

THE SHERPA OF NEPAL

“Eat more!” Nawang’s sister piled up his plate with a second helping of food. Nawang took the plate and tried to slowly finish the food. The **Sherpa** lad’s family was holding a ‘Gyawa’ ceremonial feast to commemorate the death of his eldest brother. This feast, normally held forty-nine days after the deceased person’s death, signifies the end of all death rites and the departure of the person’s soul from the vicinity of the family. Tradition has it that the food they eat will nourish the one who died. Nawang’s appetite was certainly not there as he was still affected by the sudden death of his brother.

The **Sherpa** (population: 112,000) live in eastern Nepal’s Solu Khumbu District. They regard themselves as distinct from the smaller Helambu Sherpa ethnic group who speak a totally different language and with whom they seldom intermarry. The **Sherpa** are better known than most Himalayan region people groups. Their stamina and mountain climbing expertise provide them with valuable employment as mountain guides for tourists and explorers in the Himalayas. The **Sherpa** grow potatoes as their dietary staple. Yaks supply wool clothing, leather shoes, milk, cheese, and dung for fuel and fertilizer. They brew their own homemade rice-based beer.

Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhism is the main religion of the **Sherpa**. A small minority are Hindus. Christians number around 2.1% of their population.

- Pray for more breakthroughs in the hearts and minds of the **Sherpa**. May they be set free from all forms of spiritual deceptions.
- Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send Christian workers to minister to the **Sherpa** people and qualified linguists to translate the entire Bible along with relevant Christian literature into the Sherpa language.
- Ask God to strengthen and encourage the few **Sherpa** believers.

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/>