

India, ASIA

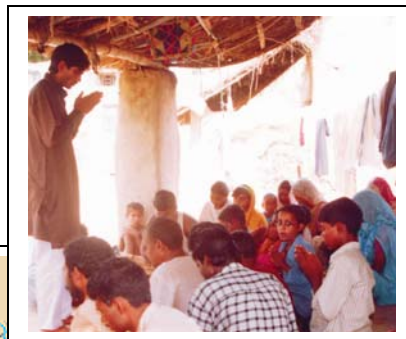
Short background: long term commitment to help free the Dalits (untouchables) from enslavement of tradition and institute a Dalit Christian church.

First Church involvement: We partner via the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship with the Witnessing Ministries of Christ; reaching out to the Untouchables (Dalits) in India through the Rural Presbyterian Church of India. Religion, education, economic development and health care have been denied the Untouchables, numbering over 160 million people, for at least 3,500 years. This project is an important effort to help boost the children of Untouchables to a level of education where they can compete and gain admission to higher education while remaining in touch with Untouchable and Christian roots. The membership of the Rural Presbyterian Church of India is increasing, so the number of children needing education continues to increase as well. Recent reports show that there are more than 650,000 believers who confessed their faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized. The same reports share that an equal number of seekers are trying to find their way to Christ. These new Christians are spread over 24 current Presbyteries and 42 forming Presbyteries. Violence against Dalits and Christians continues throughout India the result of Hindu tradition and violent elements. The Dalits respond to the Lord because the God of the Bible speaks to them. Christ loves them just as they are. This impressive missionary effort needs our regular prayer support. PFF: E040026

Service opportunities: roof a school, water development, support a student or seminarian, visit.

Pictures & Map

“from the day a Dalit child is born the destruction of his soul begins. He learns he cannot go here, stay there, drink water from some wells, or even touch those above him. The child begins to think of himself as the filthiest, the worst, and the most polluting person. By the age of five he can no longer ask the questions, ‘Why am I not going to school while the high caste child goes every day?’ ‘Why do the folks where my grandmothers clean the latrines throw their old bread at me like a Frisbee?’ ‘Why do they let their dog out to try to catch the bread first?’ Total submission is achieved that will carry to the next generation with ease. Today we observe 150 million Dalit people, immobilized and self-destructing, invisible to most...a non-people.”



The revolutionary message the people hear from the pastors is, **“...God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”**

Everyone is equal; there are no castes

Donor provided deep-bore wells pump fresh water for scores of congregations. Contaminated water is the most common cause of children's deaths in villages



Links to Presbyterian Church (USA) <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/india/>
World Factbook on India: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/in.html>