

## THE ALTAI URIANKHAI OF MONGOLIA

The crowd in the auditorium quietened down amidst their eager expectation to hear the **Altai Uriankhai** *khoomii* folk singers. Yeke stood in attention along with the other members of the troupe, fingering his *tsuur* flute and trying not to be nervous as he scanned the faces of the mixed audience of both local Mongolians and foreigners. As the lead performer began playing the first notes on his *tsuur*, Yeke and the others joined in, skilfully playing the folk song on their *tsuur* flutes. As they played, they began emitting low-pitched musical notes from their throats, a unique art of their people. The tune from their *tsuur* flutes and the tune from their throat singing blended, creating hauntingly beautiful melodies. Yeke slowly lost his nervousness and performed with all his heart, visualising the beautiful flora and fauna of his homeland.

The **Altai Uriankhai** people (population: 27,000) in western Mongolia migrated to their present remote Altai mountain region from central Mongolia several centuries ago. Many are still engaged in their traditional occupation of being herders. They are especially noted for their skills in music.

The **Altai Uriankhai** were traditionally shamanists, believing in an unseen world of gods, demons, and spirits. They eventually converted to Vajrayana Tibetan Buddhism, combining their Buddhist faith with traditional folk beliefs. There are still no reports of any believers in their midst.

- Pray for the **Altai Uriankhai**, that they may have visions of the Resurrected Christ who has defeated the spirit world.
- Pray for God's workers to be sent to improve living conditions, healthcare and literacy among this ethnic people.
- Pray for open doors and the release of the manpower and funds needed to reach this people group.

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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/>