

Korku



Population: 500,000 (5 lakhs)

Literacy: 15%

Scripture Status: Translation in progress

"Missionary graves are more than the number of Christians in this region," was a common saying about the Korku region, but not any more.



Korkus love their language and use it in their homes, markets and everywhere.

The Satpura hills in the Amravathi and Akola districts of Maharashtra and the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh are home to the Korkus. The forest area is also known for wild animals like tigers, serving as a major tourist attraction. The Korkus' main occupations are agriculture, hunting and collecting forest produce. With not enough resources to support their families, they also periodically migrate to distant places as labourers. With minimal incomes, they are generally malnourished. Korkus maintain their distinct identity by not having marital relationships with neighbouring communities, such as Gonds, Golans and Gowlis. Their language is also called "Korku," meaning "people."

Korkus are animists, but they also worship Hindu gods and goddesses, celebrating their festivals. They have "bhagats" (priests) who perform puja to please spirits for healing from sickness. In spite of having hospitals in every town, they still go to 'bhagats' for healing.

As a result of the efforts of different missions, about 35 churches have been planted in the Korku area, representing about 1000 Korkus. Those who become Christians face much difficulty in the community, making others hesitant in taking a decision for Jesus. Korku pastors are being nurtured and developed by the missionaries to care for their own people.

Korkus love their language and use it in their homes, markets and everywhere. An outsider must learn the Korku language to do any trade with them. This strong language bond is a big driving force towards translating God's Word into Korku. Nearly half of the NT translation is complete. Several Old Testament stories, tracts and a song book are published. Workers are needed to train local evangelists and pastors to read the published Scriptures. This will lead to Korku Christians being able to study God's Word on their own, leading them to being deeply rooted in Jesus and bearing much fruit.

Pray for:

1. Speedy completion of the Korku New Testament translation.
2. Pastors to be equipped for rightly preaching the Word of God, using Korku in their churches.
3. God's protection for missionaries and pastors as they go about their ministries.
4. Korku churches to be actively involved in evangelism and translation.
5. The Korkus' educational and economic development.

