



- AAP Introductory Literature and Brochures available in print and on the web
- Adoption Agency List, available in print and on the web

All Resources available from:

William Carey Library:
1-800-MISSION

Need more details? See:

www.adopt-a-people.org
www.frontierventures.org

ON THE WEB

<https://Joshuaproject.net/pray/guides>
(free GPD daily entries)

<https://joshuaproject.net/resources/apps>
(listings of UPGs, profiles, daily prayer entries)

<https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/>
(more resources!)

www.prayerguard.net/?page_id=209
(timeless prayer requests!)

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 298
SANTA CLARITA, CA

FRONTIER VENTURES
FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP
1605 E. ELIZABETH STREET
PASADENA, CA 91104-2721
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Global Prayer Digest

January-March 2020 • Frontier Ventures

39:1-3

Global Prayer Digest

www.globalprayerdigest.org

Jan-March 2020 Frontier Ventures • 39:1-3

The Frontier People Groups Part 9

The Incomplete Bride of Christ in South India



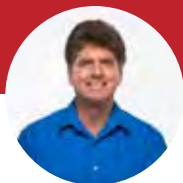
2—Bhandaris Know How to Help a Thirsty God

4—Gaudas: Hindus Who Eat Beef!

9—Vanjara People Can See the Forest for the Trees

15 & 16—Facing Unwelcome Change in Modern India

Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

Happy new decade!

Have you ever thought about how long it takes for a movement to Christ to develop? As *GPD* and Joshua Project (JP) work closer together, I am often asking readers of the *GPD* and JP profiles to pray for a disciple-making movement (where disciples make other disciples, who in turn make even more disciples) in the 2020s. There are already almost 1000 movements to Christ among the 7,000 unreached people groups; why not pray for all the others to be reached this decade?

By far the largest number of frontier people groups (fpgs) are in South Asia, especially India. We will be praying for the Hindu communities for the next five months since we already covered the Muslims of South Asia late last year. To keep it more interesting and educational, each *GPD* issue will have a focus. This month, it is roughly the southern states, though we will also include some of the central states as well. Next month it will be the low caste groups, then northern India, and then the higher castes. After that, it will be a bit more of a jumble.

In Christ,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*
Keith.Carey@frontierventures.org

January 2020

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keith Carey

For comments on content call
626-398-2241 or email
keith.carey@frontierventures.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Paula Fern

WRITERS

Patricia Depew
Karen Hightower
Wesley Kawato
Ben Klett
David Kugel
Christopher Lane
Ted Proffitt
Cory Raynham
Lydia Reynolds
Jean Smith
Allan Starling
Chun Mei Wilson
John Ytreus

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES

Keith Carey

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Lois Carey
Laurie Roseman

GRAPHICS

Keith Carey
David Gutierrez

PRINTER

Yuli Color Reproduction Co., LTD.
(Taiwan)

WEB SITES

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/guides>

ISSN 1045-9731

Contents of the *Global Prayer Digest* © 2020
Frontier Ventures
1605 East Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104

Contents of this booklet may be reproduced if appropriate credit and subscription information are given.

Cover Photo by iStockRiccardo Cirillo

PRAY FOR

*A Disciple-Making Movement for Every People
in South and Central India*



Pray for the Nations

using your cell phone!



Get the free app today!



FREE Prayer Resources!

PRAYER GUIDES!

Get the FREE versions of the *GPD*!

Download and print your own free copies from Joshua Project's website

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/guides>

For free daily email:

Go to the website, globalprayerdigest.org, and enter your email address in the box in the top, right corner, then click "submit"

Get the free app!

Go to the App Store or the Google Play Store, and search for "Global Prayer Digest"

Joshua Project has much more!
Research and daily prayer materials for UPGs.

<http://joshuaproject.net/>

You can also get the app by going to the App Store or the Google Play Store, and search for "Unreached of the Day"

Fellowship for Prayer Strategists

Excellent materials for those who are serious about prayer!

<https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/>

10-40 Window Reporter

Prayer for nations of the 10-40 Window using materials from current news sources.

<http://www.1040windowreporter.com/>

Prayerguard

Online general prayer for UPGs.

http://prayerguard.net/?page_id=209

PODCASTS!

Download GPD's audio podcast, and hear the daily prayer entries:
globalprayerdigest.libsyn.com

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with friends who are involved in this movement.

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray.

The Birth of India's Church Began in the South

iStockSocha



Many people are unaware of the large Christian population in India today. According to the 2011 census there are 28 million Christians living in India. This background piece will focus mostly on the southern states, where Christianity first began in India.

How the South Indian Church Began

Paul wasn't the only apostle to go on missionary journeys; Thomas and Bartholomew also went out. The travels of Thomas are recorded in the Book of Thomas. The early church fathers didn't include the Book of Thomas in the New Testament. That book may not be totally factual, but many Bible scholars believe the Book of Thomas contains a large measure of truth. According to this book, Thomas made two journeys to India and won south Indians to Christ each time. The first of these journeys took place

in the year AD 52. Among his converts were the kings of two petty states in southern India. Thomas planted many churches in the area where he preached.

According to Roman Era church historians such as Eusebius and St. Jerome, Bartholomew also made a missionary journey to India around the same time Thomas was preaching in south India. Bartholomew also planted churches.

During the centuries that followed, the Sassanid Empire, located in what is now Iraq and Iran, began persecuting Christians. During that time south India became a haven for Christians fleeing from that persecution. Over time the newcomers intermarried into south India's Christian community. After that not much would happen for over a thousand years.

In the 1500s the Portuguese arrived bringing the Roman Catholic religion to south India. Jesuit missionaries did most of the outreach and some Indians became Catholic. One of the best-known Jesuits was Francis Xavier. God used him to bring many Indians to saving faith. Protestant missionaries began arriving in India after 1700. They won thousands to Christ but worked in the same areas as the Jesuits and the apostles who had preceded them. Not all missionaries brought the true gospel. After 1850 Mormon missionaries arrived in India. Many Christian missionaries had to combat the false teachings being spread by such people.

Some Christian missionaries also tried their hand at Bible translation. In 1705 Bartholomaeus Ziegenberg and Heinrich Plutschau arrived from Denmark. They translated the Bible into Tamil and Hindi. In 1793 William Carey arrived from England. He translated the Bible into Bengali and Sanskrit. Other members of Carey's team did major translation work.

Today's Spiritual Issues

- Despite years of outreach efforts only 2.3 percent of India's entire population worships Jesus Christ, but the statistics change by region. One in five Indian Christians live in the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. The relatively sparsely populated northeastern states have Christian majorities or near majorities. By contrast, there are states like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh where only one in 1,000 Indians believe in Christ. The Christian sphere of influence in India hasn't changed very much since the Apostolic Era. That's because new missionaries had worked



among the same people groups targeted by earlier generations of missionaries. The number of unreached people groups remains alarmingly high. For this reason, we will pray for the next five months for India's Hindu communities.

- The good news is that the late 20th century marked the beginning of new unreached people groups coming to Christ almost exclusively from the low status Dalits and Shudras. These small gains have sparked persecution against Christians from radicalized Hindus who want these people to return to Hinduism. In 2007, 19

churches were burned in Odisha. In 2008 a Hindu monk was murdered. The resulting anti-Christian riots caused damage to 250 churches. It was later learned that the monk was killed by communist Maoist rebels. In the last three years persecution has become more widespread.

- Hinduism asks very little of those wishing to embrace that religious system. There are thousands of Hindu gods and it is easy to find a god who fits in with what someone wants to believe. By contrast faith in Jesus Christ is very exclusive, and it requires devotion to only one God. The Bible teaches only one path to salvation. Many Hindus are willing to believe that Jesus is a way of salvation, but not the only way to salvation. It will take prayer and a powerful work of the Holy Spirit to overcome such beliefs.

- During the era of the Apostle Paul, Greece was in many ways similar to modern day India. It was the signs and wonders performed by the apostles that

validated their message and made many Greeks realize that Jesus Christ was more powerful than the gods they were worshipping.

Let's Pray!

1—Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring about power encounters that will turn Hindu hearts to the King of kings.

2—Ask God to spark a revival among the churches of southern India. Apathy has been a serious problem for many years. Many Indian churches have made little or no effort to reach out to neighboring people groups with the message of salvation.

3—Pray that the current persecution will strengthen Indian believers, turning them into true vessels of God, ready to do His will.

What the Future Holds for the *Global Prayer Digest*

The printed *GPD* prayer materials you are reading is written eight months in advance! That and the cost of printing, mailing, etc. are the reasons why we are merging with Joshua Project's Unreached Of The Day (UOTD) starting in 2021. For many years we have both been trying to get people to pray each day for the people groups that don't have a gospel witness. *GPD* has writers and they don't, they have tech abilities and we don't. So why not combine efforts? Our combined materials will be available for free by email, app, in downloadable-printable form, and there will be a shorter printed version in *Mission Frontiers* (MF), our sister publication published by Frontier Ventures. If you want the printed version, this month will be the last time you need to renew, since *GPD* content will be within *MF* starting in January, 2021. If you prefer printed materials, you can either download it from Joshua Project's website or read what we have in *MF*.

Here are some important websites to visit:

<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/guides>

<https://joshuaproject.net/resources/apps>

<http://www.missionfrontiers.org/>

LODHA PEOPLE IN INDIA

ROM 7:18-20, NLT

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

Pray that many from the Lodha people will, despite their sin nature, turn to the only one who can deliver them from it!

iStock/Ruzanna



Would you agree that praying for the large, highly unreached frontier people groups (FPGs) can be confusing and chaotic? We just promised you a prayer guide for

FPGs in southern and eastern India, and day one is featuring the Lodha people who live mainly in the north! Such things happen when the list of FPGs is changing with new information regarding population and evangelization status.

The status of the Lodha people is also confusing and contradictory. They claim Rajput ancestry which would give them high status in Hindu society, but others regard them as “Other Backward Castes” which gives them somewhat low status. That low status is working in their favor since they are good at taking advantage of government-sponsored opportunities for higher education and lucrative government jobs. Many of them are still involved with agricultural work like tending to orchards, cleaning lentils, and drying and selling grass, but others work in New Delhi offices or own small grocery stores.

In spite of the confusion that surrounds the Lodha people, one thing is for sure: God loves them, even though they are dedicated to the Hindu religious system and have been for centuries.

Pray for Christ's ambassadors to go to the Lodha people and help them prosper spiritually through family Bible studies and a church planting movement.—KC

BHANDARI PEOPLE

What does a Hindu god do when he gets thirsty? According to legend, when the Hindu god Shiva was thirsty he turned a drop of



iStock/Travel Wild

his sweat into the first Bhandari man. Shiva then created a palm tree and the Bhandari climbed up the tree to get the god a sweet drink. Shiva also put the Bhandari man in charge of his treasury. The word Bhandari means “Keeper of Treasure.”

Today most Bhandari live in the east central Indian state of Odisha. Their main language is Odia but many also speak Hindi, Bengali, and English. The Bhandari consider themselves to be Kshatriyas, the second highest caste grouping in Hinduism. They occupy some of the highest positions in Indian society as politicians, business owners, lawyers, military officers, police officers, and administrators. The Bhandari take pride in their Hindu identity and traditions. These could hinder their openness to the claims of Christ.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to work powerfully through those ministering to the Bhandari people. Pray that strong disciple-making movements will bring entire Bhandari families into rich experiences of God's blessings. Pray that many of the Bhandari people will come to love God with their whole being and will walk in His ways.—DK

1 PT 5:5-6, NLT

And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor.

Pray the Lord humbles the Bhandari and that He brings many of them into His kingdom.

GURIA PEOPLE IN INDIA

PS 19:10, NLT

They (God's laws) are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.

Pray the Lord moves the Guria to hunger for and taste the spiritual sweetness of God's Word.

iStock/HemantMandot



Indian sweets

Our Creator seems to have given all humans the desire to find and eat sweet tasting foods. In

India a caste of people who make and sell candy and sweets are called the Guria. Candy and sweets play a part in many Hindu holidays and family ceremonies such as births and weddings. When a Hindu person, even the highest caste Brahmans, needs candy for a special occasion, he or she may go to a shop owned by a Guria.

Some Guria have left their ancient profession and now work as merchants, traders, administrators or public officials. Most Guria fit into the Indian middle class. Others who own large candy businesses and factories would be in the upper class.

The primary language of the Guria is Odia. Many of them also speak Hindi, Bengali, and English. Speaking these languages help Guria businesspersons in their economic ventures. A complete Bible became available in the Odia language in 2004. The JESUS Film is also available in Odia.

Pray for Odia materials to get in the hands of the right Guria people. Pray for Discovery Bible Studies to spread rapidly and bless Guria families with understanding of His word. Pray the Lord will give Guria families understanding and responsive hearts as they hear about the love of Christ.—DK

GAUDA PEOPLE IN INDIA

If you ever thought all Hindus thought the same as one another,



iStock/Aroybarman

you haven't heard of the Gauda people! They eat beef rather than worshiping cattle. One of their main occupations is cattle-herding. They bury their dead, rather than cremating them. They worship mainly one god, Krishna, rather than multitudes of gods. Gaudas are landowners. Many do agricultural work; even their women and children are involved. Some individuals have professional careers and even participate in politics.

Gauda people prefer cross-cousin marriages. A Brahman priest officiates at their weddings. Divorce is allowed if their local council agrees to it. Widows and widowers can marry again.

Their main language is Odia, and there are many ministry tools available in their language including the JESUS Film and God's Story Video. Particularly exciting are online resources: Online New Testament and Online Scripture (Talking Bibles). Today, one can listen in privacy to Christian messages with smart phones, reducing the threat of exposure that new believers face.

Pray that the Gauda people will find these resources and open their hearts to Jesus. Pray that soon they will have their own disciple-making movement that spreads far and wide.—KH

ROM 13:14, NLT

Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

Pray that the Gauda people will clothe themselves with the Lord's presence!

RAJU PEOPLE IN INDIA

ROM 15:8-9, NLT

Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises He made to their ancestors. He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for His mercies to them.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to raise up many servant missionaries to go to the Raju people.

iStock/kaetana_istock



Their name comes from the word Raja which means “king.” Their history records royal dynasties, an ex-warrior caste, and

influential communities with political power. Raju people are not vegetarians like many high-status Hindus. They prefer to marry cousins. Everyone must get along with their cousins, since they are not allowed to divorce! Their main work is in agriculture. They also work in government and private sectors. A community association looks after their interests. Education is an important part of their culture.

They are almost completely Hindu in their religion. Written, audio, and visual Bible resources are available in their Bengali language; however, there are no known believers in Christ among them.

Persecution is rising in India. This will make it more difficult to reach Raju people with the gospel. Those who would believe will also have to pay a high price by being rejected by their families and communities; some might lose their jobs. Who will tell them why Jesus is worth it all?

Pray for the Lord to bless Raju families with His presence and mercy. Pray for Bible believing fellowships among the Raju people to spread far and wide. Pray for a movement among them in which the Holy Spirit will lead and empower disciples to make more disciples.—KH

KOLTA PEOPLE IN INDIA

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Aahna sat among the trees and plants in the courtyard, pensively thinking about plans for her wedding that would soon occur in that place. It would be beautiful with greenery and flowers everywhere, much food and music; everyone would celebrate with Aahna and Kumar as they began their new life together. She could almost hear the lively sounds of drums, stringed instruments, and flutes, and feel the excitement and joy of dancing at the upcoming wedding celebration! Perhaps the gods would change their minds and send rain. She would go to the temples more often than ever to offer sacrifices.

Aahna is part of the Koltas, a land-owning community that is mainly engaged in cultivation and livestock rearing. Some are teachers, engineers, and doctors. They share the same religious shrines with other communities. Kolta people profess Hinduism and worship Ganesh, Lakshmi, Samaleswari, Patneswari, and others. They are almost completely Hindu in their beliefs and practices. There are written, audio, and visual Bible resources in their language, however there are no known believers in Lord Jesus Christ among them.

Pray blessings on Kolta families with His presence and mercy. Pray that soon there will be an unstoppable movement to Christ in their communities.—KH



istock/Madkruben

DAY
06

ROM 1:8, NLT

Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in Him is being talked about all over the world.

May this soon be true of the Kolta people of India.

KHANDAIT PEOPLE

LUKE 7:44-47, NLT

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

Pray for the Khandait people to understand this powerful message of the Lord.

iStock/Sisoje



million in number and entirely Hindu. These folks live in eastern India, principally in Odisha and West Bengal.

Originally affiliated with the Moghul Empire as soldiers, they retained that position under the British Raj. Today they are mostly lower caste landowners, but also soldiers, police, educators, politicians, and commercial fishermen. Although the Bible and gospel tracts and resources are available in their languages, their anti-Christian attitude and proselytizing zeal work against reaching them for Christ. But they value hospitality and having their feet washed at weddings by lower caste men. Perhaps Luke 7:44-47 might be a "bridge of God" to help them understand the teachings of Jesus.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften their attitude toward Christ so they will consider His claims on their lives. Pray that a "bridge of God" will be found to get a gospel hearing among the Khandait people. May their Hindu evangelists have a Saul/Paul conversion experience that will lead them to take Christ to unreached peoples.—TP

KASAR PEOPLE

With the invention of the automobile, buggy makers either switched to making cars or they went out of business. So



Inside a Kali temple

iStock/Suprabhat Dutta

it is with the Kasar people for whom we pray today. With the rising cost of copper, they need to change occupations and trades because their copper wares are being priced out of a market. The Kasar (meaning copper) people number some 400-600,000, only two out of 10,000 are disciples! They have 22 sub-groups, divided into multiple castes ranging from Kshatriyas (second highest) to Dalits ("untouchables")—determined by each state in which they live. Like many Hindus, they are polytheists, mainly worshipping two gods; Kali and Vishnu-Ram-Krishna. They are gospel-engaged but still unreached. The Bible, JESUS Film, Gospel Recordings, and radio are available in their languages.

Pray that these folks will get more relevant job skills so they can leave copper-smithing for something with a better future. Pray for them to get more educational opportunities. Pray that believers will open job training to them and that they take advantage of it, finding the goodness of God in the process. Pray for them as a community to experience God, and decide as a group to follow the only Savior, Jesus Christ.—TP

ROM 2:29B, NLT

No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

Pray for a change of heart among Kasar family leaders that will result in their communities being blessed by the Savior.

VANJARA PEOPLE

ROM 1:17, NLT

This good news tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

Pray for the Lord to give the gift of faith to the Vanjara people.

Nabin Chandra Narayan Giri



Can you see the forest for the trees? This is not the first time we

have prayed for a people named for where they live. Vanjara means forester, people of the forest, and in ancient days, the forest provided them their livelihood. But much has changed for them through the centuries. Even before the British took over India, they were engaged in trade, shipping, raising cattle, and growing grain. With the British came the railroad and with the railroad the Vanjara left shipping. Some kept cattle, selling their milk. Others wove bamboo mats and baskets. Thus, the Vanjara were open to change and adjusted accordingly. Despite these changes and advances, they still qualify for "reservations" of a certain number of jobs.

Numbering some 940,000, the Vanjara are 100 percent Hindu in culture and faith. They celebrate Hindu holy days and worship Shiva and Pavati.

Pray that these people who have adjusted to change will embrace the Savior. Pray that the Vanjara come to realize that only Christ can break the cycle of reincarnation and offer eternal blessings. Pray they take advantage of Bible resources. Pray for a spiritual breakthrough for the Vanjara people this decade that will lead to a disciple-making movement.—TP

KACHHI PEOPLE

If you Google the Kachhi people, the first result is a Wikipedia entry that describes them

as vegetable growers and then goes on to provide a paragraph about their origin myth. According to the entry, they believe themselves to be descended from an avatar (i.e., embodiment of the same substance) of Vishnu, one of the three main Hindu gods. That provides us with information for prayer!

First, the Kachhi are a rural people, many of them engaging in subsistence farming. That means we probably won't find many of them in urban centers. Mission workers must go into the countryside to meet and minister to the Kachhis. Another tidbit we can glean from Wikipedia is that the Kachhi believe they are the offspring of Vishnu, a Hindu god.

Wouldn't it be amazing if, in a short time, the Wikipedia article had to be edited and amended to include the sudden, explosive growth of knowledge among the Kachhi that they must become the children of God rather than the children of Vishnu?

Ask God to send His Spirit to speak to the hearts of the Kachhi, sparking a movement to Christ that can't be stopped. Pray for great numbers of the six million in this people group to put their trust in Christ alone.—CL



iStock/Duy Doan

DAY
10

ROM 1:20, NLT

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Pray that these vegetable growers will look to the Lord and give Him thanks for His eternal power and invisible qualities.

KIRAR PEOPLE

ROM 2:4 NLT

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

Pray that God's patience and kindness will be revealed to the Kirar people so that they will give their hearts to Him!

iStock/ClaudineVM.jpg



If you aren't familiar with the Kirar people, perhaps you recognize one of their seven subgroups: Dhakar, Karod, Chauria, Dhakad, Karan, Vidura, Choria.... While there are estimated to be a million members of this

people group living in India, they tend to blend into Indian society. How would you know a Kirar if you encountered one in India? You probably wouldn't.

They are a “backward” caste, denoting their social and educational disadvantages. Because of their low caste standing, the government reserves special jobs for them. Despite this, most are still farmers.

What is remarkable is that God knows the Kirar. He recognizes them because He made them to be a unique people for His purposes. Thankfully, He knows where they are and how to reach them with the good news of His love and salvation.

Pray for God to speak clearly to the Kirar in ways that they cannot miss or avoid. Ask Him to reveal Himself to their family leaders and activate in them a desire to know their Creator and Savior. Pray for a great awakening among Kirar families that will quickly sweep through this people group and spill over into many others in India.—CL

PANIKA PEOPLE

(This story illustrates truths about this people.)

The boy spoke hesitatingly to his father. “My friends aren’t like us. They are Muslim and Hindu. They say that because we are neither Muslim nor Hindu, we are destined for hell.” His father, who was cleaning ears of corn, looked up sharply and declared, “Your friends are wrong!” “I tried to tell them, but they won’t listen. They say Saint Kabir was a fake.” His father put down the corn and replied, “What have I taught you?” “Saint Kabir was a wise mystic, a seeker of truth who was on the path of righteousness,” the boy recited from rote. “Very good. Tell that to your so-called friends, for they are clearly not on the path of righteousness.”

The Panika people follow an unusual religion founded by Kabir, a man who lived in the 1400s and who criticized both Islam and Hinduism. He chose to blend pieces of both into a new religion of his own. They believe that through good behavior and meditation they will attain fulfillment.

Pray for workers to go to Panika elders who are seeking spiritual truth. Ask God to shine His light into their lives so that their families can enjoy God’s eternal blessings. Pray for God’s Spirit to sweep through this people group, drawing multitudes into disciple-making movement throughout the 2020s.—CL



StockDishant_S

ROM 1:7, NLT

I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be His own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

May the Lord give grace and peace to the Panika people. May they find the only one who can show them the true path to righteousness.

KOLI PEOPLE

LUKE 5:4, NLT

He said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Pray that God softens the hearts of the Koli, whose name means fisherman, that they might become part of His mighty catch among India's many communities.

iStock/Manu_Bahugun



How do the Koli people maintain their traditional lifestyle in the modern, globalized

world that India is morphing into? Koli fishermen are the original inhabitants of Mumbai, a city of 18.4 million. Major new building projects in Mumbai pose a significant threat to the fishing trade that has supported the Kolis for centuries.

An estimated 2.26 million Hindu Kolis reside throughout India, mainly in towns and villages of western states that include Maharashtra and Gujarat. They live a simple life as fishermen, laborers, agriculturalists, water carriers or boatmen. Though some are educated and well-positioned, most occupy the low strata of society.

Nearly all Koli people practice Hinduism, with a very small number following Islam. In addition to worshipping certain Hindu deities, the Koli also believe in ghosts and spirits. The entire Bible, the JESUS Film, and audio Bible teachings are all available in Hindi, the primary language of the Koli people.

Ask that God stirs Indian fellowships to pray for the Koli and that prepared workers be sent to Koli villages throughout India. Pray the Lord raises up Koli evangelists to reach their own people. Pray that disciple-making movements arise that will powerfully bless entire Koli communities.—CR

MAHRATTA KONKANI PEOPLE

As Jesus looked ahead to the cross, he promised His faithful followers that, “I will not abandon you as orphans, I will come to you.” Jn 14:18, NLT



Growing onions

iStock/Nikhil Patil

JOHN 14:1, NLT

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

Pray that the Hindu Mahratta Konkani people will be given the blessed gift of faith in God the Father and Jesus Christ, the only Savior. May they find comfort in Him alone!

This promise would most certainly apply to the Mahratta Konkani people in west-central India.

While this unique people group remains unreached into the 21st century, they do have the JESUS Film, a full Bible translation, and other Christian literature in their own Marathi language. They are not abandoned by God! However, they need to see believers demonstrating how the gospel affects their lives, and prayer groups to intercede for them.

The 562,000 Mahratta Konkani are generally meat eaters who choose to marry their cousins. Working mostly in agriculture, they support themselves by selling their crops. A few work in local businesses and government. They are 99.97 percent Hindu according to Joshua Project. They are governed by a group of elders.

Pray that Mahratta Konkani council elders would come to full faith in Christ and bring others with them to form a church planting movement. Pray that Christian radio broadcasts would strengthen secret believers to begin to disciple family members and neighbors. Pray for prayer leaders to adopt the Mahratta and engage in intense intercession on a regular basis.—JY

DHIMAR PEOPLE

ROM 8:26, NLT

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Pray that despite your weaknesses, God will use your prayers to bless the nations today!

iStock/Supratim



Here's a word for your next Scrabble game, should you find yourself with a P, an

L, two N's, and the dreaded Q: palanquin. When your fellow players accuse you of making up words, you phlegmatically intone, "Why, that's palanquin (PAL-ung-keen), as in 'One of the palanquin-bearers, exhausted from a day of carrying the overfed raja (local king) in the stifling Indian heat, stumbled over a rock. The raja fell out of the palanquin and all the bearers were summarily fired.'"

The Dhimar people in India used to be palanquin bearers. When this form of transportation became outmoded, the people adapted to the need of the times by becoming boatmen and fishermen. Their boats are simple—long and narrow (just wide enough for one man), and the boatmen stand to propel themselves by pushing their oar into the riverbed. Occupations have continued to evolve, and today, the Dhimar are water-carriers, rope weavers, and grindstone sharpeners.

What hasn't changed over the ages is their commitment to Hinduism. In some areas, resistance to outside religions reaches the point of persecution.

Please pray that the Dhimar, who have many physical and economic needs, will also recognize their spiritual needs that can only be satisfied in Christ. Ask God to open the spiritual eyes of Dhimar family leaders to the blessings offered by Jesus.—CMW

JULAHA PEOPLE

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Aditya sat down and sighed. Life was changing irreversibly, and he didn't like what he saw. Ever since he could remember, his family had been weavers. He remembered watching his grandfather weave on the wooden loom. Then his father took over when



iStock/yogesh

Weaver

grandfather's eyes became blurry and his hands became shaky. They were respected for their quality weaving. Gradually, Aditya had grown into the business. But for the last few years, work had been falling off because of new machines that could work much faster. Aditya's neighbor, also a weaver, hadn't worked for months and finally had to accept a job building roads, something the government called progress. Another neighbor had been hired to chop down trees. Something didn't seem right about chopping trees, but it, too, was "progress."

Aditya is from the Julaha people. Their name means "ball of thread," and they have been noted for weaving intricate designs and bold colors, but mechanization is changing life for them, and they have had to accept other kinds of work. The Julaha are Hindus and Sikhs.

Pray that entire Julaha families will come to faith in the God who clothes the grass, for He will also clothe them (Luke 12:28). He can provide for their livelihood, and more importantly, give their communities abundant spiritual life.—CMW

ROM 8:32, NLT

Since He did not spare even His own son but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?

Pray that in this time of changes for the Julaha people, that they will seek and find Christ to guide them.

BAHNA PEOPLE IN INDIA

EC 7:7, NLT

Finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride.

Pray that the Lord will reward the patient Bahna people will the chance to begin anew with Jesus Christ as their guide.

iStock/1827photography



Cotton and seeds

If you look up old-fashioned cotton production, you will learn that removing the seeds from the cotton is

slow, tedious work. One video on YouTube shows an Indian woman crouched on the ground in front of a wooden board. She places a handful of raw cotton onto the board, then with a thin metal “rolling pin,” rolls back and forth until a dozen seeds (each one about the size of a grain of rice) separate from the cotton. The main occupation of the Bahna people, whose name means “seed,” used to be separating the seeds from cotton. While the work was laborious, it provided for the people. Then machines came along that made the work easier, but this meant unemployment for some.

The Bahna are considered Dalits. A government mandate provides funding for social, economic, and educational development of members of such communities. The Bahna are Hindu and worship many gods. They believe that through good works, they can attain freedom from the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. A few Bahna have accepted Christ’s eternal new life.

Pray that God will strengthen those few, and that they will have the courage to share the gospel with their unsaved family and friends. Pray for a movement to Christ among the Bahna people this decade.—CMW

HINDU BEDAR PEOPLE

DAY
18

If you want an example of how Hindu peoples are too complex for Westerners to understand, think about



istock/Omer Serkan Bakir

the Hindu Bedar people! They live all over India's southern and western states, and their language is a blend of two major languages of India. Bedar is only one of their many names, and they have six social divisions. Many are village policemen, yet some have been known to sell their daughters into prostitution. They are very likely to be employed as servants, traders, messengers, police or soldiers, jobs that span a broad range of castes.

Their myth states that the founder of their people group, Kannayya, was a hunter and also a devotee of the Hindu god Shiva. Shiva was pleased with his devotion, so he granted him two wishes. He asked that his people would be good shots, and their land would grow much corn with little work or water.

Where is their identity? This people group is considered to be 100 percent Hindu according to Joshua Project. It is very possible that they identify with Hindu gods, especially Shiva, also known as "the destroyer."

Pray that soon these people will put their trust and their identity in the one who gave them life and wants their families to have life to the full. Pray for a disciple-making movement.—KC

ROM 5:16-17, NLT

And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.

Pray that the Bedar people will trade their sin for the free gift of forgiveness from the Sovereign God.

BALIJA PEOPLE

ROM 16:26-27, NLT

But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey Him. All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

Pray for the Balija people to hear, believe, and obey!

iStock/VSananthakrishna



Surnames in India often denote the clan or caste of a person. The surnames of Chetty,

Naidu, Nayudu or Naicker are a sign that these individuals are members of the Balija people. They are Hindu, but the fact that they are not vegetarians and are allowed to drink alcohol indicates their low caste status in southern India where most are found. Although caste is no longer legally recognized in India, it is very much alive as evidenced by the matrimonial websites that emphasize caste for arranging appropriate marriages. Pictures are posted by proud parents boasting of the accomplishments of their sons and daughters.

As far as we know, there are few, if any, believers among the Balija people. Their clan is still largely unreached, but with the interactions of many clans in today's workplaces, they undoubtedly intermingle with others who have been introduced to Jesus. The best chance for reaching the Balija is for believers of another clan or caste to intentionally befriend them and share the good news that Jesus offers them.

Pray for meaningful encounters for the Balija with those who truly follow Christ. Pray that their lifestyle will draw the Balija to want to know more about what makes them different, so that they too can know the salvation that Jesus offers. Pray for a movement to Christ among the Balija people.—JS

BASOR PEOPLE

DAY

20

The Basor woman was weaving her bamboo basket when suddenly she was summoned, “Come quick!” She was being called to deliver a baby. She hoped that it was not another young girl giving birth. Many of them did not survive the birthing process.



iStock/JeremyRichards

ROM 5:3-4, NLT

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Make this your prayer for the suffering Basor people.

Child marriages are accepted among the Basor caste. Most Basor women depend on members of other castes to be their midwives. High alcohol consumption complicates many pregnancies. Their name Basor is actually derived from the word “bamboo.” They are traditional bamboo workers and basket weavers. They usually live on the outskirts of villages where they ply their trade.

They are among the Dalits, and their literacy levels are much lower than the national average. Due to their illiteracy and poverty, they are entitled to ration cards and basic utilities which the government provides, but they are mainly ignorant of many opportunities. They are Hindu, and there are no known believers among them. The Basor people desperately need someone to share the hope that they can have in Jesus Christ.

Pray that believers will be called to proclaim the hope of Jesus to these people who have so little hope. Pray that the bondage to alcoholism would be broken and that it will be replaced by hope and joy in the Holy Spirit. Pray for a disciple-making movement among them this decade.—JS

GANGAKULA PEOPLE

MT 4:18-20, NLT

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed Him.

Pray that many Gangakula become believers in Christ and the Lord sends them out to “catch” men, women and children to become part of His blessed family.

iStock/Yash Kakadiya



Fishing boats in India

The group of boats headed out early in the morning hoping to get a good catch for that day. Later they would take their haul

to the village market to sell. All of these fishermen are Gangakula, one of the Koli peoples (see day 31), and members of a low “untouchable” caste. They have been fishermen in the south Indian state of Karnataka for hundreds of years. In fact, the word Koli actually means “boat” in Sanskrit. Some younger members of the caste are taking advantage of an education and even pursuing professional careers as doctors and teachers, but the majority still work as fishermen. They fish in rivers and lakes as well as the ocean. They even act as ferrymen, ferrying people across rivers where there is no bridge.

The Gangakula are Hindu and celebrate all of the traditional festivals and major holidays. They need a holy dissatisfaction with their spiritual lot in life that will give them a hunger for the gospel message when they hear it.

Pray for God to send missionaries and teachers to help the Gangakula escape their spiritual and physical poverty. Pray that they will see Christ’s love in the lives of these workers and respond by embracing Christ. Pray for them to have a movement to Christ in the 2020s.—JS

KALAL PEOPLE

The people groups of India are often divided by occupation. Each group has a traditional niche, a role that they play. For the Kalal, that role is the production and distribution of alcoholic beverages. Not surprisingly, many are alcoholics. Since the consumption of alcohol is frowned upon by many Hindus, the Kalal have branched out into other professions such as farming, law, military, and politics. Though the majority of Kalal live in southern India, they are spread widely over the country and can be found throughout the nation.



A distiller in India

iStock/piphix

ROM 1:21, NLT

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will work among Kalal families, giving them a holy dissatisfaction with their spiritual beliefs that will lead them to the cross.

The Kalal maintain the Hindu tradition of arranged marriages, and they tend to marry within their community. Most marriages are monogamous (with one husband and one wife), and most couples start out living with or near the husband's family.

The Kalal are Hindu. Of the pantheon, they worship primarily Vishnu in his incarnations (Rama and Krishna). Durga, a form of Kali, is worshiped during the festival of Navratri.

Pray for spiritual awakening and hunger amongst these people, and that they would discover the reality of Christ and His kingdom. Pray for freedom from alcoholism and for stronger families. Pray for believers from southern India to reach out to the Kalal people producing a strong church planting movement that will spread throughout India.—BK

ROM 2:14-15, NLT

Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know His law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

Pray that the Idiga Kalal people will instinctively obey the Lord and begin the process of turning to Him.

IDIGA KALAL PEOPLE

iStock/IvonMurgesa



Andhra Pradesh

In the Hindu caste system, if your parents are poor, you will be poor. If they are rich and powerful, you will be

too. Although the caste system has been officially abolished, its effects still linger, evidenced by prejudicial treatment given to one group over another. Though it's impolite to talk about caste, it's very much a reality in today's India.

Typically the caste system divides people on the basis of their occupations. The Idiga Kalal are historically tied to the distillation and sale of liquor and had a very low status. They tried to raise their status by claiming different origins. During the British rule, the Idiga Kalals took up a variety of occupations, including trade, agriculture, and government service.

The Idiga are a subgroup of the Kalal living in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Like many low caste Hindus, they are not vegetarians, but they do cremate their dead like any good Hindu.

The Idiga Kalal speak, read and write in Telugu, the main language of Andhra Pradesh. There are numerous Christian resources available in this major language, including Bibles and Christian teaching in video, audio, and print forms. Yet, there are no known followers of Christ among these Hindu people.

Pray for a spiritual breakthrough among the Idiga Kalal and that whole families will turn to the Lord.—AHS

RATHAWA PEOPLE

DAY
24

The

Rathawa people are friendly to outsiders and honor guests with abundant food, but don't try to marry their girls! They only marry within their own clan.



iStock/Imnunes

ROM 12:9, NLT

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

Pray that as the Rathawa people respond to the gospel, that they will excel in love!

Rathawa means "Forest Dweller." Many Rathawa are now landless agriculture laborers. Others are small and medium-scale farmers. They are classified as a scheduled tribe. This indicates they are near the bottom of the Hindu caste system.

A typical Rathawa house is on elevated ground, has no windows, and is surrounded by 40-50 similar houses and a tall fence. Normally they live close to their fields and palm trees, but as far away from tamarind trees as possible because they believe these trees are haunted by spirits.

Rathawa are nominally Hindus but they also follow their own folk traditions, like other tribal communities of the region. There are no known followers of Christ among them. There is also no Bible available in the Rathwali language. However, the Jesus Film Project has produced several videos in Rathwali, including their two-hour film of Luke's Gospel. There are plenty of Christian resources available in their secondary languages, like Gujarati and Hindi.

Pray that many Rathawa will have opportunities to watch the JESUS Film. Pray they will soon have an unstoppable movement to Christ in the 2020s.—AHS

DAY 25

HINDU DARZIS

ROM 1:28, NLT

Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, He abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.

Pray that by the Lord's mercy that He will give Darzi people the spiritual discernment to worship the Living God rather than objects.

iStock/bluesky85



Would you worship the tools of your trade? The Hindu Darzi people do! Before begin-

ning his day's work, a Darzi tailor will bow to the tools of his trade—scissors, sewing machine and needle—and pray to them for a bountiful livelihood. The word Darzi means to sew. Not surprisingly, their main occupation is tailoring.

They benefit from Indian government developmental programs related to electricity, clean drinking water, and subsidized banking. The Public Distribution System provides them with food and other essential items.

Except for Darzi Muslims living in Uttar Pradesh, most Darzis are Hindu. In addition to their tools, they worship several of the Hindu gods and observe the main Hindu holidays. Most Darzi speak the major language of the state where they live. There are plenty of Christian resources available in each of these languages, yet there are no known followers of Christ in Darzi families.

Pray that God will direct the Darzi to find gospel materials in their own languages. Pray that hearts will be softened by the words of life and they will respond by beginning family based fellowships that will spread throughout all Darzi communities.—AHS

SALI PEOPLE

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

Examining a number of silk sarees

in a prestigious shop located in Andhra Pradesh, the English buyer wanted to know more about the exquisite weave designs of the silk cloth and the Sali people who created them. Kajil, a Sali and shop owner explained. “We are well known in India for our handloom and silk cloth weaving industry. Our name Sali means spider, related to weaving a web. Today most of our cloths are woven on industrial looms, but we still maintain the artistic design and color. The gold thread you see in the cloth is created by wrapping a cotton thread covered with gold foil around a thin silver or copper wire. The vivid colors come from various plants and roots.”

With a population of 1.2 million, the majority of Hindu Sali people live in southern and western India. Since they have scheduled caste status, they receive special privileges in the areas of education and employment. A few are farmers. This Hindu people fears that Christianity will divide and damage their families.

Pray for the Sali people to understand that a relationship with Christ will strengthen their families with love. Pray for family based Bible studies to spread throughout their communities.—PD



iStock/katoosha

ACTS 16:14, NLT

One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.

Pray for the Lord to raise up many “Lydias” among the Sali people, who will use their influence to spread Christ’s fame.

MUTRASI PEOPLE

2 COR 9:10A, NLT

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

Pray for the Lord to provide an abundant harvest this year for the Mutrasi people—not only for their crops, but also for their spiritual lives. May they become generous with their new spiritual wealth!

iStock/Kailash Kumar



(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The Mutrasi farmer

Rushik was enjoying a break with his friend Modak while harvesting vegetables near their village in Andhra Pradesh. Modak noticed that the cucumbers and tomatoes Rushik was eating were large and juicy. Rushik offered Modak a tomato. After tasting it, he asked, “where did you get these vegetables?” Rushik replied, “My wife has a small garden in back of our house. She doesn’t use the fertilizers like we do in the fields, so they taste better. She earns money by selling them to rich people in the city.”

There are over 5.5 million Mutrasi people spread across 15 states in India, and farming is their main occupation. In recent years their soil has become more saline because of excess fertilizers. Frequent droughts have added to their problems. They are now addressing these problems.

Mutrasis worship Hindu gods and their ancestral spirits. The gospel is available to them and a small number follow Jesus.

Pray for Mutrasi families to enjoy the blessings of Christ, and for a disciple-making movement to flourish in their communities and spread to others. Pray for them to access God’s word, study it, and apply it.—PD

VISWAKARMA ASARI PEOPLE

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The

Viswakarma

Asari groom, Birju, was overwhelmed with joy as he placed a garland of jasmine on his beautiful bride, Suchandra. Then the couple were showered with yellow rice by the wedding party. Following Hindu custom, the couple walked around a small bonfire seven times indicating they would stay together through life. Then, picking up an elegant silver diamond toe ring from a small pillow, Birju bowed down and placed it on the second toe of Suchandra's right foot. This was followed with the Bidai (goodbye) ritual when Suchandra said farewell to her family.

The Hindu wedding ceremony is especially important to the 701,000 Vishwakarmas Asari people of southern India. They maintain strong Hindu traditions dating back to the late Vedic period, about 500 BC. They initially were engaged in the trades of metal, wood, and stone to create exquisite works of art as goldsmiths, coppersmiths, sculptors, and carpenters. Many of them today work in the field of engineering and businesses related to jewelry production.

Pray that God's word will be accepted by the Vishwakarmas Asari, and that their families will accept the blessings of Jesus Christ, the only savior. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless them with a disciple-making movement this decade.—PD



iStock/Danielrao

2 COR 11:2, NLT

For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God Himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.

Pray for the Viswakarma Asari people to soon become a faithful part of the bride of Christ.

NADAR PEOPLE

PS 90:1-2, NLT

Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God.

Pray that the Nadar people will make the Lord their home.

iStock/RajeshDhar



(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The young man jumped from behind

a wall, taking a mock martial arts pose. The middle-aged man jumped back, startled but angry. “Son, you must stop this!” “Father, I’m just playing. I just needed a break from my business studies.” The father turned, shaking his head, worried that his son’s cavalier approach to life and extra energy would lead him into the tribe’s typical work of climbing palmyra trees to collect sap instead of running a successful business.

Nearly three million Nadars live in India, mostly in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Many still live as tree climbers, often using the sugar they harvest to make palm wine. Some, however, seek education and subsequent government work. They are seen by the government as belonging to a backward caste, despite the socioeconomic strides they’ve achieved.

The Nadar people worship their claimed ancestor, Goddess Bhadrakail, who is pictured as a weapon-clad fierce warrior with three eyes. A small part of the Nadar people are believers.

Pray that these believers would be trained in discipleship and would disciple their Hindu neighbors. Pray for thousands of Nadar people to flee to Jesus.—LR

MANGALA PEOPLE

(This story illustrates truths about this people.)

Almost a happy family! One daughter worked part time as a midwife to help support her family. Another daughter played the flute for weddings on a contract basis. The last daughter already had a successful government position.

They are Mangala, meaning “happiness” in their Telugu language. Traditionally they were flute players, but now they do much more!

But the youngest daughter hid her anxiety. Through searching the internet, she had found a complete translation of the Bible in Telugu, and she had come to believe in Jesus. But she knew that her family and her Mangala society would not only reject her, but that she could potentially be found in violation of the state’s anti-conversion laws, ironically titled “freedom of religion and rights of tribal and other marginalized sections of the Indian society.” She needed her entire family to accept Jesus together. She knew too much to stop!

Close to two million Mangala live in India, primarily in Andhra Pradesh. They see themselves as being intrinsically tied to Hinduism.

Ask the Lord to open Mangala hearts. Pray that entire Mangala families would find the Savior together, leading them to disciple others in the faith.—LR



iStock/idealnabaraj

DAY
30

PS 90:14, NLT

Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives.

Pray that many from the Mangala people will be satisfied by the endless love of the Lord.

NAVITHAN PEOPLE

MATT 3:2, NLT

Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.

Pray that the Navithan people will heed the warning of John the Baptist this decade, leading to a disciple-making movement.



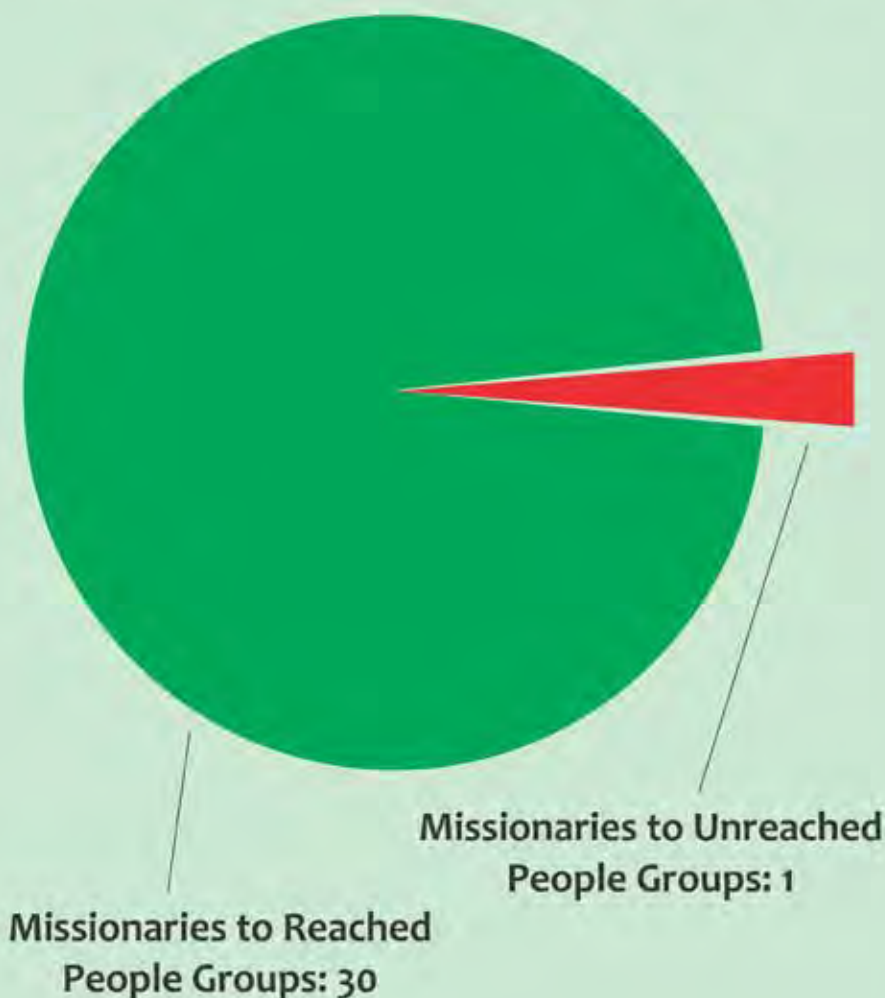
Snip snip... the scissors slid across the neck of the Brahman. The Navithan haircutter looked at the high caste man, while his shaggy haired friend peeked from around the corner, looking to see if the haircutter was ready for a tea break. Though low caste Shudras, the Navithan have always worked caring only for the three castes above them, formerly as physicians but in modern days as barbers. Many work in agriculture, while some pursue university education for careers in medicine, engineering, and law.

The Navithan people are also called Ambattan or Muthuvar. Speaking Tamil, there are nearly 800,000 of them. Most dwell in villages in the southern tip of India. They live for the yearly Hindu holidays. Hinduism is a major part of Navithan lives. They visit and pray in Hindu temples where they offer food, flowers, and incense to their gods. They also perform rituals to ward off evil spirits. All but a couple of the Navithans are thought to be Hindu; there are few known Christians among them.

Ask for God to establish thriving Bible-believing churches in the Navithan communities that will lead to a church planting movement in the 2020s. May they find their worth in serving the King of kings!—LR

The Great Imbalance

For every 30 missionaries to reached people groups there is only 1 to unreached people groups.



Subscribe!

Mission Frontiers is the magazine for serious disciples and servant leaders who want to see Jesus movements established in the 7,000 unreached peoples around the world.

Subscribe to MF and join the thousands of others who are part of this growing global effort to establish movements of discipleship and church planting in all peoples by 2025.



Currently, over 650 of these kinds of movement now exist with thousands more on the verge of becoming movements. With each issue of MF you will receive the tools, resources, key insights and inspiration you need to be an active participant in perhaps the greatest move of God in the last 2000 years.

Don't miss a single issue of Mission Frontiers. Subscribe today.

Go to **www.missionfrontiers.org** and click on the Subscribe button at the top right. You may also call 714-226-9782.

A minimum donation of \$24 is required for a subscription in the U.S., \$34 in Canada and international.