

STEPPELAND DREAMING INITIATIVE

encouraging indigenous forms of liturgy and worship among the Tuvan people of Central Asia



a collaborative effort of Jesus People USA, Hope in Transit, & Heart Sounds International (OM Arts)

January 2012 update



Shrine to the Dalai Lama with prayer cloths

Tuva has a long history of Shaman practice as its dominant religion, in the last few centuries Buddhism has had a significant impact, so the common religious practice in Tuva today is a unique mixture of Shamanism and Buddhism.

In order to avoid the perception of Christianity as a foreign thing not applicable to Tuvans and to stand against the prevalent condescension towards the indigenous population; we plan to spend at least a couple years in the field simply learning the language & culture, living & working along side Tuvans, building rapport in order to engage in peer to peer outreach. Thereby a space is created for the Tuvans to engage with Jesus directly and spring forth with their own culturally unique adoration and praise to Him.

This approach requires us to acquire a fair amount of startup funds to make the initial move. While we are raising money and doing other prep work we have begun to put a bit of funding aside each month to support Raisa Kechil, an indigenous believer we met in Tuva.



Raisa explaining the religious history of Tuva

Raisa is both wise and passionate for Jesus as well as one of Tuva's first Christians. She's discipled some who've gone on to be church leaders. We are excited to see what new opportunities some funding may open up for her.



We are hopeful to do some short trips to Tuva while our teenage daughters finish up high school and plan to launch into a full time endeavor shortly there after. We are in need of a lot of funding and prayer support. If you, or anyone you know, may interested in supporting the empowerment of culturally appropriate liturgy & worship for indigenous Tuvan Christians please visit

<http://www.USkhoomeizhi.org>, email xoomeizhi@gmail.com or call 417-763-0423