

Oswal Bania in India



The Oswal Bania live in northern India, where they are usually well-to-do businessmen. They are Jains, who are vegetarians because they abhor killing animals, even as a sacrifice to a deity. Jainism is a philosophy. They believe in gods, but not God. Like Hindus and Buddhists, Jains believe in the spiritual law of karma, but see it as a tangible substance and a spiritual force. As a group, they lack any Christian witness, largely because there are very few Christian disciples from India's prestigious communities.

Ministry Obstacles

Most evangelism in India focuses attention on people from under-privileged communities, not Jains. Furthermore, Christian meat-eating is an obstacle as Jains find it abhorrent and unspiritual. Thus, possibly only vegetarians will effectively evangelize Jains. The Eucharist is an obstacle because Jesus said that it was his body and blood. This can easily be misunderstood.

Outreach Ideas

Radio, TV, print and other media should have special materials for Jains in their languages. These will need to address their unique concerns.



🔊 OSE-vahl BAHN-yah
POPULATION: 497,000
LANGUAGE: Hindi
RELIGION: Other / Small
BIBLE: Complete
STATUS: Unreached

Prayer Focus

Pray for the emergence of the first Oswal Bania fellowships this decade. Pray for Indian Christian churches and evangelists to adopt Jains in prayer and outreach. Outsiders from prestigious communities need to reach these high status people. Pray for a mass movement of Jains to Christ.

SCRIPTURE For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalms 139:13-14

PRAY that this people group will understand and embrace that they are created by God, and that His ways are marvelous!

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