

Focus Group for Prayer

RAJPUT OF INDIA

Knowing who the Rajput are allows us to speak the language of their culture, show an interest in who they are as a people & find a natural starting point for sharing Jesus. For example, the Rajput are a kingly people, and Jesus is the King of Kings, was called the King of the Jews and humbled Himself for His Kingdom's sake. Surely this is a good story to tell!

Who are they?

The Rajput people are a proud people whose name is derived from the Sanskrit word Rajputra which means king's son. The Rajput own rural land and are engaged in agriculture. Some Rajputs are also in trade, government service and an increasing number of doctors and engineers. Landless skilled and unskilled labourers make up the lower end of the Rajput community.

What are their lives like?

The Rajput is a landowning community engaged in farming. Some lease out their land. Many are in the Indian army. They have benefited from development programs offered by the government. They practice family planning and use modern medical methods. Literacy is higher in comparison to other castes. They are respected by other caste groups in their social sphere and Brahmins serve them as priests.

What are their beliefs?

Most of the Rajput are Hindu; the only exceptions being the Ranghar Roghar of UP who are Muslims and Kinnaura of Himachal Pradesh who are Buddhists. Two clans practice tribal religion, the Puran-Bhanja of Orissa and West Bengal.

There are many shrines dedicated to women who have immolated themselves by performing Sati. These women are deified and women especially pray at these temples. This practice is still highly regarded by the Rajput although it was officially banned in 1827.

Needs & Outreach Ideas:

Sustained prayer and dedicated workers are needed.

Prayer:

- Pray for the small group of Christian believers among the Hindu Rajput, that they will be united in love around the truth of Scripture. Pray they live a life of love, just as Christ loved them and gave Himself up for them.
- Pray for the Rajput community to increasingly grow in awareness of Jesus, His life and His sacrifice for them. Pray the Lord will give them a hunger to know, then satisfy that hunger.

Missions Bulletin

Week 2

25 July 2010

I accepted Jesus as my personal savior at the age of 18 and became a member of UESI (Union of Evangelical Students of India) during my college years. The ministry of UESI helped me not only get rooted in the word of God but also guided me to commit myself for the Lord's ministry at the age of 20. This was primarily due to my participation in UESI's missions conferences and in its missions exposure trips organized in the field locations of several missions organizations. I was also active in leading students to Christ during my college days.



My heart's desire was in the preaching ministry but my regular study of God's word clearly pointed to the need to "act justly and love mercy" (Micah 6:8) and more specifically through Psalms 82: 3 & 4: Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed; rescue the weak and needy, deliver them from the hand of the wicked". Hence I joined World Vision in the year 1991 soon after my post graduation in Social Work and I am continuing with World Vision for the past 19 years. After serving for several years in development projects across Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh I presently oversee projects that work among vulnerable and trafficked children in urban locations across the country. My work with World Vision provides me with professional satisfaction as well as innumerable opportunities for ministry.

KA Jayakumar – National Coordinator Special Project – World Vision of India



"If there be any one point in which the Christian church ought to keep its fervor at a white heat, it is concerning missions. If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world."

Charles Spurgeon

**"We who have Christ's eternal life need to throw away our own lives."
- George Verwer**

"God has only one Son and He made that Son a missionary."
David Livingstone

**Dinesh & Vickie – Bible Translators –
Indian Evangelical Mission**

My father was a priest of the god, Hanuman. A teacher by profession and a farmer and tailor by hobby, he was a hard worker and a very influential headman in the village. But he hated Christians. He wanted nothing to do with them. But God is faithful and sent an evangelist to his village, who quietly left a New Testament (NT) on the shelf in his school. 'Bapa' had not seen it and it collected dust there.



Then one day, in God's time, as my father was looking for a book to read, he saw this dusty book, and opened it. It fell open to 1 John 5:21 - "My son, stay away from idols!" "Who could have said this?" thought *bapa*, and out of curiosity began reading the very book he hated. The Word of God is a two edged sword, and will not return void, and so, by reading God's Word, *bapa* accepted the Lord. He then shared it with his father and other village elders, who were furious and immediately excommunicated him. He and his wife continued praying and reading this NT, but with growing opposition and animistic worship, he was struck with paralyses, his head turned to one side. Things began to fly from one end of the house to the other, making the home an eerie place to live. But *bapa*, together with his wife, fearlessly continued trusting this new found Savior!

Soon the elders began to see his adamant faith and refusal to turn back, and since they loved and respected him so much, they began coming to him with convincing arguments. But *bapa*, through the power of the Holy Spirit, convinced them all that Jesus was indeed the only Savior of the World. In time the entire village came to the Lord and today many are pastors with the UCNi church (earlier Brethren church) or missionaries in South Gujarat!

After seven years, my parents were able to have children, with me as the 3rd of 4 children. A true witness to the Lord! During my final years in school an Operation Mobilization (OM) team visited our village, and it was there that I realized for the first time that I was a sinner in need of a Savior and that my Father's faith could not save me. I accepted the Lord. After school I did my Primary Teacher's training, after which I had to wait one year for a job since I was only 17. Instead of wasting the year, I decided to join OM.

I learnt so much in OM, and as the days passed by I was sure the Lord was calling me to serve him full time. So, instead of leaving OM to become a school teacher, I continued in OM. The Lord gave me a heart for evangelism, which my leaders recognized, so, after four years they suggested I go to Bible College. Going to UBS (in Pune), I was convinced that God was calling me to pioneer missions, which led me to join IEM, where I met Vickie, and thought of marrying her. But the question was, "Would she join me in the Nasik field or should I join her in the Garasia field, where she was doing Bible translation work?" The Word of God had been powerful in drawing my *bapa's* to the Lord, so I decided to join Vickie by doing a survey in Rajasthan and seeing how she could join me after marriage to continue work with the Garasia translation, but based in Rajasthan. Little did I know that she had been praying about Rajasthan and had even asked the IEM leadership if she could move there, but her leaders had said that she needs to get married and then move! God was smiling upon us, and, giving us the desires of our heart, we got married in 1988, and two weeks later, found ourselves in Abu Road of Rajasthan!

Shortly after IEM sending me to do a survey of the villages in Abu Road, we, as newly weds, moved into that village. It was only a few months before Endu came to know the Lord. Later, Homirobhai & his family became a follower of Jesus. Then Kesribai. We continued evangelizing, translating & establishing a worship group in that village. After six years, other teammates joined, and, passing this work onto them, we moved to another village to serve the Lord among the Garasia there.

Today, the Lord has done great things. There are baptized believers. The New Testament has been translated into their mother tongue. Local evangelists have been trained, two hostels built, a Garasia trust established to manage the affairs of the church and hostel, and two IEM missionaries continuing the work there. We believe the Lord will bring to completion what HE has begun in the lives of these dear Garasia people and will keep them pure and blameless till he comes again.

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."

- J. Hudson Taylor