

People Groups in India

So Many People Groups

According to the Joshua Project, it is estimated that there are 2,153 distinct people groups in India. Of these 1,944 are unreached by the gospel. The current population of India is 1,247,386,000. The number of people unreached by the gospel is estimated to be 1,185,035,000. The percentage of the population that has Christian adherents is 2.2%. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

Migrant Workers





One day as I was walking through the city of Ferozepur, on the Pakistan border, a young man on a motorcycle stopped, offering to give me a ride. Though in my mind I processed the danger of accepting this gesture from a complete stranger, I felt comfortable about taking him up on his offer. He took me several miles outside of town into



CLICK on This Picture For More Photos Of This People Group

the country where there were a large number of people processing grain in an open field. I learned that these were a people group who traveled from place to place across North India offering their services to farmers during harvest. You can see some of them in these photos. This is just one of the over 2,000 people groups in India.



A Gypsy Girl

Gypsies

One day when we were preaching a series of evening open-air meetings in the Punjabi city of Ferozepur near the Pakistan border, I left my associate Simon Haqq in the hotel and took a walk which led me outside of the city. After some distance I came across a settlement of people living in makeshift tents. They appeared to be gypsies. I was all alone but felt comfortable to proceed. There was no way to communicate with them.



A Gypsy Family in Their Home



An Enthusiastic Gypsy Girl With Her Prized Possessions

Still they were very friendly. Some of them even invited me into their extremely humble tents. I took many photographs of them. They seemed delighted to see me, a foreigner, and extended hospitality to me.



A Young Gypsy Mother In Her Tent

Some of their ancestors a few hundred years ago migrated north and west into central Asia and in Europe. Some of them even made it to North America. I'm old enough to remember seeing them as a child by the side of the road. In 1964 when Pres. Lyndon Johnson started the Great Society these people were swept into government housing. We no longer see them by the side of the road in this



A Gypsy Child



An Older Gypsy Man

country, but they still exist in various housing complexes. Most of them still speak their original Romani language. This too would be an interesting people group to reach with the gospel.



CLICK on This Picture For More Photographs Of Gypsies

Haridwar



CLICK on this photo for more people of Haridwar

Our associate pastor Singh is doing a tremendous job in planting churches in this difficult area. He's had a great deal of opposition, including physical attacks and harassment from the police. Even so by God's grace he has planted 26 new churches in an area where there were no churches at all!

We have referred to this in a previous newsletter which you can see here.

Poumain Tribe in Manipur, NE India



CLICK on this Photo for More Views of Manipur

Last December I was able to speak to a large group of the Poumain tribe in Manipur. You can read the report here and here.

Yes, there are so many people groups in India. God desires that every group of people become *His* people. Every culture, every tribe, every ethnicity can only find its fulfillment in the eternal gift of salvation that Jesus Christ offers.

One by one we emerge from our background and become *His* people, the people group of *His* church. *Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!* Amen

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	430 County Road 792
	Ellington, MO 63638
	ciyworld@gmail.com
	Encouraging servants of the Lord in ministry.
	web address: www.ciyworld.com
	Rev. Tim Richards, President
	Micah Rains, Director
	Dr. Paul Rains, Treasurer
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