

THE MONPA OF INDIA

The solemn clashing of cymbals and beating of drums resounded in the crowded grounds of the Tawang Monastery as the ritual mask dance began. Lhamo gazed at the brightly coloured fearsome-looking masks that represent different demonic beings. The **Monpa** girl remembered stories she heard as a little girl of how these demons were subdued to become the defenders of Buddhism. Lhamo frowned slightly, wondering why the feared evil spirits and demons that wrecked havoc on people's lives were not subdued as well. There was much of her religion that she could not understand and yet did not dare question.

The **Monpa** (population: 56,000) live in the western part of the northeast Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, a remote region that borders China and Bhutan. Tawang is a major town for the **Monpa**, which is also home to the largest Buddhist monastery in India.

The **Monpa** are a Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhist people, adhering to the Gelugpa sect. Elements of spirit-worship are often intermeshed with their Buddhist practices. Few (1.8%) profess Christianity. Many of the **Monpa** Christians are young believers who currently face persecution for their decision to follow Christ.

- Intercede against the spiritual strongholds over the **Monpa**.
- Pray for power encounters that will convince the staunchly Buddhist **Monpa** in this region that Jesus has absolute power over the spirit world.
- Ask God to fan the spark that has been lit among the **Monpa** that it might grow into an all-encompassing flame for Christ.

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/>