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***Thank You!***

Church of Christ India Fund  
c/o Dave Nance  
399 Terry Lane Rd.  
Covington, TN 38019



## India Evangelism Newsletter

# September, 2021

"...how you turned from  
idols to serve the living  
and true God."

(1 Thessalonians 1:9)



**Church of Christ India Fund**

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## Why Do We Need Translators?

One of the questions that I'm frequently asked is if I can speak the Indian language, or if I need translators.

The simple answer is that no, I don't speak language. Being a missionary, speaking the local language even a little bit would be an advantage, naturally.

So, if I were a missionary to France I'd learn French. If I worked in Japan, I'd learn Japanese. And so on. But India's quite different.

The difference in India is that there are seventeen official languages. And amazingly, no one language is the majority language.

Even more strange is the fact that they are very different languages. Of course, they have different words, a use different sentence structures. But they also have different alphabets. They are as different from each other as is English from Greek.

In addition, our work is scattered widely across India. So when we travel working with our various preachers we move frequently from one language area to another.

The real problem is that I can't even remember how to say "hello" in seventeen different languages!

So we use translators everywhere we go.

But what about the fact that so many Indians speak English? Well, not as many

as you would think! And most of their English is very simple.

In India English is widely spoken, but only as a sort of "bridge language" to allow Indians to talk across their many individual languages.

They can talk about commerce, government, sickness, health, food, and things like this. But even then they don't speak anything like native American English.

Have you ever talked to an Indian on the telephone about a product or computer you bought? Then you know how burdensome it is to rely on the average Indian's ability to speak English.

And there's another factor: vocabulary. The average Indian has a very limited English vocabulary.

So, when we talk about food, travel, "where's the bathroom" type of things, we get along just fine. But when we start talking about serious and spiritual topics, their English fails very quickly.

We talk about things such as redemption, justification, covenant, reconciliation, resurrection, holiness and the many figures of speech that are in the Bible.

So, in point of fact, without translators everywhere we go, we would find it very difficult to preach and teach in India, all the more since we address a different language group every few days.

So please pray for our translators. They are hard-working gospel preachers and we depend on them.

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## Update

The Covid situation in India is in some ways getting better.

Their lockdown internally is not as harsh as it once was, although it is more harsh there than in any U.S. state. This is making it a bit easier for our preachers to travel and for the people to get needed food.

Vaccines are being offered free to anyone above the age of eighteen.

But, there aren't enough vaccines to go around. And although the local travel has eased, travel from district to district (similar to our counties) is still restricted. And, of course, all international travel except for government workers is shut down.

Yet, our work of preaching, relieving the widows and orphans in their affliction continues! Thank you for your support, for your prayers. Each prayer and each dollar makes a difference, now especially!



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