Overview of the Tungus Ewenki

Countries: China, Mongolia, Russia

Pronunciation: “Tuun-giss-E-wenk-ee”

Other Names: Tungus, Ewenki: Chenbaehru, Tungus Evenk, Tunguz, Tonggoose, Khamnigan, Khamnigan Ewenki, Khamnigan Evenki, Khamnigan Tungus, Horse Tungus, Tonggusi

Population Source: 1,600 (1993 J. Janhunen); Out of a total Ewenki population of 26,315 (1990 census); Also in Mongolia and Russia

Location: NE Inner Mongolia: Chenbaehru Banner

Status: Officially included under Ewenki

Language: Altaic, Tungus, Northern Tungus, Ewenki

Dialects: 0

Religion: Shamanism, Tibetan Buddhism, Christianity

Christians: 100

Scripture: None

Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: EVN03

Status of Evangelization

- 54% = Have never heard the gospel
- 41% = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
- 5% = Are adherents to any form of Christianity

Religion: Many of the Tungus Ewenki who have experienced prolonged interaction with Mongolians have been converted to Tibetan Buddhism. The remainder practice shamanism, an ancient form of witchcraft and spiritism. The Tungus are also the only Ewenki group in China known to contain Christians.

Christianity: Various sources agree that there are approximately 100 Ewenki Christians in Chenbaehru. The Tungus Ewenki believers are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church. However, “because of the profound influence of Shamanism, they worship the statue of Jesus and other idols together.... Priests of the Eastern Orthodox Church also participate in the religious activities of the Ewenkis.” Although the four Gospels were translated into Ewenki in Russia in 1995, the Chinese Ewenki cannot read the script and have no Scriptures available to them.