

THE DARIGANGA OF MONGOLIA

Dzelen burst into his family's *ger* or tent dwelling, puffing away. His surprised grandmother Tsetsegmaa called out to the exhausted 12-year-old boy: "What is the matter, Dzelen? Were there crazed yaks chasing you out there?"

The **Dariganga** boy was not amused when he replied, "No, but there are a bunch of obnoxious girls who act like yaks. Bevrage kept poking me with a stick as I walked home. After I snatched the stick from her, she ran away, then came back with another stick and did it again! I got so cross and tired of her silly game that I raced all the way back to our settlement!"

Tsetsegmaa threw her head back and chuckled, saying, "She probably likes you! Did you know that in my grandparents' day, boys and girls would get married when they were a year older than you are? If you lived 100 years ago, you might have had to marry her!" Dzelen gave his grandmother a horrified look and left the *ger* in a huff, leaving the old lady laughing away.

Dzelen's people, the **Dariganga** have their own language, regional homeland and identity. There are about 28,000 of them in southeast Mongolia, near the Chinese border.

Like other Mongolian peoples, the **Dariganga** mix shamanism with Vajrayana Tibetan Buddhism. With the advent of communism in Mongolia in 1921, religion was suppressed and monasteries were closed until the communist government was replaced in 1990. The **Dariganga** people have their own Buddhist monastery called the Yeguzer Khatagtyn Monastery.

The Gospel has made little headway amongst the **Dariganga**. Only 0.1% are Christians.

- Pray for God's servants to be sent to the **Dariganga**.
- Pray for hearts hardened by spiritual deception and wrong ideas about Christianity to be softened and prepared to receive Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the few **Dariganga** Christians, that their faith in Christ may be strengthened and that they may be a light to their people.

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/>