

Khirwar



Population: 192,000 (1.92 lakhs)

Literacy: 17.22%

Scripture Status: New Testament translation has been initiated.

Large parts of Jharkhand state and parts of Chhattisgarh state lie on the Chota Nagpur Plateau, and are covered by dense forest. This forest preserves and sustains a good number of tigers and Asian elephants. The Khirwar people, speakers of the Khirwar language, have made this region their home. Though they are people of the forest, the Khirwar people are very patriotic by nature. The Khirwar

While colourful bangles and vermilion on the forehead mark a married woman, tattoo marks indicate a widow.

take pride in the fact that some men from their community took an active part in the freedom movement of India and some even sacrificed their lives for this cause. These heroes occupy a prominent place in Khirwar folk songs, which they sing whenever they gather for recreation. Nevertheless, the Khirwar language does not have the prestige of having printed literature. For that matter, many Khirwar people are still living in remote villages without proper transportation or roads. Many villages do not even have primary schools, so their children cannot be educated.

Generally the Khirwar are kind and hospitable, even towards strangers. They welcome anyone who comes to their homes and listen to what they have to say. However, the work of about ten mission agencies has not borne much fruit.

The reason for this lack of response is that they consider Christianity to be an ethnic group, like the Khirwar themselves are. This largely Hindu community is also of the opinion that they have nothing in common with Christianity and, as a result, cut themselves off from Christian missionaries. Recently, two missionaries studied the need for mother tongue Scriptures in Khirwar and this translation has just begun. The double-edged sword, God's Word, can penetrate their hearts, and accomplish its purpose.

Pray for:

1. The Bible translation that has been initiated among the Kherwar.
2. Church planting to take place among the Kherwar.
3. The education, health and other community needs of the Kherwar to be met.

