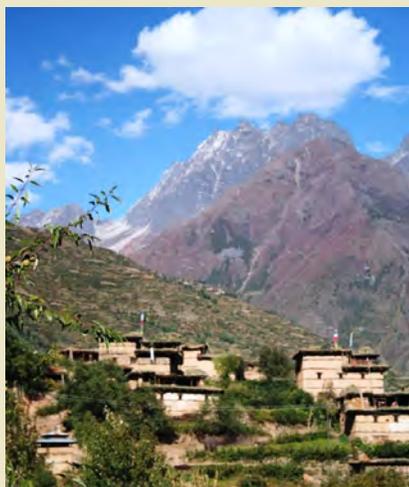


The Humla of Tibet



Humla Village of Barguan

The Humla Tibetan people live spread out in 22 main villages across six village development areas (similar to counties) in the central and northwest regions of Humla district, northwestern Nepal. The Humla Tibetan people speak a form of Tibetan that is somewhat similar to other Tibetan languages in Nepal, like Sherpa or Lhomi.

The language they speak is distinct enough to be considered a separate language. Their culture and religion, in many ways, is similar to other high mountain Tibetan Buddhist groups in Nepal. They are very religious and follow mostly the Nyingmapa sect of Tibetan Buddhism, except for the Limi valley (Drigung Kagyu sect) and the Tumkot Gompa (Sakyapa sect - Yari and Muchu area).

Humla villages are very isolated and hard to travel to. There are almost no roads to be found, mostly footpaths and trails. The villages are all situated at high elevation (from 2500 m. to 3750 m.) and are relatively close to the Chinese border. Many people have trade connections in China. All communities depend on agriculture, animal husbandry, and trade for subsistence. While one or more men of a household travel for long periods of time to engage in long-distance trade and to move animals between summer and winter pastures, women are in charge of agricultural activities in the village.

The Humla Tibetans form tight-knit communities and are proud of their own culture and language. There are considerable differences between the communities, but they are still interrelated. Most people have a strong sense of identity. The language has a very high vitality and ability to read and write in Nepali or Tibetan is still poor. People are interested in developing their own language. Starting with oral forms of language development is advised.

Primary Religion:
Buddhist

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
None

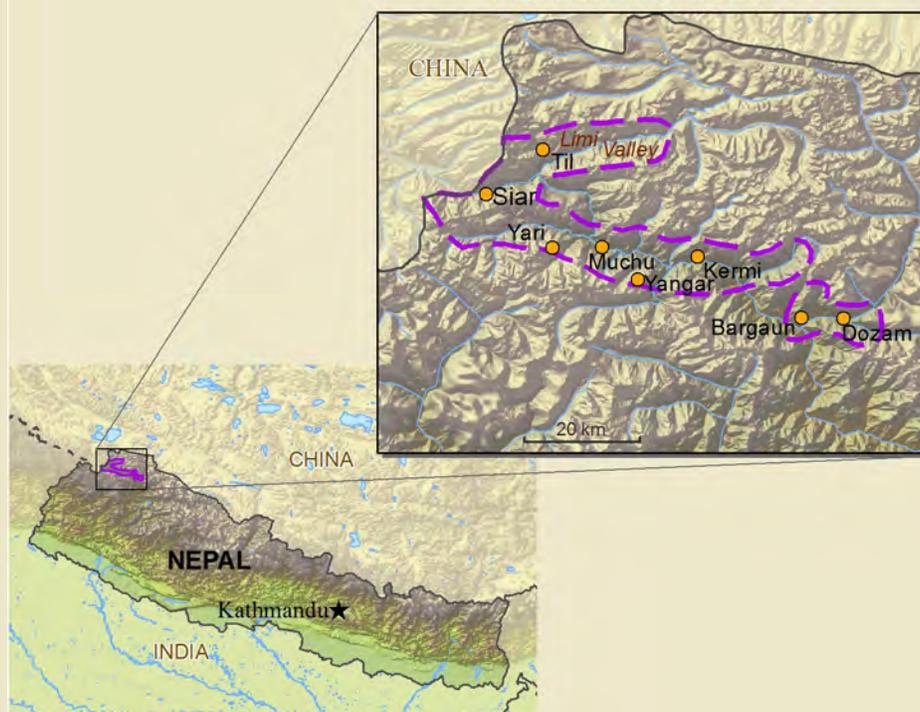
Churches:
None

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
No

Population (date):
4,870 (2011)



HUMLA HOMELAND



The Humla of Nepal

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Number of Missionaries	1
Percent Adherent, who call themselves "Christian"	less than 0.01%
Percent who Believe in Jesus as God and Only Savior	0%
Percent who Believe Jesus is a prophet, a good man, but not the only Savior	0%
Percent who believe in their traditional religion	100%
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No

The Humla of Nepal

Group Description

Population all countries

World Population For This People	4,870
World Population (Date)	2011
Comment (Source)	National Population and Housing Census

Geography & Environment

Location	The Humla live in a small area in the extreme northwest of Nepal.
Elevation	2500 to 3750 meters
Longitude	81E
Latitude	30N
Comments (Geo. & Environ.)	The geography and environment is typical for a Himalayan mountainous area.

Language & Linguistics

Alternate Language Names	Dangali, "Humla Bhotia" (pej.), Humli Khyampa, Phoke
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Positive
Second Languages	Some use of "Central Tibetan" (bod). Some also speak Nepali, and may speak Chinese for trade.
Neighboring Languages	Jumli

Literacy

Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive
Active Literacy Program	No
Comments	Primary language "Humla" is unwritten. Literacy rate in Tibetan [bod] is 10% to 15%. In the primary schools in the Limi villages (Til and east), mother-tongue-based education is taking place. Teachers teach orally in the mother-tongue, but use text-books written in other languages. Children learn to read and write in English, Nepali, and standard, written Tibetan.

The Humla of Nepal

Economics

Subsistence Type	Pastoralists, also tradesmen
Occupation	Farmers, herders, and traders
Income Sources	Fields, animals, and trade
Trade Partners	China, Southern Nepal, India
Modernization / Utilities	Some TV's/lights/running water, solar powered

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Health Care)	Depends if they have a healthpost nearby
Shelter Description	Mostly: ground level for animals, first level for kitchen and sleeping, upper level for religious things.
Electricity	Some solar powered devices
Transportation	Donkeys, horses, helicopters; roads are being built near the border with China. Cars can run in that area for a few weeks out of the year, depending on weather.

Society & Culture

Family Structures	Some polyandry (one wife with several brothers), but certainly not exclusively.
Social Habits/Groupings	A distinct feature of the social structure of the Humla Tibetan communities is their division into clusters of villages of unequal status which affect the rules of intermarriage. These clusters correspond roughly to the dialect varieties that can be found and the sub-ethnic groups. The Humla Tibetans also distinguish between clans and classes, which play a role in a somewhat strict social hierarchy.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow, because of the isolated location, plus the strong sense of their own identify
Identification With National Culture	Distinct
Comment (Identification)	The Humla see themselves mostly as other than “the Nepalis”
Self Image	Prestigious
Comment (Self Image)	For the less isolated villages this could be more “neutral”.
Attitude To Outsiders	Very Resistant
Comment (Outsiders)	Most of the villages are 100% of their own group
Attitude To Change	Somewhat Resistant
Comment (Change)	Not much incentive for change.

The Humla of Nepal

Status of Christianity

Christian Literature And Media Status

Literature Available

Some recordings available from Global Recordings Network