

Lion of Judah on the Move in Tibet

Intercessors Plowing up the Ground in the Heart of the Darkness

by Carla Brewington

Often called the Land of Snows, the Last Shangri-la, the Roof-top of the World, the Forbidden Land, the Tibetan-Buddhist world is one of the last pioneering frontiers. Consisting of Tibet, parts of China, Mongolia, Nepal, Bhutan, Ladakh, India and parts of the Commonwealth of Independent States, these Tibetan-Buddhist homelands remain among the least evangelized on the planet. The spiritual leader of the Tibetan people is the Dalai Lama, who lives in Dharmasala, North India, where he maintains a government-in-exile.

Over sixty Tibetan-Buddhist people groups are known to exist. They range widely, from Khampa warriors, Amdo nomads and Lhasa Tibetans, all found within the crumpled borders of Tibet proper. Outside of Tibet are the Ladakhis and the Lahaulis of North India, the Tuvans of Mongolia, the Naxi of Yunnan Province in China, the Sherpas and Larkya of Nepal and the Sharshops, Lepchas and Drukpas of Bhutan. These are only a small sampling of the variety of Tibetans. Over two dozen Tibetan refugee camps exist throughout India. Tibetans are now scattered all over the world.

Imprisoned in the Grip

Mysterious lands of prayer wheels, prayer flags and chanting lamas, monks and nuns, the Tibetan-Buddhist world is also known as the heart of darkness. Although generous, hospitable and warm-hearted, the Tibetans are imprisoned by more than just the Chinese. From the beginning, the Bon religion has held them in a tight demonic grip. Known as the native—the “real” religion of Tibet—Bon is the darkest expression of occultic evil. From Tibet’s earliest history, this shamanistic tantricism has chained the hearts, minds and spirits of the Tibetan people. With an aura of deep foreboding and pervasive gloom, savage and cruel human sacrifice was practiced. When Buddhism

came into Tibet from India in the 7th century, Tibetans resisted at first, but later fully embraced Buddhism, as it seemed the only escape from the grim and sinister spirit world of Bon. Tibetan legend has it that when Buddhism was first preached in Tibet, even the demons were converted. This is another layer of deception woven throughout the satanic fabric. The truth is that Buddhism did not replace the pre-existing Bon, it simply wrapped itself around the old ways.

Tibetan-Buddhism is a thickly woven concoction of Mahayana Buddhism, shamanistic ritual practice and the age old occultic Bon. It encourages deep immersion into the spirit world. In the past human sacrifice was a part of everyday life. Today they actively invoke the presence of demons. “Chod” is an example of a devastating act that involves the giving over of one’s flesh to be eaten by demons. Appeasement of the spirit realm and “gaining merit” in hopes of a better reincarnation are constant concerns of the average Tibetan.

Specific power points are known throughout the Tibetan-Buddhist world. The Jokhang Temple in Lhasa is known as the heart of Tibetan-Buddhism. Mount Kailash in far western Tibet is seen as the most sacred of all Himalayan mountains. It is close to the source of four rivers: the Brahmaputra, the Indus, the Karnali, and the Sutlej. The religious significance is profound as Hindus also regard it as sacred and believe that Shiva—the god of destruction—lives on its peaks. Pilgrims come from thousands of miles to prostrate themselves before Mount Kailash and the Jokhang Temple in order to worship.

Over 40 years ago, Communist Chinese troops invaded Tibet, beginning a systematic extermination of the Tibetan people which continues to this day. Over a million Tibetans have been slaughtered. Forced abortion and sterilization have been forced on Tibetan women as a means

of birth control. Monasteries and nunneries were destroyed. Monks continue to be imprisoned and tortured. Nuns are stripped, beaten with electric cattle prods and raped. This goes on while the West looks the other way.

The Dalai Lama, worshipped as a god-king, says, “This is the worst period in our 2000 year history. The present situation is so serious, that it is really a question of life and death.” Although this is true, the deeper truth is that Tibetans can only know eternal life if they forsake their idols and come to Christ, the only God, the only King, the only Saviour.

Blood of the Martyrs

Nestorian, Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant missionaries have struggled for centuries to bring the Gospel into the heart of darkness. Although Moravian Christians in Ladakh translated the Scriptures years ago, little fruit has come forth. Many Christians have died attempting to bring the freedom of Jesus into the dark heart of Tibet. Just as the blood of the martyrs is the seed of revival, so it is that those who have gone before have blazed a trail and passed the torch on to us to light the way that leads to the Great Feast! Radicals for God are those who continue to seek the narrow way as they lift up the Cross and preach Jesus crucified. Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, made this remark one hundred years ago, “To make converts in Tibet is similar to going into a cave and trying to rob a lioness of her cubs.” Many of us believe that the Lion of Judah is on the move! We believe a new day has dawned. The light of Jesus is breaking through the darkness of the Tibetan world.

One of those called by God to lay his life down in Tibet was a remarkable Indian seeker of truth named Sadhu Sundar Singh. At the turn of the century, this young man from a Sikh family, cried out in desperation for the True God to reveal

Himself. If this unknown God would not do this, he had resolved to throw himself on the railroad tracks, because he could no longer endure the despair. In that dark night, Jesus sovereignly appeared to him and the light of the Christ pierced his soul. Thus began an amazing journey of following close after Jesus the Messiah.

God gave the young Christian Fadhu His heart for Tibet. At one point, when he was quiet ill, people were trying to persuade him not to return to Tibet, he said, "Though an angel from heaven were to come and tell me I must not return to Tibet, I would not listen." He was relentless in his passion to bring the power and presence of Christ to the imprisoned Tibetans. Often rejected and mostly misunderstood, Christians would often oppose his zeal. With heart ablaze, his response was, "It is better to burn quickly and melt many souls, than burn slowly and melt none."

Many years ago, Amy Carmichael of India said, "The hallmark of the true missionary is the refusal to be weakened or hardened or soured or made hopeless by disappointment." She followed the Lord for 60 years into Hindu temples rescuing baby girls being sacrificed to idols. Amy had the heart of Jesus.

The other women, Gladys Aylward, called independently and sovereignly by God, was a parlour-maid from England. No "proper" mission agency would accept her. But she knew the voice of God and He had called her to China. The Lord used her to rescue over a hundred Chinese girls and boys from the attack of the Japanese, leading them through the mountain passes to safety. She also had a brief encounter with some Tibetans. They had opportunity to listen to the words of Jesus for the first time because Gladys had listened to God and gone. Written in her Chinese Bible was this: "Do not be afraid and do not wobble. Is not your God with you?" With fire in her eyes, she also said this, "Christians never retreat!"

Intercessors Plowing up the Ground

For the last few years, the Lord has been sending relay teams of intercessors,

often unknown to each other, into Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, North India, Mongolia and China in order to pray prophetic prayers of release and liberty in the hidden dark places. Through prophetic acts and specific intercession, strategic warfare has been waged in the spirit realm. They have celebrated the Lord's supper on the rooftop of the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, walked around monasteries praying, and traveled from Lhasa to Mount Kailash, all done to take the land back for the King.

In Phil. 2:7, Paul says that Jesus emptied Himself; set aside His privileges, made Himself on no reputation and

suffering is still the way of God "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you and example for you to follow in His steps." (I Peter 2:21) The world is waiting to see Jesus in the Church.

As obedient lovers of God continue to go in response to His voice, and humbly cry out to the Lord through anointed worship and intercession, fruit will most certainly come! May the Lord of the Harvest bring many Tibetans to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. May the Holy Spirit be poured out on the high places of the Himalayas, so that the heart of the dark-

ness may soon come to be known as the heart of the harvest!

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Lost But Not Forgotten

by Carla Brewington

Hidden away in the high places of the Himalayas is a relatively unknown, unreached people group. They are the Buddhists of the Larkya Pass in Nepal. Less than 7,000 people, and very little is known about them. The little we do know is scattered and limited. The people of the Larkya Pass are primarily preliterate, and hostile to the Gospel. Ten villages, complete with monasteries and lamas, are contained at altitudes of 10,000 to 16,000 feet. Tuberculosis is a major problem. They are lost and alone, trapped in the darkness by territorial spirits.

But our Father in heaven knows all about them. Just as in Luke 15, where Jesus talks about leaving the many to go after the one, so it is with the Larkya people. The Lord always goes after the last and the least, the ones forgotten by most everyone else. This time, He is using a church in Canada. In a most profound way, they found out about this unreached people and decided to adopt them.

It all began when people on the mission committee of the church were deeply convicted of the desperate need to move beyond the known and look out to the remaining unreached peoples of the world. The question became, how do we know which one to choose, since there are so many! After much prayer, research and counsel, the sub-committee unanimously and enthusiastically decided to select the Buddhist people of the Larkya Pass in Nepal.

A formal adoption took place last November, as one of the staff of the Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse flew to Canada. A whole week was set aside to help educate and encourage them in this bold and courageous undertaking. Expectancy was high as slides, videos, verbal presentations and much prayer culminated in the embracing of this specific Tibetan-Buddhist people group. The launching of this prayer-soaked project has brought much enthusiastic commitment. Different avenues were created such as praying regularly with friends and/or family, attending specific Sunday School classes with a mission focus, monthly information meetings, etc. As I spoke in one meeting, asking them to pray for the right people to join me on the team, a little girl raised her hand and said, "I want to go with you, can I please go?" As I looked at her—no more than seven years old—I knew I was seeing a future missionary.

The word "adoption" is taking on new meaning! Pray that many other churches around the world become burdened for the remaining unreached peoples of the earth. Pray that believers, individually and corporately, would go boldly to the throne of God to ask what their responsibility is for reaching the remaining unreached peoples of the world. The time is short!