

THE CHANGPA OF INDIA

Kalsang sat down at the edge of the large lake with its shimmering waters, reflected by the sunlight. The young **Changpa** shepherd kept a close eye on his flock of sheep. The rest of the members of the nomadic band he was with were also taking a short breather before continuing their journey to the pastures. Kalsang's eyes scanned the beautiful yet desolate scenery of the Changthang region where his people had lived as nomads for generations. Beyond the snow peaked mountains in the horizon, after a journey of two weeks was the land of Tibet, its borders now closed to them by the Chinese communist authorities. Kalsang and his people seldom saw any signs of the Indian authorities in their remote region, save the periodic border patrols of the Indian military. For Kalsang, whatever laid outside the Changthang region was a mystery and he was content to keep it that way. The outside world with its unknown ways seemed threatening, even more than the world of spirits, ghosts and demons lurking in his own region of Changthang.

The **Changpa** (population: 12,000) live in the Changthang region, a massive desolate highland plain that stretches from Ladakh in north India's Jammu and Kashmir State across the Chinese border into Tibet, China. Their forefathers had roamed as nomads on this plain since time immemorial.

The **Changpa** practice Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhism, which is actually a mixture of Buddhism and the ancient *Bon* religion with its many deities. There is also the unseen world of spirits and demons that cause havoc if unappeased.

There are no known believers among the **Changpa**. This is due to their nomadic lifestyle, remote location and restrictions imposed by the Indian authorities that prevent the entry of outsiders into the Changthang region for outreach.

- Pray for Christ to be revealed supernaturally to the **Changpa** in dreams and visions.
- Pray against the strongholds of false religious beliefs and the occult over the **Changpa**.
- Pray for doors to be opened for God's servants to enter the region to improve the healthcare services with the opportunity to share the Gospel among the **Changpa**.

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/>