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Church of Christ India Fund
c/o Dave Nance
5017 Eden Cove
Jonesboro, AR 71405



August, 2024

"...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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Let Me Tell You about Ooty

One of the places in India that our team has been working for quite a number of years is named Ooty. This name, which most Indians use, is actually a shortened name because the British who ruled India for so long were basically unable to pronounce it. See if you can give it a try: Udhagamandalam!

So, everyone on our team, and even the local Indians simply call it Ooty (as we would say the 'oot' in 'hoot')

It's one of the very interesting places where the Lord's work is prospering because of the commitment that you and many like you have made to this ongoing and productive work.

Ooty is in the Nilgiri Mountains in south India (in the state of Tamil Nadu). It's elevation above sea level is 7,350 feet, higher than Denver, at only 5,280 feet.

When we drive to Ooty, our final approach is climbing a narrow mountain two lane road that over the course of 3 miles has 37 hairpin switchback curves. They are so sharp that the road department has installed mirrors in the turns so we can see the oncoming vehicles! And what a view!

These mountains are not nearly so high as the Rocky Mountains, but they are quite rugged and steep. Their situation makes them ideal for growing coffee and tea. The tea plantations are particularly

impressive, being made up of bushes that are trimmed to waist height and filling whole sides of mountains.

Our work there centers in Ooty, but actually is very wide spread throughout the mountains of that region. As you might imagine, it is difficult for a large city to exist in that area due to the ruggedness, so our work is made up of over 100 villages.

This work is in an area called by India a "Tribal Area." As you may recall, almost all of India is characterized by a Caste system where each person and their family knows their place (either high, middle or low—we work mostly with the low caste and the Outcaste, who are also called Untouchables).

However in the more rugged and remote places in India people are not so much identified by their caste, as they are identified by their tribe. These "tribal" people are usually left out of the political conversations in India, being treated almost like many American Indians whose main political affiliation is within their tribe on the reservations.

These tribal people worship idols, as the vast majority of Indians do. Yet, they don't participate much in the general Hinduism that characterizes most Indians, rejecting the Hindu concept of reincarnation.

The India name for these "tribals" is Adivasi. They are the original, indigenous people of India before the arrival of the Dravidians in south India and the conquest of north India by the Indo-Aryans (who established Hinduism over the sub-continent). They are also called the "scheduled tribes" and Janjati.

It takes a special kind of evangelist to reach into and become effective to these "tribals" as they are called. The gospel workers you support in this area are committed and effective at bringing the gospel to these often overlooked people.

Once a month we bring the gospel preachers and church leaders that we work with together (we support some of them, but many of them are unsupported.) The depth of their love for the Lord is encouraging to see and experience. The fellowship that they have with one another is inspiring to witness and to be a part of.

This monthly gathering of our workers is a part of the South India Bible College that Dean Crutchfield set up and which we have operated for many years.

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