

## The Tampuan of Cambodia



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The Tampuan people inhabit the hills of the northeastern corner of Cambodia. They are mostly farmers, living a more-or-less subsistence level lifestyle. Their main crops are rice (grown in swidden fields), various fruit and vegetables; cashews are now becoming a popular cash-crop. They follow an animistic religion, dominated by fear of evil spirits and various sacrifices. Some have become Christians in the last 10 years, although many others professed faith briefly only to fall away. A number of church leaders have benefited from Bible training, however, the few churches remain weak. Except for a few living in villages close to the provincial capital, most Tammans do not have a good knowledge of Khmer, the national language and find the Khmer Bible hard to understand. Moreover, Tammans' traditional lifestyle is endangered by rampant land grabbing on the part of lowland Khmer.

**Primary Religion:**

Ethnic Religions

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

Less than 1%

**Churches:**

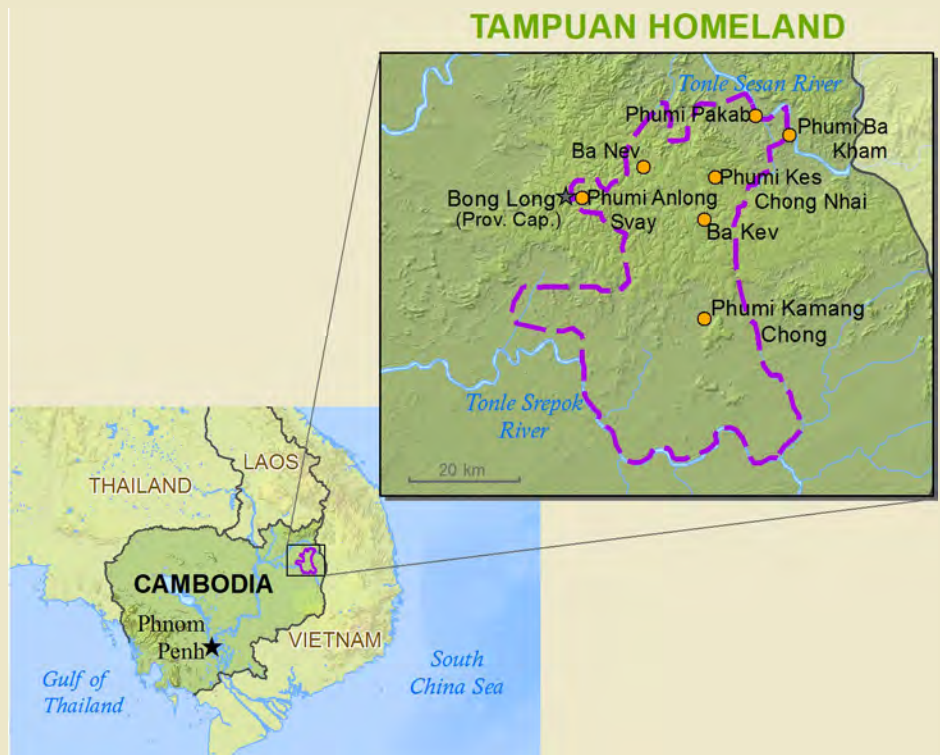
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**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

Portions

**Population (date):**

31,000 (2008)



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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	1 %
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	95%
Number Of Pastors	0
Comment (Pastors)	All church leaders are very much 'part-time'
Number Of Missionaries Working	3
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	3 expatriate families
Response To The Gospel	Rapid growth in a couple of areas was followed by a decline as many fell away (probably because they did not really understand the Gospel in the first place). The Church is consolidating, signs of modest growth.
Number Of Communities	50
Comment (Number Communities)	all villages, pop. <1000
Number Of Churches	8
Comment (Churches)	4 CMA; 3 independent; 1 SDA
Forms of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	A video similar to the 'Jesus film' was dubbed into Tampuan, however, the script was translated very hastily without checking. Thus it is not particularly useful and has not been widely used.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes cross-cultural missionaries are needed. They need church planters and Bible teachers to train potential leaders.

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### Group Description

#### Countries Where People Group Live

Country Name	Laos
Country Name	Cambodia

#### Geography & Environment

Map Features	La'en village (westernmost extent of Tampuan area) 13° 37.163 N 106° 52.476 E. Samut Kraom village (south-eastern corner of Tampuan area) 13°31.045 N 107°11.403 E. Sayos village (south-western corner of Tampuan area) 13° 29.214 N 107° 01.844 E.Kachon village (northernmost extent of Tampuan area) 13° 58.066 N 106° 53.11 E
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#### Literacy

Comment (Literacy)	First language literacy rate: 5%
	Second language literacy rate: 10%

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### Status of Christianity

#### Religion and Response

Attitude toward Christianity	Indifferent
Comment (Attitude)	Mixed—some curious and receptive, some resistant
Attitude to Religious Change	Somewhat resistant

#### History of Christianity in Group

Year Began	1994
Comment (History)	The gospel was first brought to the Tampuans by Khmers. However, those involved have since joined a cult. Subsequently, the ""Jesus film"" (in Khmer) was used as an evangelistic tool. The gospel has spread (to the extent it has) mainly through Tampuan believers. Other villages were evangelized by the neighboring Jarai people group.

#### Scripture

There are a range of Bible portions available as "trial editions". This includes parts of Genesis, parts of Exodus, Jonah, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, James.

#### Other Forms of Gospel Available

Literature	song book and 2 books of Bible lessons
Recordings	audio recording of Mark and audio recording of songs
Film/Videos	Yes
Radio	No