

Khalkha Mongol

of Mongolia



The **Khalkha** are the largest group of Mongols in Mongolia. In fact, they are the core of all the Mongol peoples across North Asia. The Khalkha Mongol consider themselves the direct descendants of Genghis Khan and, therefore, the true preservers of Mongol culture.

In the thirteenth century, Genghis Khan formed one of the greatest empires in world history by uniting all of the nomadic Mongol tribes. During the centuries that followed, the once mighty Mongol empire was squeezed between the growing Russian and Chinese empires. In the early 1920's, Mongolia became a Marxist state, until its quiet democratic revolution in 1990. Today, Mongolia's government leaders are Khalkha Mongol.

The **Khalkha Mongol** consider their language, Halh, to be the "real" Mongolian language, since all other Mongols speak variations or dialects of Halh. Halh is understood throughout Mongolia and by Mongols living in North and Central Asia.

Statistics

- **People Group:** Khalkha Mongol
- **Country:** Mongolia
- **Language:** Halh
- **Population:**
(1990) 1,398,900
(1995) 1,548,200
(2000) 1,709,300
- **Largest Religion:**
Nonreligious 50%
Ethnic religionist 30%
Atheist 16%
Christians <1%
- **Scriptures in their own language:**
New Testament

Prayer Points

- ♦ Pray that the doors of Mongolia will soon open to FirstBible International and their translation efforts.
- ♦ Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth many laborers into Mongolia to share the Good News with the Khalkha Mongol.
- ♦ Take authority over the spiritual principalities and powers that are keeping these people bound.
- ♦ Pray that Christians will have opportunities to introduce the Khalkha Mongol to the Prince of Peace.
- ♦ Pray that God will open the hearts of the Khalkha Mongol government leaders to the gospel.



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The **Khalkha Mongol** in Mongolia



Country

The State of Mongolia, once known as Outer Mongolia, consists of grassland, forest, three major mountain ranges and the great Gobi Desert. Mongolia was dependent on the USSR for 70 years.

Thus, the Soviet Union's collapse crippled the Mongolian economy with massive shortages, inflation and rising unemployment. After independence from Manchu and Chinese domination in 1911, a Soviet-supported revolution in

1921 installed a repressive communist government. Although communism was renounced and a multi-party democracy instituted in 1992, the reformed Communist party was victorious in the elections. With guaranteed freedom of religion, the Mongolian church is a reality for the first time in modern history. However, most provinces have no indigenous Christian presence and foreign missionaries are not officially permitted.

Their Lives

Although most Mongols now live in cities, there remains a large population of Khalkha Mongol nomads. They live in herding camps and migrate seasonally with their animals.

Their housing takes the form of portable *gers* or *yurts*, which are round felt tents that have brightly painted wooden doors.



Beliefs

Traditionally, the Khalkha Mongols believed in shamanism (an unseen world of gods, demons and spirits). Though many converted to Tibetan Buddhism upon its introduction, about 75% fell away to atheism under Marxist rule since the 1930's. Today a combination of shamanism and Buddhism survive.

Needs

Rape, murder, alcoholism, and violence are major problems in Mongolia's urban areas today. Many young people are also involved in criminal gangs. The Khalkha Mongol need to find true peace—peace that can only come through knowing Jesus Christ.

Map Courtesy: CIA World Factbook

