



# Buryat



The Buryats are the largest unreached people group in Siberia. They are originally nomadic herdsman who are closely related to the Mongols. They have incorporated Mongolian, Tibetan, and Chinese elements into their culture, and they have also been influenced by the Russians after living together with them over 350 years.

Most of Buryats are no longer nomads, but have settled into villages and cities. Most Buryats live in the lowlands along the Russia-Mongolia border in an area called the Republic of Buryatia, which is a region within the Russian Federation. They highly value education, the arts, and sports like archery and wrestling.

Buryats practice Tibetan Buddhism and Shamanism. There is a preoccupation with the spirit world, and monks and lamas are called upon to alleviate evil spirits through divination and oracles, sorcery, mediums, and astrology. Ways to obtain merit involve spinning prayer wheels, reciting mantras, and daily walks around shrines. In a Tibetan Buddhist "scapegoat ritual," the sins and misfortunes of one individual or community are removed by throwing dough into a fire. This ritual most often happens during their yearly festival called Sagaalga.

The New Testament has been translated into the Buryat language, and the Old Testament is very close to completion. Buryats are a very kind and polite people, but are generally resistant to the Gospel.

**Population**

462,000

**Location in Russia**

Republic of Buryatia, Irkutsk, Chita, and Ust-Ordyn Oblasts

**Language**

Buryat

**Religion**

Tibetan Buddhism

**Bible translation**

New Testament

**Evangelical Christian**

1.00%

## Prayer Points

- *Pray for God to raise up Buryat believers to take the Gospel to the many villages where Buryats have never heard the name of Jesus.*
- *Pray for the completion of the translation of the Old Testament in the Buryat language.*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of Buryats toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.*
- *Pray that Buryats will see and understand the great power and eternal victory of the One True God over the evil spirits.*
- *Ask the Lord to raise up strong indigenous Buryat churches.*