

Sarki in Bhutan



High in the Himalayas is the monarchy of Bhutan. Bhutan is Buddhist, but the Sarki are Hindus. While there are some Christians among the Bhutanese, there are none among the Sarkis. Why are Hindu Sarkis living among Buddhists? They do so because of community status; cobblers and leather-working Sarkis are stigmatized by Hindus. By living here, they avoid the stigma. In reality, however, the Sarkis need a new trade because shoemaking and repair are a dying trade. As Hindus, they continue to worship several gods. Shamans are important in Sarki society. Unfortunately, their women are often subjected to sex trafficking.

Obstacles

It will be difficult to locate the Sarki in order to reach them.

Outreach Ideas

The Sarkis need job training to compete outside of the shoemaking trade. They may be reached through Bengali and Bhutanese Christian tracts and radio. Christ followers who help the Sarkis stop the trafficking of their women would be excellent ambassadors for the Lord. Meanwhile, Christians may engage them as they need shoe repair.



SARR-kee

POPULATION: 1,600

LANGUAGE: Nepali

RELIGION: Hinduism

BIBLE: Complete

STATUS: Unreached

Prayer Focus

Pray for protection of Sarki women from sex trafficking. Pray for the development and acceptance of job training. Pray also for job placement. Pray Bhutanese Christians would seek them out to win them to Christ and disciple them.

SCRIPTURE Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Col. 4:5-6

PRAY for new believers in this people group to have Holy Spirit-led words to say to their elders as they explain their new faith.