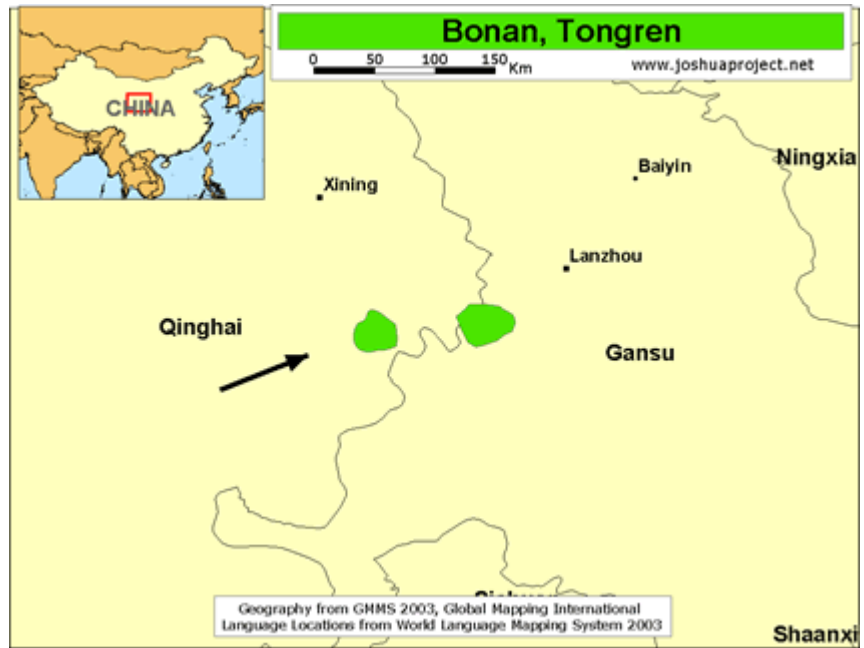


# Bonan, Tongren in China



Photo Source: [Joe Tym - Flickr Creative Commons](#)



Map Source: Joshua Project / Global Mapping International

## Introduction / History

The Tongren Bonan are the descendants of Mongolian troops who were stationed in the region during the Mongolian Empire of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. After the collapse of Mongol rule in 1368, most soldiers retreated to Mongolia, but a few remained behind. After centuries of intermingling with other nationalities, they became a distinct group called the Bonan.

The Buddhist Bonan in Tongren consider themselves a separate people from the Muslim Bonan in Gansu. Their languages are now also different. Using the definition of a people group as "a significantly large ethnic or sociological grouping of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another," the Tongren Bonan definitely qualify as a distinct people group.


## What Are Their Lives Like?

The Tongren Bonan observe all Tibetan festivals and have culturally become almost indistinguishable from the Tibetans. "Those Bonans who retained their Buddhist faith became strongly acculturated to their neighbors ... as a result, only a small number of persons remain in Tongren who from an ethno-linguistic point of view can still be considered Bonan."

## What Are Their Beliefs?

The Tongren Bonan are Tibetan Buddhists. In the early nineteenth century, a portion of the Bonan converted to Islam. This caused deep friction among the two Bonan groups. The Muslim Bonan were forced to migrate into Gansu Province where they remain to this day.

The first foreign missionaries among the Tongren Bonan were workers affiliated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance. They commenced work in Bao'an Township around 1910. Despite being in the Bonan neighborhood, the missionaries' primary focus was on the Tibetans, not the Bonan. By 1922 the mission was closed due to lack of workers. It opened again,

<b>People Name:</b>	Bonan, Tongren
<b>Country:</b>	China
<b>10/40 Window:</b>	Yes
<b>Population:</b>	7,300
<b>World Population:</b>	7,300
<b>Primary Language:</b>	Bonan
<b>Primary Religion:</b>	Buddhism
<b>Christian Adherents:</b>	0.00 %
<b>Evangelicals:</b>	0.00 %
<b>Scripture:</b>	Translation Needed
<b>Online Audio NT:</b>	No
<b>Jesus Film:</b>	No
<b>Audio Recordings:</b>	No
<b>People Cluster:</b>	Tibetan
<b>Affinity Bloc:</b>	Tibetan-Himalayan Peoples
<b>Progress Level:</b>	

but after years of slow and unfruitful progress the work gravitated towards the more receptive Han Chinese. Today, there are no known Christians among the Tongren Bonan.

### **What Are Their Needs?**

The Tongren Bonan people need to submit to Jesus Christ so they can experience the abundant life he offers in John 10:10.

### **Prayer Points**

Pray for bold workers who are driven by the love of the Holy Spirit to go to them.

Pray for an unstoppable movement to Christ among them.

Pray for the authority of Christ to bind hindering spiritual forces to lead them from darkness to light.

Pray for signs and wonders to happen among them and for great breakthroughs with a rapid multiplication of disciples and house churches.

**Text Source:** Joshua Project

Full [Joshua Project](http://www.joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18420/CH) profile at: [www.joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/18420/CH](http://www.joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18420/CH)