

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.

Global Prayer Digest

www.globalprayerdigest.org

November 2020 • Frontier Ventures • 39:11



Fill the Bowls of Incense for North Indian Hindus!

- 4—Meo People Blend Hinduism and Islam
- 13—Hindus Not Allowed in Hindu Temples
- 14—Why Mahar Hindus Became Buddhist
- 22—Use Your Saber for War or Gutting a Cow?
- 26—Satanis: Hinduism's Demoted Priests

PRAY FOR

A Disciple-Making Movement for Every People in North India



ODISHA, INDIA

(WEEK 15, NOV 7-13)

—by Justin Long, missionary researcher

Formerly called Orissa, this province is located on the east coast of India, on the Bay of Bengal. The east is a coastal plain with six major rivers. Most of Odisha is mountainous, with deep, fertile, heavily-populated valleys. It is more rural than most of India's other provinces. Scheduled castes, who are usually tribal in background, tend to live in rural areas. Scheduled castes make up about 20 percent of Odisha's population.

Bhubaneswar is the capital and largest city in Odisha. Cities tend to have more males due to the draw of migrant workers. Numerous manufacturing companies are located here. Its coastal location makes several export seaports possible. Odisha is rich in natural resources including steel and coal. 73 percent are literate, an increase from 49 percent in 1991. 47 percent are below the poverty line. Odisha is subject to cyclones and flooding.

This region of South Asia was conquered in 361 by Ashoka in the bloody Kalinga War. Since then it was ruled by various empires including the Gujarati, Mughal, and Bengal (1568). A severe famine in 1866 saw one million die. The modern province was created in 1936 as a province of British India cut out of Bihar.

- Pray for a movement to Christ among each of Odisha's 712 unreached people groups in the 2020s.
- Pray for workers to go to each of these people groups, and for persons of peace (welcomers) to step forward and allow workers into their communities.
- Pray for the spiritual eyes to open among leaders, opening the door for others to look to Christ for life's answers.

BACKGROUND

MAHARASHTRA: A LAND OF CONTRASTS

(WEEK 16, NOV 14-20)

—by Justin Long, missionary researcher

Maharashtra is a province with amazing contrasts. More than half of Maharashtra's districts are lightly populated rural areas. In these regions, agriculture and related industries—especially rice and sugar—are important to the state's economy. Most rural is Gadchiroli District, where there are significant concentrations of tribal populations. Then there is Mumbai, the wealthiest, most populous city in India, and eighth most populous in the world. Some believe it will be the largest city in the world by 2025. It already has over 20 million people, and it continues to grow. It is the financial center of India with a quarter of India's industrial output, three quarters of its maritime trade, and the Bollywood and Marathi film industry. Finance, technology and other knowledge-based industries are concentrated here, and education rates are high in Maharashtra.

Another driver for the economy is infrastructure. Maharashtra has a well-developed transportation system, with a massive road network, trains, and numerous airfields. An express train connects Mumbai with New Delhi. More than 95 percent of the villages and towns in Maharashtra are connected via roads and highways, giving relatively easy access to all areas within the state. Unsurprisingly, the city's employment opportunities are a huge draw for migrants both from inside and outside India, making it a cosmopolitan "melting pot." Unfortunately, the migrants who come to work in the cities often end up living in slums.

Maharashtra's Spiritual Climate

Maharashtra has several significant religious centers—shrines and pilgrimage destinations—which draw the devout (some, by the millions yearly). Tradition holds that Bartholomew (one of the original 12 disciples) brought Christianity to the north Konkan region of Maharashtra. A Roman Catholic community was growing in Maharashtra in the 6th century. In 1805, William Carey published a Marathi grammar, and in 1811 a New Testament in the language; Protestant missionaries first arrived in Maharashtra itself in 1813.

Operation World notes that Mumbai has the second largest Christian population of India's megacities. The actual number is undoubtedly larger than governmental estimates, yet still remains small and suffers from inconsistent growth.

Christianity is found mostly among Konkani and Marathi speakers, both of whom are heavily engaged and highly responsive. Nominalism is a challenge, and there is little cross-cultural outreach into unreached groups. Smaller tribal groups are being engaged, but many of the big peoples are not. Though there are networks with a vision and plans for reaching all of Maharashtra, internal divisions within the church are an obstacle.

- Pray for unity in the church that will draw others to Christ.
- Pray that all people groups in Maharashtra will have a movement to Christ during the 2020s.

TELANGANA: A NEW STATE WITH A 5,000 YEAR HISTORY!

(WEEK 17, NOV 21-27)

—by Keith Carey

When India gained her independence in 1947, the new leaders tried not to have states divided by language. Given India's long history where kingdoms and empires were often separated by language, the new rulers knew that there is a risk of states eventually demanding independence because of linguistic differences. That effort failed. The most recent state to be set apart by language is Telangana, meaning a place where Telugu is spoken. Yet Andhra Pradesh, the state Telangana was carved out of, also has a Telugu speaking majority! There are actually many reasons why the two became separate in 2014, but different sources conflict.

Telangana actually has a 5,000-year history. The Deccan Plateau, which was an important region in South Asian history, straddles several states including Telangana, but not Andhra Pradesh. That plateau had a strong Muslim population for hundreds of years, and that time period included powerful Muslim dynasties. Surprisingly, Muslims are now only 12 percent of Telangana's population today. (Muslims are more likely to live in neighboring Karnataka.) Hindus make up 85 percent of the population. Christians are only a little over one percent, which is unusually low for a state in India's south.

- Pray for a long-lasting movement to Christ among all 478 unreached people groups in Telangana.

CHINA'S GUIZHOU PROVINCE

A GREAT NEW BOOK ABOUT GUIZHOU PROVINCE
FROM ASIA HARVEST



(Week 18, Nov 28-Dec 4)

Guizhou Province is home to 35 million people and 80 tribes and ethnic groups. Asia Harvest, a key research group for China, has recently released a book about how the Lord has moved in Guizhou for the past 50 years.

We are glad to announce the second book in our series on the mighty revival that has swept China during the past 50 years. The China Chronicles are proving to be a great encouragement to many people and are enriching the spiritual lives of those who read them.

We have been entrusted, through hundreds of hours of interviews with church leaders throughout China, with many testimonies that have never been shared in public. It has been a great privilege to record the marvelous acts of the Holy Spirit, as God's kingdom has taken root and flourished in the world's most populated country.

The Guizhou book contains many inspirational testimonies. It contains the testimony of a Chinese pastor named Wu Liwen who spent 23 years in prison for his faith. Years later, God showed His faithfulness to Wu and used him to bring thousands of people from the Nosu tribe to faith in Jesus Christ.

Order the book and find out more! www.asiaharvest.org

***"The great new fact of our time is that
the Christian missionary movement from the majority
world is vital, growing, and far outnumbers
the movement from the West."***

—Paul E. Pierson, PhD, dean emeritus and senior professor of History of Mission
and Latin Studies, Fuller Theological Studies

MISSION HISTORY OF ASIAN CHURCHES

Timothy K. Park (Editor)

Mission History of Asian Churches is a collection of academic essays expounding and exploring the growing Asian missionary movement that began more than a century ago. Presented at the Second International Forum of the Asian Society of Missiology, these essays explore the mission history of Asian nations like China, India, the Indochina region, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, and Singapore, as well as the cross-cultural works of Asian missions and missionaries.

This book is a springboard to an in-depth discussion and analysis of the genesis and expansion of the cross-cultural missionary movements in Asia. It presents the coming-of-age of the Asian church as demonstrated by its way of participating in the Great Commission of Christ and its significant contributions to world mission amidst struggles and adversities.

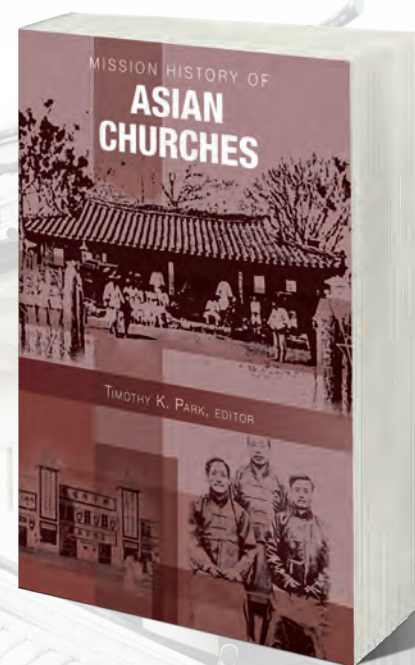
ISBN: 978-0-87808-470-8

WCL | Pages 256

Paperback 2011

LIST PRICE: \$17.99

OUR PRICE: \$14.39



WILLIAM CAREY
LIBRARY

Go to **missionbooks.org** for 20% off.
Call 1-866-730-5068 for bulk discounts.

William Carey Library is a ministry of Frontier Ventures

SANADHYA BRAHMANS IN HARYANA, INDIA

IS 62:2, NLT

The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

Pray that this blessing will soon come to the Sanadhya Brahmins.

istock/AwesomesSholz



(This story illustrates truths about this people.)

The celebration of Parshuram Jayanii is a commemoration

of the birth of Lord Parshuram, the 6th incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu. Harshab, a Sanadhya Brahmin, was getting married to Heena, a woman from a Sanadhya family on the first day of Parshuram Jayanii. After the wedding ceremony, which also included four other Sanadhya couples, Heena said to her new husband, “You are as handsome as Lord Parshuram, and he will bless us for getting married on the day of his birth.” Smiling, she placed a garland of flowers on a statue of Parshuram and prayed he would bless them.

The estimated 2,666,000 Sanadhya Brahmins live in the northern states of India, including Haryana, our focus this week. Many Sanadhyas are leaders in their communities in the areas of government, education, and business. They are highly recognized and respected by other Hindus as loyal Hindu priests and scholars. Strongly devoted to their Hindu gods, rituals, and festivals, they are not open to hearing or accepting the gospel.

Pray that the LORD will send prepared Christ followers to lead the Sanadhya Brahmins to understand that they must surrender their lives to the living God and His word.—PD

HINDU ARAIN PEOPLE IN HARYANA, INDIA

(This story illustrates truths about this people.)

In preparation for the Hindu festival of Holi,

Kiaan, an Arain Hindu, painted his face and arms with brilliant colors of yellow, green, and blue. He was enjoying a glass of bhang, which was a favorite drink served during Holi. He called out to his friend, “Jai, this is the best bhang I’ve ever tasted. How did you make it?” “I combined milk, almonds, marijuana, vanilla, cardamom, sugar, and mixed everything in a blender.”



Pouring bhang

istock/Dmitry Belyaev

Most of the 319,000 Hindu Arains live in the state of Haryana, India. Others reside in small numbers in Delhi, Punjab, and other states of India. They respect education and have become accomplished in the areas of business, teaching, law, politics, and government. Some Arains are involved in agriculture and have perfected the growing and cultivation of sugarcane, which has greatly benefited them financially.

Arains honor their gods with offerings, prayers, and religious festivals. Like many other Hindus in Haryana, they especially enjoy the spring festival of Holi. Surveys have indicated that there are no known followers of Christ among them.

Pray that believers will be shown the best way to reach them with God’s word and the gift of salvation found in Jesus. Pray for a movement to Christ.—PD

IS 66:19, NLT

I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations.

Pray for the Lord to speed the day when He thrusts out His ambassadors to all nations, including the Arains.

HINDU ARORAS IN HARYANA, INDIA

JER 8:5, NLT

Why then have these people turned away? Why does Jerusalem always turn away? They cling to deceit; they refuse to return.

Pray for the Hindu Aroras to turn to the Lord and accept His abundant blessings. Pray for a movement to Christ among them this decade.

iStock/Ondine32



(This story illustrates truths about this people.)

Farzeen, a successful Arora businesswoman, was looking over the

finished dresses that her small staff of women had completed. Smiling, she said, "Each of you has done an excellent job! I will be taking the floral prints to the showcase next week. I know the colors of the large flowers in the prints will be in demand." Proud of her achievement, Farzeen said, "I will be able to give each of you a bonus for all your hard work. My prayers and offerings to Lakshmi (Hindu Goddess of abundance, prosperity and wealth) have been answered. Next month I will be able to hire more help."

Resilient and hardworking, the estimated 4,028,000 Arora Hindus are prominently known in over 15 states of India, including Haryana. They have succeeded in many areas including business, manufacturing, finance, engineering, education, and entertainment. Aroras encourage their children to excel in their educational goals. Although some Aroras identify as Muslims or Sikhs, a high percentage are secularized Hindus. These Aroras are loyal to their Hindu gods, whom they feel have given them good fortune.

Pray that God will give guidance to believers in leading the Aroras to knowing the blessings and glory of God's Kingdom.—PD

HINDU AND MUSLIM MEO PEOPLE IN HARYANA, INDIA

When we look at the Meo people of India, we see confusion in their religion, values,

and lifestyle. Meo people represent a blending of Hinduism and Islam. Most profess beliefs of Islam, but the roots of their community are in their Hindu past, and some remain Hindu. They attempt serving the gods of both religions, abiding by both sets of laws. They are like sheep without a shepherd. Does this sound familiar? No historical records are available to explain when their conversion to Islam happened or why; it is generally believed they embraced Islam in the seventeenth century.

Meo people work as livestock farmers and are famous all over India for their cattle breeding. Some Meo own trucking businesses while some are in government service, including the military and police. Others work as skilled and unskilled daily wage laborers. A small number are plumbers and electricians, and some are known for their basketry.

Pray that the many followers of Lord Jesus would reach out intentionally to Meo people, lovingly exposing them to Christ, the absolute truth. Pray that this will be the time when their leaders will open the doors for a movement to Christ.—KH



iStock/Zuberka

MATT 6:9-10, NLT

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Pray that the Meo people will comprehend that only through Christ can they become God's forgiven children. Pray they would begin to focus their lives on God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will.

HINDU JAKHAR JATS IN HARYANA, INDIA

MATT 13:49, NLT

That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous.

Pray that at the end of the age, many among the Jakhar Jat people will be among the righteous ones whom the angels gather.

iStock/Nikhil Patil



"Men may come and men may go, but we go on forever," is a well-known Jat proverb, and the Jakhar Jats would heartily agree. They are brave, hardworking people who possess

both the desire and ability to rule. Jats do not want to be ruled, but to rule, and they are very good at it.

They take great pride in their ancestry. In fact, all the Jats in a particular village consider themselves to be the descendants of the man whom they believe founded it by the power of the sword. Most likely, Jakhar was such an ancestor for the Jakhar Jats.

These Hindus know little about the mightiest God, the Almighty Jehovah God, the creator of all that exists. They do not know that He loves them in spite of their pride, sent His son to lay down His life for their sins, and has authority to offer them eternal life as His beloved children. They do not know that they are without hope apart from Him.

Pray their hearts will be softened by the Holy Spirit and that He will give them the gift of a conviction of sin and righteousness. Pray Jakhar Jat people will be set free from themselves and from the enemy of their souls.—KH

TARKHAN PEOPLE IN HARYANA, INDIA

Tarkhan people have remained in spiritual darkness for many centuries, unaware of the one true God, who wants them to live in His peace, security, and fulfillment. He wants them to find the one who is the light and bask in His goodness!



A carpenter hard at work

iStock/LewisPulung

These hardworking people earn their meager living by various trades, largely by carpentry. They do not marry outside their community. They are described as "backward" by Indian government, meaning that they are behind other groups in literacy, economic standards, and social and cultural awareness. Much government aid is not available to them because such help is usually gobbled up by communities with more political clout. Some Tarkhans have reported themselves as "Christians" to the census of India, but there is no evidence of a viable, reproducing church among them.

Pray that mission agencies will make a way among Tarkhan people to address their health problems, poverty, and hopelessness that have held them back. May compassionate, loving disciples of Jesus be conduits of His grace and mercy. Pray that a number of believers would share the gospel with entire families who will in turn share it with others. Pray that Tarkhan leaders will become Jesus followers and lead their families to the Lord.—KH

MATT 27:54, NLT

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God."

Pray that like these Roman soldiers, many from the Tarkhan people will come to know and proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God.

BHOTTADA PEOPLE IN ODISHA, INDIA

COL 2:9, NLT

So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

Pray that the Bhottada find their completeness and well-being in a union with Jesus Christ.

iStock/MANORANJAN



are believed to be among the earliest peoples who came to settle in India. Their main occupation is agriculture with rice, millet, and potatoes as their primary crops. They add to their food supply by hunting and fishing. They also weave and sell baskets to obtain cash to buy things they cannot make for themselves. They marry only among their own group, often their cousins. The Bhottada who live in a multiethnic village live in a section by themselves so as to not lose their identity. They are a “scheduled backward caste,” which means they are given preference for certain public jobs and university admissions. Illiteracy is a major problem for the Bhottada.

The main language of the Bhottada is Kuvi. The New Testament and the JESUS Film are available in Kuvi. Almost all Bhottada are Hindus influenced by strong animistic elements.

Pray for a movement to Jesus to multiply among Bhottada families and communities. Pray that God will overthrow spiritual forces of darkness opposing the spread of His gospel among the Bhottada. Pray that the Lord sends workers to the Bhottada to meet their spiritual, educational and physical needs.—DK

What group of people continue to live as their ancestors did in forest areas of Odisha? The Bhottadas! The Bhottada people

MUNDA PEOPLE IN ODISHA, INDIA

The Munda are one of the largest tribal groups in the huge nation of India. They speak many different

languages. The language a particular sub-group speaks depends on where they live.

The Munda have traditionally been farmers, wood cutters, and basket weavers. Much of their land was taken away from them during India’s colonial period. As a result, many Munda cultivate land owned by others.

The Munda marry only within their group. As a tribal people, they are considered outside the Hindu religious system. The Munda are a tribal community, so they are eligible for public jobs and special university admission preferences. Not being able to read or write keeps many Munda out of India’s modernizing economy.

The majority of the Munda consider themselves Hindus. However, orthodox Hindus see the Munda as practicing a religion called Sarnaism, a religion of the holy woods or Sal trees. Followers of Sarnaism worship the Creator God and the Mother Earth Goddess in groves of trees.

Pray the Lord would lead workers to become friends with the Munda and help them with their medical, educational, and vocational needs. Pray the Munda believers would receive Bible and leadership training and be willing to plant churches among their people.—DK



iStock/Biswaranjan

PS 68:18, NLT

For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

Pray that the Holy Spirit opens the spiritual eyes of the Munda people to see the light of Christ.

PAN PEOPLE IN ODISHA, INDIA

MARK 6:41, NLT

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, He kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. They all ate as much as they wanted.

Pray for the Lord to multiply His blessings among the Pan people. Pray that these people come to Christ and internalize the Bread of life.

iStock/Paulprecott72



No, this is not about the Greek god Pan and pan pipes; nor is it about Spanish bread or cooking ware! Rather, today we are considering Indians

in India's eastern provinces, especially Odisha. The Pans number about 1.3 million, and they speak either Hindi or Oriya, the prominent language of Odisha. They are also known as Pano. They are Hindus, with only one per cent Christian. All have the same surname!

Some Pan are serfs. Yes, serfs in the 21st century (Serfdom is one step above slavery and ended in Europe in 19th century Russia). Others are wage laborers, who work and get paid on a daily basis. Some are musicians, playing for life-cycle ceremonies. Some are Dalits, lower caste peoples who have sometimes left Hinduism for Buddhism or Christianity in an attempt to escape caste stigma. A small number are now followers of Christ. No matter what their religious persuasion, the Pans have been persecuted and looked down upon by other communities. Clearly they need education, community development, respect, and the chance to allow Jesus to bless and transform their communities.

Pray for believers to be Christ's hands and feet by helping the Pans to improve their economic and social status. Pray for them to find the dignity of becoming part of God's loving family.—TP

KUNDAI PEOPLE IN ODISHA, INDIA

What's in a name? I

used to begin class by asking that question when I taught Black/African-American/ Afro-American,

American Indian/Amerindian/Native American, Mexican-American/Chicano studies classes. Names have meanings: Cook, Baker, Cooper, Smith, Kaiser. A cooper makes barrels, cooks and bakers prepare food, and smiths work metals.



iStock/Zzve

Today's people, the Kundai, have a name which means "swordsmen" and "landowner," which sound different, but in their historical context, it made sense. The Kundai, like ancient Roman soldiers or Medieval knights, were given land in exchange for military service, first under the Moghuls and later under the British. Today, while they own land, laborers from the lower castes work it for them. Some serve in the Indian military or in law enforcement, civil service, or education. Indeed, politics and education are both important to the 1.7 million Kundai, most of whom are Hindu (99.95 percent), despite the availability of gospel materials in their language.

Pray that the Sword of the Word would cut through their defenses and open them to blessings and the transforming power of Jesus. Pray that they be prepared soil for the Spirit of God to reap a harvest through believers who come to them bearing the name of the Prince of Peace.—TP

MARK 3:34, NLT

Then He (Jesus) looked at those around Him and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Pray that many from the Kundai people will accept Jesus' call to obey and join God's spiritual family.

KOLTA PEOPLE IN ODISHA, INDIA

MARK 9:7, NLT

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved son. Listen to Him."

Pray that elders from the Kolta people would listen to and obey God's voice. Pray they would believe in and follow God's beloved Son, Jesus.

iStock/Manojan Mishra



Farming in Odisha

have been praying the past two days. They also live in Odisha. According to Joshua Project, they are part of or related to the Pan peoples.

The Koltas live off the land. Some grow rice while others raise cattle or goats. Those not in agrarian pursuits make a living as professionals, such as teachers, engineers or doctors. They have their own community councils to look after their interests and ensure there is no deviant behavior. The Kolta are a Hindu people who worship Ganesh, the pot-bellied, elephant-headed god who overturns obstacles. He is a very popular god in India among many Hindu communities. They also worship other deities. Christian literature and media are available in their languages, but the Kolta people have yet to find the blessings of Jesus Christ.

Pray that the Lord will remove spiritual obstacles in the way of the Koltas. Pray that they may not fear the Jesus way and that they become devoted solely to Jesus. Pray that God will raise up Holy Spirit-led ambassadors who will reach the Koltas in culturally appropriate ways. Pray that a network of vibrant Christ-centered fellowships will soon be established among them.—TP

GANDA PEOPLE IN ODISHA, INDIA

If you're not familiar with the Ganda people group living in Odisha, India, their profile on the Joshua Project website might lead

you to believe that they no longer require our prayers and mission efforts. After all, there are some Christians among them, approximately six out of 1,000, which isn't bad for Odisha. The Bible is available in their heart language (Odia) in both written and audio form. Recorded Bible teachings are available, and the JESUS Film is ready to watch online.

It's tempting to believe that we should move along to another group—a group without such opportunities. But that's not how God works! He isn't satisfied with anything short of providing every member of every people group with the opportunity to be forgiven through His son, come into relationship, and experience eternal, abundant life. We've prayed for the Ganda before. And we will keep praying for them until they have all heard the good news. Why? Because God is patient. He doesn't want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Pray for the Lord to give us His patience and tenacity in reaching the Ganda. Pray for them to respond enthusiastically and with devotion. Pray for a powerful movement of His Spirit to sweep through their families.—CL



A member of a similar tribe in Odisha

iStock/Oscar Espinos

PHIL 4:9, NLT

Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers with the tenacity of the Apostle Paul to go to the Ganda people.

KANDRA PEOPLE OF ODISHA, INDIA

GAL 3:26-28, NLT

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Pray for this verse to have deep meaning to the Kandra people.

iStock/reddees



Statue of Vishnu and Lakshmi

(This fictional account is meant to illustrate the spiritual condition of this people.)

As they approached the temple, the young Kandra man whispered to his friend, “We won’t be allowed to enter.” “Of course, we will,” his friend shot back. “That old Brahman will never recognize us. Come on.” The Brahman priest stood at the steps and shook his head when they reached the temple. “No.” “But Vishnu welcomes all,” the friend replied. “Not you.” “We come like everyone else, seeking to worship.” “But you are not like everyone else,” the priest said, glaring now. “We are Hindus.” “You are Kandra. Go away.”

The Kandra people of Odisha are a scheduled caste, considered by many to be Dalits or untouchables. The majority are illiterate and make their living performing menial jobs. Imagine growing up Kandra, being discriminated against, and ostracized by the rest of Hindu society. Then imagine your joy at hearing that you were created by God specifically to have a relationship with Him and that He gave you purpose and dignity.

Pray for the Kandra to hear the gospel message and spread it to others with joy. Pray for them to accept the offer to be part of God’s Kingdom, sons and daughters of the King.—CL

MAHAR PEOPLE IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The Mahar man sat in the temple in Maharashtra and bowed

to the statue of Buddha. His entire family has been Buddhist since 1956. That was the year 500,000 Mahars left Hinduism to follow the teachings of Buddha. The man had recently seen his grandparents die and wondered what awaited him after death. He found no peace in worshiping Buddha, but his Hindu friends found no peace in worshiping the Hindu gods either. So he pressed on, hoping that continued worship would lead to a moment of enlightenment.

The Mahars are untouchables and had faced discrimination for as long as anyone could remember. Around 1900, during the days of British rule, the Mahars began fighting for equal rights. This eventually led to a mass conversion to Buddhism in 1956 in an attempt to find a religious system based on equality. Today only one third of all Mahars remain Hindus. They hold low paying jobs in India’s cities. They are masons, truck drivers, and railway workers.

Pray for the Mahar people to be drawn to the righteousness and goodness of Jesus Christ. Pray that a mission agency would be led to start a church planting movement among the Mahars.—WK



iStock/ednessx

LUKE 8:15, NLT

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Pray for spiritual seed that comes to today’s people group to become fertile and productive.

DAY 15

LUKE 14:28, NLT

But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

Pray for the Lord to hold back any potential worker who will not continue till the harvest is full.

MUSLIM MAWALUDS IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

iStock/yellowcrestmedia



The Mawalud people converted from Hinduism to Islam in a big way! Like many peoples in central India, the Mawaluds had been Hindus until Muslim armies invaded their land around 1100. Many people groups converted to Islam after the conquest.

The Mawaluds were one such people group, and their conversion gave them favor with their new rulers. During the days of Muslim rule, this region became a center for Arabic learning. The highly educated Mawaluds became civil servants. However, the situation changed in the 1800s when the British took control and gave administrative jobs to Hindus, and things grew worse for the Mawaluds after India gained independence in 1947.

At that time, persecution forced many Muslim Mawaluds to flee to Pakistan. Those who remained in India still face discrimination. Almost all members of this people are Muslims, and there are no known followers of Jesus Christ among them.

May the Mawalud come to see that Jesus is much more than a prophet but is truly the only way to God the Father. Pray that God would raise up faithful workers to reach out to this people group. Pray for a massive movement, not to a new religious system, but to the loving arms of Jesus Christ.—WK

CHITPAVAN BRAHMANS IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

The young Chitpavan man sat at a desk in



iStock/Dharmapada Behera

a college library. He'd learned both Sanskrit and Hebrew and was now reading an Old Testament Hebrew text. He was struck by the writing style. It was written as history, not poetry or legend, and it had a sense of spiritual life. This was different from the Sanskrit texts he'd studied last year. His curiosity had been aroused, and he wanted to read more Hebrew texts.

The Chitpavan are Hindus of the prestigious Brahman caste. They'd once been priests and nobles. During the days of the Maratha Empire (1674-1818), many government officials were Chitpavans. This people group felt comfortable working with the British after 1818. However, they had different ideas about the future of India. It was a Chitpavan who killed Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. Today the Chitpavan work in computers, engineering, law, and business. There are no known followers of Christ among these Brahmans.

Pray that the Chitpavans would develop a hunger for righteousness and spiritual truth. Ask God to open the hearts of this people group to Jesus Christ and begin to disciple others to follow Him. Pray for them to experience God's abundant blessings this decade.—WK

DAY 16

JOHN 1:9, NLT

The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

Pray for the Chitpavans to see the light of Christ.

DESGASTHA BRAHMANS IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

PRO 5:21, NLT

For the Lord sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes.

Pray that this truth will become abundantly clear to many from the Desgastha Brahmans.

iStock/Danielrao



Ganesh is given what Hindus call a "holy dip"

(This story illustrates truths about this people group.)

As hundreds of clay images of an elephant head bobbed

down the holy river, Hindu priests performed rituals and prayers. These priests, the Desgastha Brahmans, are amongst the most devout Hindus. This day is known as Ganesh Chaturthi, the main holiday for Desgastha Brahmans, and it is a festival for worshipping the elephant-headed Hindu god who is the deity of success. The priests led the crowd in public chanting of ancient hymns from the Vedas, and finally handed out the elephant-headed god's favorite sweets to the crowd.

With 561,000 Desgastha Brahmans populating India's west central states, most live in Maharashtra, where their priests officiate at the main Hindu temples. These well-educated Brahmans live at the highest levels of society. Historically, they were the famous priests, scholars, and administrators. Today, they remain in these roles as well as wealthy landowners, professors, accountants, scientists, and leaders in white-collar industries. Yet, not one of these influential people knows Jesus.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will give the Desgastha Brahman community a desire for spiritual truth. May they fall in love with Jesus, and lead thousands into His loving family.—LR

AGRI PEOPLE IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

Clanging and thudding added to rising voices. Women danced and sang freely. They were celebrating a wedding! For the festive Agri



Dancing at a wedding

iStock/KCHANDIE

community, to offer or to accept dowries is taboo. Women are recognized as being vital companions who earn a living and manage the house, and husbands show them respect with beautiful gold jewelry. Unlike most other Indian women, Agris are protected and kept safe from an oppressive culture.

Traditionally, the Agris have supported themselves through sea fishing, rice farming, and manufacturing sea salt. Native to Mumbai in Maharashtra, most Agri live on the western coast of India, though they are also scattered inland. Today many continue this work, but some have moved into business and real estate. They recite legends about how their Hindu gods decided their origin and their assignment as musicians to a demon king. They worship all Hindu gods and joyfully celebrate them with devotion. Indeed, all are Hindu, but a few are Buddhists. Many Christian resources exist, but none know Jesus.

Pray that the Agri community will soon see the folly in worshipping Hindu statues, and instead dance and sing to the Lord. May He raise up women to disciple other women as they learn about their freedom in Christ and their worth in God's eyes.—LR

IS 26:19, NLT

But those who die in the Lord will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy! For your life-giving light will fall like dew on your people in the place of the dead!

Pray for many from the Agri people to seek and find the Lord's resurrection victory!

VASAVE BHIL COMMUNITY IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

IS 12:1-2, NLT

In that day you will sing: "I will praise you, O Lord! You were angry with me, but not anymore. Now you comfort me. See, God has come to save me. I will trust in Him and not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song; He has given me victory."

Pray that many from this people group will become objects of God's mercy rather than objects of His wrath. May they praise Him when they hear of His goodness!

iStock/gajendra bhat



Turmeric paste for the feet!

to your face, arms, feet, and knees. You have the option of several forms of allowed marriage, including negotiation, kidnap, elopement, and bride price.

The government refers to this group as Adivase Hindu Bhils, but they deny any connection with Bhils and claim a higher status. They call themselves Gavith, meaning "leader," and do not allow marriage to those they consider belonging to a lower social status. They exchange food with higher castes but not with the Bhils or untouchables. Most are poor farm owners or farm laborers, but there are now a handful of doctors, engineers, and teachers among them.

The Vasave are Hindu and worship several gods, including Waghdev, the tiger god. They decorate someone to look like a tiger, then worship him, light incense, and sacrifice chickens. They also worship a god they think can bring rain and another that can keep away evil spirits. The New Testament has been translated into their Vasavi and Mauchi languages.

Pray that many Vasave families will discover these resources on the internet and that God's word and God's blessings will be welcomed into their families.—AHS

Getting married? If you are a Vasave, a relative will apply a paste of turmeric, flour, curd, sandalwood, and rose water

HATKAR PEOPLE IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

A soothsayer goes into a trance and reveals to Hatkar shepherds the time to move their flocks westward. They claim that one of their Hindu

gods commissioned them for this responsibility. They are proud of their military tradition, and many serve in the Indian Army. They are a subgroup of the blanket-weaving Dhangars. Other noticeable differences include their red turbans, earrings, coarse blankets, and staffs. Their women wear a considerable number of rings, necklaces, nose rings, and ankle bangles. Due to their nomadic lifestyle, low education levels are common among the Hatkars. They need help in gaining new job skills and in educating their children.

The Hatkar people visit Hindu temples and offer prayers, food, flowers, and incense to their gods. Their patron god is Khandoba, a fierce manifestation of Shiva, the destroyer god. They also worship Krishna, the preserver god. The Hatkar need to hear the life-changing message of Jesus Christ in a way they can understand. They speak Marathi, and there are numerous audio and video resources available on the internet in this language. Unfortunately, most don't have access to computers.

Pray that a strong movement to Jesus will bring whole Hatkar families and communities into a rich experience of God's blessings.—AHS



Time to move the herd!

iStock/Emmanuel Nali

ROM 9:30, NLT

What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God's standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place.

Pray for many from the Hatkar people to be given this special gift of faith in the God of Abraham.

MADIGA PEOPLE IN TELANGANA, INDIA

PRO 29:25, NLT

Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

Pray that many from the Madiga people will understand and heed this warning.



Refuge in religion

How would you deal with being the lowest of the lows? Where would you turn to if you were spurned even by the lowest levels of society? These are real questions faced by the Madiga people of Telangana. They are primarily a rural group traditionally known for leather work and making footwear. In response to societal rejection, each has his or her own response: some commit to excellence, crafting quality footwear in hopes of proving their worth, while others escape into education, seeking to dodge the stigma of their identity. Others try to escape into religion.

Many of the Madiga people can read, but they still suffer from illiteracy. This situation limits how far printed gospel materials will affect their communities. Those who seek refuge in religion, especially Christianity, will find that the government itself employs its own methods of overt and covert discrimination.

Pray that the Madiga people would find their identities in Christ rather than in the opinions of others or their position within society. Pray that the hearts of the Madiga would be both open and softened, and that a great move of God would transform this people rejected by all Hindus. Pray for new churches to be planted and for discipleship movements.—BK

GOSANGI PEOPLE IN TELANGANA, INDIA

Cowherds, collectors of milk, sellers of meat, and also ... soldiers? The Gosangi of Telangana, India have been a versatile people, though their lives seem to have revolved around cattle. Even the sabers carried by the soldiers are the same that are used to kill cows. Today, those who are educated hold positions as teachers, bank managers, or police officers.



iStock/joy/image

Child marriages are no longer practiced among the Gosangi, with adults marrying around 18-20 years old, according to the rules of the community. Women also carry both economic and familial influence. The Gosangi are considered one of the “untouchable” communities, the lowest in societal rankings. However they have free access to schools, temples, and other public spaces, making it appear that the Gosangi have a higher status than other scheduled castes.

The Gosangis of Telangana are a field open to harvest. There is already a known Christian presence among the Gosangi, and they have access to radio, TV, and print materials in their own language of Telugu.

Pray for the Gosangi to have open and receptive hearts, and that they would encounter the King of kings. Pray that discipleship movements would explode, as followers make followers, and that they would discover their identity in Christ.—BK

IS 1:18, NLT

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

Pray for leaders of the Gosangi people to understand they are sinners and that God alone can forgive them and redeem them.

KALAL COMMUNITY IN TELANGANA, INDIA

JN 3:36 NLT

And anyone who believes in God's son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment.

Pray that many from the Kalal community will believe in God's son and receive the gift of eternal life.

iStock/pjhpix



How would you feel if you were born into a society where your destiny and your future occupation were already pre-determined for you? Although the caste system in India has been outlawed or considered irrelevant today, it is still very ingrained into the lives of the people. The Hindu Kalal people have been traditionally involved in the production and distribution of liquor. You may have already anticipated a problem the Kalals may have, and you would be right – alcoholism.

The Kalals live throughout India but are more highly populated in the southern states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. In the last century, the Kalals have adopted other professions like agriculture, the military, government service, and law. They are endogamous, which means that they marry within their own community. The Kalal community are encouraging their children to pursue higher education and move away from their destructive traditional occupation.

Pray that 2021 may be the year that the Kalal community might be introduced to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Pray that as Kalal individuals move out into the broader society, that they will have encounters with loving believers who will be led by the Holy Spirit to help them begin a movement to Christ.—JS

KAPU COMMUNITY IN TELANGANA, INDIA

India's history goes back thousands of years. About 2,500 years ago the Kapu people probably migrated southward, clearing forests for agriculture and building settlements. They were mainly a military and agrarian community, farming in peaceful times. Most of the Kapus are involved in agriculture today, and modern day Kapus have united to fight for their political rights. Today they are concentrated in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

As with most of India's population, the Kapus are Hindu, but they also live among many Muslims. What are their chances of hearing the gospel? The Joshua Project claims that only two percent of the Kapus have been reached for Christ. There are multiple evangelistic tools available in Telugu, the Kapus' main language. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Rom 10:14)

Pray for the Lord to raise up workers who will get the JESUS Film and gospel recordings to Kapu households. Pray for God to send divine encounters to Kapu elders that will result in entire families putting their trust in Jesus. Pray for a significant church planting movement among the Kapus this decade.—JS

JN 5:36, NLT

But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that He sent me.

Pray that the Kapu people will come to realize that the witness of Jesus Christ is greater than any human prophet. Pray that they recognize that Jesus comes from God the Father and that Jesus Himself is God incarnate.

iStock/SB Stock



MALA PEOPLE IN TELANGANA, INDIA

JN 6:68, NLT

Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

Pray that the Mala people would, like Peter, proclaim Jesus as the Holy One of God.

iStock/PhotoCorp



the Mala people. They too speak Telugu, a common Indian tongue. Their caste is best known as vegetable vendors. Two problems are common in this group: both men and women habitually drink alcohol, and they smoke an indigenous cigar called cheroot or chuta. All of these substances are addictive.

Traditionally the Mala have worked in the fields specializing in raising vegetables. They also make crude drums out of cattle hides, and others value their skills as drummers during village festivals; their services are always sought for funerals. One other unusual practice they have that is very different from other Hindu communities is that they bury their dead in a sitting posture rather than cremating them. They worship many Hindu deities and desperately need to learn about the one and only true God and his Son, Jesus Christ who died to save them.

Pray that as we pray for the Mala to find Jesus, God will give them dreams and visions of Christ calling them to come to Him so that they can be counted among the many tribes, tongues, and nations that will be represented around His throne in Heaven.—JS

SATANI PEOPLE IN TELANGANA, INDIA

How would you feel if you were considered a demoted Hindu priest as you served your Hindu deities? India's Satani people have lived a long time with this demeaning status. Back in 1871, a census in India described them as priests of "inferior" temples, religious beggars, and sellers of flowers used for offerings.

About 427,000 Satani live in various provinces of southern India, notably Telangana. They serve other Hindu peoples through priestly duties, in temples, and as sacred specialists. In addition to regional deities, the Satani worship Vishnu and Lakshmi.

The Satani are almost 100 percent Hindu. Their primary language of Telugu contains the entire Bible as well as many audio and visual resources that include the JESUS Film and audio Bible teaching. There are no known Satani followers of Christ. To become a Christ follower can typically bring loss of friends and status within the community, and they feel they have lost enough as it is.

Pray for Indian churches to intercede regularly for the Satani. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften hearts and bring God's message to Satani people through anointed witnesses. Pray that family members will be drawn to Christ's teachings. Ask for a harvest of believers leading to disciple-making movements that powerfully bless India's Satani communities.—CR

iStock/kadmy



1 PET 2:9, NLT

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.

Pray this declaration becomes reality for India's Satani people. Ask that they turn to Jesus Christ, and put their identity in Him, gaining the dignity and peace that comes with it.

PICHAKUNTLA PEOPLE IN TELANGANA, INDIA

PS 142:2, NLT

I pour out my complaints
before Him and tell Him all
my troubles.

*Thank the Lord that you can
tell Him your troubles!*

iStock/Dishant_S



A public garden in Telangana

The LORD did not set His heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest

of all nations! Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and He was keeping the oath He had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. (Deut 7:7-8, NLT)

When God's covenant people were brought out from more than 400 years of bondage in Egypt, He called them the smallest of all nations. One of the smaller groups in India, the Pichakuntla people in Telangana, number only 42,000. Also known as the Helava, which means "lame man," they speak, read, and write in Kannada. They are mostly vegetarians. The Helava allow cousin marriages, and the divorced and bereaved can marry again. They are 100 percent Hindu. The JESUS Film and a full Bible are available in their language.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would begin to convict these people of sin through the preaching of Christ, the one who was crucified to pay for sin. Pray for their villages to be blessed by the presence of a multiplying church planting movement.—JY

AI-CHAM PEOPLE IN GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

When there are only 3,000 in a people group, it's easier for the authorities to lump them in with the larger nationalities who surround them. This is what has happened to the Ai-Cham people. They live among the Bouyei and learned to speak Bouyei, but ironically, their linguistic versatility ended up hurting them instead of helping them. Because they acquired the trade language (their heart language is Ai-Cham), now the government considers them Bouyei.



An Ai-Cham woman

Asian Harvest

In English, a poor person might say, "I don't have two pennies to rub together." In Chinese, they say, "There are not three days of sun, not three measures of flat land, and the people do not have three coins." Guizhou, where the Ai-Cham live, is one of the poorest and least developed of China's provinces.

The Ai-Cham worship nature—mountains, rivers, trees—and gods and ghosts. They also worship their ancestors. Although missionaries came to southern Guizhou before the 1950s, there are no known believers among the Ai-Cham.

Pray that Ai-Cham elders will learn from the heart that Jehovah is the provider and turn their people to Him. Pray for a movement to Christ among the Ai-Cham people this decade.—CMW

IS 11:9, NLT

Nothing will hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain, for
as the waters fill the sea, so
the earth will be filled with
people who know the LORD.

*Pray that the Ai-Cham people
will soon join those who
know and obey the Lord.
Pray for Him to bless them
in every way as they discover
His goodness.*

A'OU PEOPLE IN GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

IS 43:13, NLT

From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done.

Praise Him that His work among the A'ou people can never be undone by the efforts of man or Satan.

Asian Outreach



An A'ou woman

They live in a remote location, and there are under 3,000 of them. They simply don't rise to the top when mission organizations have to set priorities

as to which people groups to reach. They are the A'ou people.

The A'ou are counted as part of the Gelao nationality, but they speak a language that the Gelao don't understand. They have a different ethnic identity. The young people are abandoning the back-breaking farming work of their fathers and grandfathers. Cultivating rice from overworked land may have been the work of their ancestors, but the young people want to rise above subsistence farming. Many are moving to big cities in hopes of finding something better.

The A'ou do not practice a religion, but they do honor their dead ancestors. The elderly offer sacrifices to spirits and gods. There are no known believers among the A'ou. Although Catholic missionaries reached out to the Gelao in the 1800s, the A'ou remain unreached.

Pray that God, the Lord of the harvest, will send out laborers into the fields of the A'ou. May the people hunger for the spiritual food that only God can give. May they decide as a group to turn their hearts to Jesus Christ.—CMW

GA MONG PEOPLE IN GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

(This story illustrates the beliefs of this people group.)

The little Ga Mong boy had never seen his mother so angry and fearful. He had spun his top with such energy that it knocked over the bowl of food that his mother had placed

on the altar. Her face crumpled; she was panic-stricken. The mishap meant no food for their hungry ancestors. Shouting and crying at the same time, the mother wailed, "We must stay home to make a new food offering!" She wrapped the child in her arms and wept.

The Ga Mong people are classified as part of the She nationality, but they object to this. There are 72,000 of them, and they want their own status. After all, they speak their own language and they observe different customs. The highlights of their year include bullfights and cockfights. Living in one of the most spiritually neglected areas of China, the Ga Mong have never heard the gospel; few have even met a believer. It is no surprise, then, that there are no believers among them.

Some small churches are located near their area; we must pray for God to send people to reach out to the Ga Mong and free them from the fear of their ancestors.—CMW



Ga Mong mother

Asian Outreach

IS 40:12-13, NLT

Who else has held the oceans in His hand? Who has measured off the heavens with His fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to give Him advice or teach Him?

Pray that the unfathomable power of the Lord will become very real to elders within the Ga Mong people.