Location: Between 1,000 and 2,000 Bolozi people live in and around the village of Xiao Heshui, to the west of Songpan in northern Sichuan Province. Smaller numbers live scattered along the Min River as far south as Wenchuan. One early missionary wrote, “In Weizhou [now Wenchuan] most of the people are either Qiang or a mixed race, though there are some... Bolotsze [Bolozi] as well.” Another source states, “At Songpan one road goes westward through the Po-lo-tzu [Bolozi] country, one goes northward through the grasslands, and one turns eastward through northern Sichuan.”

Identity: The Bolozi may have become a distinct ethnic group as the result of marriage between Tibetans and Qiang people. They were first described by Scottish missionary Thomas Torrance in the 1930s. The Bolozi have been counted as part of either the Tibetan or Qiang nationalities by the Chinese authorities. This classification has caused the Bolozi to be hidden to outsiders. Even among the Bolozi themselves there is a growing tendency to identify themselves as Tibetans. Within a generation or two there may be no remembrance of their distinct ethnic origins.

Religion: Tibetan Buddhism has never taken a grip among the Bolozi to the extent that it has among other Tibetan groups. Most are polytheistic animists who try to keep peace with the vindictive spirits they believe control their lives.

Language: Little is known about the Bolozi language which may belong to the Qiangic branch of Tibeto-Burman. Most Bolozi men and children are also fluent in Chinese, but many Bolozi women have never been to school and only know their mother tongue.

History: Until the 1960s the Bolozi were renowned for their plundering of other villages. Being a mix of Tibetans and Qiang, the Bolozi were known to have a wild, violent streak. They became the scourge even of other Tibetan communities living in the area. The Bolozi raided communities on horseback, carrying away anything they liked and killing if they so desired. Today they lead a far more peaceable existence, tending to crops and livestock in the green hills of northern Sichuan.

Customs: Bolozi families engage in a wide variety of occupations, which include herding of yaks, sheep, and goats, engaging in agricultural production, and trading with the Tibetans and Han Chinese. Villages in the remote area are watered by fast-flowing rivers. Rickety bridges made of wooden boards and chains are flung across the rivers.

Religion: Polytheism, Tibetan Buddhism
Christians: None known
Scripture: None
Jesus film: None
Gospel Recordings: None
Christian Broadcasting: None
ROPAL code: None

Overview of the Bolozi
Countries: China
Pronunciation: “Boh-loo-tzi”
Other Names: Bolotse, Bolotsze, Po-lo-tzu
Population Source: 1,000 to 2,000 (1998 AMO)
Location: N Sichuan: Xiao Heshui village west of Songpan; A few are scattered as far south as Wenchuan Township
Status: Probably officially included under either Tibetan or Qiang
Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo, Unclassified (possibly Qiangic)
Dialects: 0
Religion: Polytheism, Tibetan Buddhism
Christians: None known
Scripture: None
Jesus film: None
Gospel Recordings: None
Christian Broadcasting: None
ROPAL code: None

Status of Evangelization
98%
A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
C = Are adherents to any form of Christianity