

# Gahri



Most Gahri remain completely unaware of the claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ

Population: 6,000

Literacy: less than 1%

Scripture Status: No Scripture translation in progress.

The Tibetan border with India and Nepal has numerous sparsely populated people groups with their distinct identities. One such group is the Gahri, who are also known by a variety of ethnic names, including

Bunan and Lahul. The Gahri form a part of the Lahaula Scheduled Tribe. The word Lahaula is derived from two local words, 'hya-hul', meaning deities or spirits, and 'hul', meaning land or abode.

The total population of a few thousand are scattered over parts of China, Tibet and the state of Himachal Pradesh in India. The Gahri's homeland is so remote that few outsiders have ever travelled there. The lives of the Gahri people are a long struggle against harsh winters, and since very little fruit and few vegetables grow in this region, their diet consists almost entirely of meat, fat, and yak yogurt. The Bhaga river originates in the Lahaul valley, and U-shaped valleys, waterfalls, glaciers and moraines characterise its upper catchments. The entire tract is devoid of vegetative cover. The discharge of this river increases during the summer months, when the snow on the high

mountains starts to melt.

Gahri culture has been heavily influenced by the people's devotion to Tibetan Buddhism. Many Gahri speakers make annual pilgrimages to Lake Manasarovar and Mount Kailas—two holy Buddhist sites in western Tibet. Most Gahri in both India and China remain completely unaware of the claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Even the handful of Gahri who are Christians are rarely able to fellowship with each other because of geographical separation. The Gahri had portions of the Bible translated into their language by missionaries in 1911, but these have been out of print since 1923, although some Gospel recordings are available. The Gahri need committed missionaries who will dare to face the challenges this region poses to bring them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pray for:

1. More missionaries to venture into this difficult terrain as evangelists, Bible translators and literacy workers.
2. The Gahri speakers to be delivered from the fear of the spirits and to know their loving God.
3. The Gahri Bible portions to be revised and printed and made available for all these people.
4. The Gahri Christians to proclaim the love of Christ to their own people.

