

THE TU OF CHINA

Jingma carefully put on her traditional hat and strode out to the village square. The **Tu** girl was a picture of youth and feminine beauty. Her traditional costume was a riot of bright colours and elaborate embroidery. She wore her hair in a single ponytail, indicating to the young **Tu** men that she was unmarried and available. This was festival time; a time of singing, dancing and courtship for the young singles.

Yet underneath all the festivity lay the deep-seated fear of the deities who demand to be appeased. Unseen beneath Jingma's colourful blouse was an amulet worn round her neck to ward off ghosts, the spirits of those dead who were too evil to be reincarnated as animals or humans. Within Jingma's heart was a worldview that taught her that upon her death the next time, she would have to stay in Hell, a place of hunger and cruelty for forty-seven days. There she would have pass over a vat of boiling oil and pass seven tests that would determine whether her spirit may be reincarnated as a human or an animal.

Around 243,000 **Tu** people live in the Qinghai and Gansu provinces in north central China. Their language, Mongour, is of Mongolian origin. However they now have a **Tu** script, based on the Roman alphabet.

The spirit of Vajrayana Tibetan Buddhism has kept the **Tu** bound for centuries, and it will take bold but discreet workers to penetrate **Tu** villages and influence them for Christ. As yet there are few workers and even fewer Christian tools to help them. Communist rule in China is also an obstacle. Only 0.01% of the **Tu** are Christians.

- Pray for God-ordained circumstances that will challenge **Tu** mindsets influenced by Buddhism and communism.
- Pray that the bondages of spiritual deception may be broken in Jesus' Name. May **Tu** hearts be prepared to receive the Good News.
- Pray for Christian materials to be developed and made available to dedicated workers who will discern God's guidance in reaching the **Tu**.

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/>