

# Bhutan

- ◆ The capital city of Bhutan is Thimphu.
- ◆ About 75% of Bhutanese follow the Buddhist religion. About 23% follow Hinduism, and the other 2% are Christians or Muslims.
- ◆ The Bhutanese official language is Dzongkha.
- ◆ Bhutan is in south-central Asia, between India and Tibet.
- ◆ Bhutanese Christians have no religious freedom. It is against the law to tell people about Jesus or to try to convert someone to Christianity. Church buildings are not allowed, and Christians must meet in homes.
- ◆ The Bhutanese call their country Druk-yul, meaning “Land of the Thunder Dragon.” People in the central part of the country, called Drupkas (people of the dragon), worship the dragon.
- ◆ Bhutan is a beautiful country with the majestic Great Himalayas in the north, green mountain valleys in the middle, and hot, hilly jungles in the south.
- ◆ Bhutanese farmers grow bananas, citrus fruits, and rice on the plains and barley, rice, and wheat at the higher elevations.

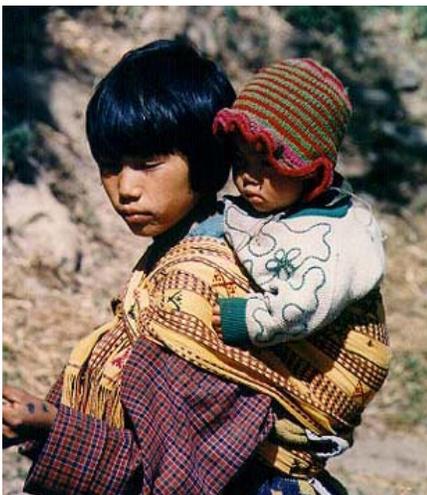


## Story: Free or Not?

In a faraway isolated nation known as the “Land of the Thunder Dragon,” home of the Himalayan Mountains, almost everything and everyone looks Buddhist. Most of the men and women wear their national dress. For men, that means wearing a “gho,” a knee-length gown woven with colorful wool. For the women, it means wearing a “kira,” an ankle-length woolen skirt. All the buildings have sloped walls, scalloped windows, and pitched roofs.

There are no signs of Christianity there, no churches, no Bible bookstores, no crosses. But there are Christians who live out their Christian lives “underground.” That means they are hidden from the public eyes. Bhutan says they started allowing religious freedom for Christians in 2008, but the Christians still hide because they are afraid of persecution.

Bhutanese who become Christians face the loss of their citizenship, free health care, education, jobs, and access to electricity and water. In some cases they are harassed and beaten. This still happens even though Bhutan claims they now have “religious freedom.”

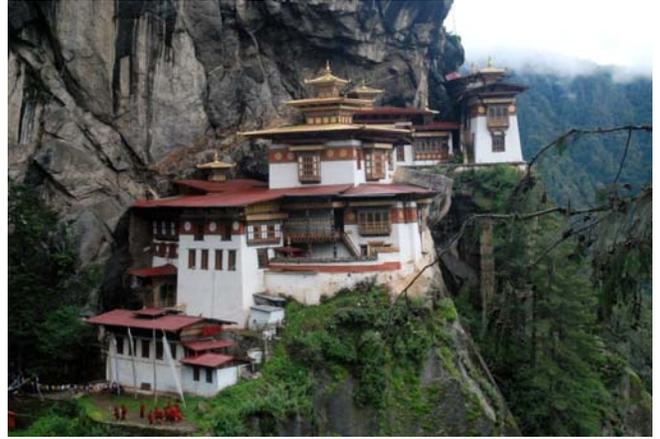


## Story cont...

The government says it's okay to be born a Christian, but illegal for a Hindu or Buddhist to convert to Christianity.

Just recently a Christian was arrested for showing the "Jesus Film" in Bhutan and sentenced to three years in prison. The government said they arrested him because he was "forcefully converting" others.

Bhutan has a long way to go in allowing "true" religious freedom. This nation needs our prayers.



## Recipe: Kewa Datshi (Potatoes and Cheese)

- 4 potatoes
- 1/4 cup chopped red onions
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup shredded cheese (Swiss or any white cheese)
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder (or to taste)
- 1 1/2 cups water

Cut potatoes into small pieces. Put them along with oil and salt in a saucepan or pot. Add water. When potatoes are almost cooked, add cheese. You can add some chopped onions and tomatoes to taste. Don't forget the chili powder. Add a little water if it gets too dry.

## Activity: Degor

This game must be played outdoors.

1 flat rock per child (should not be too heavy)

A line (either real or imaginary) drawn on the ground

A small stick driven into the ground placed 20 feet away from the line

Have children stand behind the line. Let one child at a time see how close he can get by throwing his rock at the target stick. The child that gets the closest to the stick in each round gets a point. This game can be played to five points or more depending on how many kids and how much time you have.



Go to [www.frontlinekids.net/resources](http://www.frontlinekids.net/resources) to find lesson supplemental materials such as: prayer points, recipes, maps, videos, printable coloring sheets and more.