. The **Tebbu** have a reputation for their rather violent disposition.

Almost all **Tebbu** profess to be Vjrayana Tibetan Buddhists despite much animism undergirding their religious practices. A few **Tebbu** were won for Christ during the 1940s by a Western missionary couple. The communist takeover of China cut off all ties between the missionaries and the **Tebbu** believers. No trace of these believers can be found today and there are no known believers among the **Tebbu**.

- Pray for new open doors for God’s servants to minister amongst the **Tebbu**.
- Pray that the barriers of communism and Buddhism will be overcome and the animistic practices be broken in the name of Jesus.

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/>