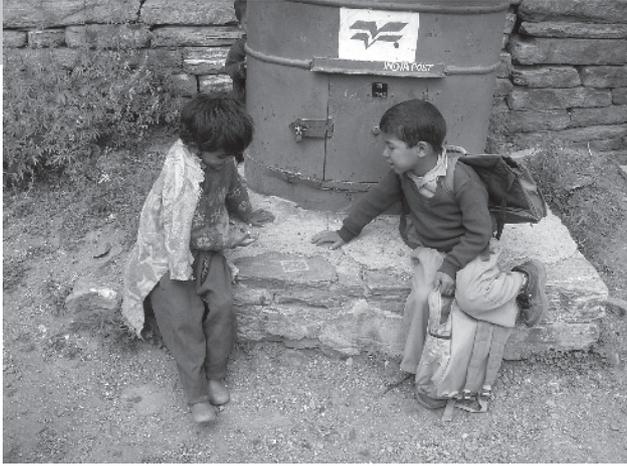


Kinnauri



Buddhist prayer flags often fly high on their Hindu temples; and many Kinnaura claim to be Buddhist-Hindus

television communication dishes top the skyline of every village.

Their religion is a mixture of Hinduism and Tibetan Buddhism. Strange as it sounds, Buddhist prayer flags often fly high over Hindu temples and the houses, and many Kinnaura claim to be Buddhist-Hindus. Apart from these religious influences, they also follow several traditions, beliefs and superstitions that govern their everyday lives.

Moravian missionaries were working among them, based in two Kinnaura villages, till the early 1900's. There are now nearly 400 followers of Jesus from among the Harijan Kinnaura. There are no known Christians from among the Rajput Kinnaura, who are considered high caste. Good habits of cleanliness and a distinct way of knitting are two influences of the Moravian missionaries on the Kinnaura lifestyle.

The Kinnauri language, spoken by the Rajput Kinnaura, is one among the eight languages spoken in the district. God's Word in Kinnauri can better communicate the good news to the Kinnaura. It is God's message to the Kinnaura too.

Population: 60,000

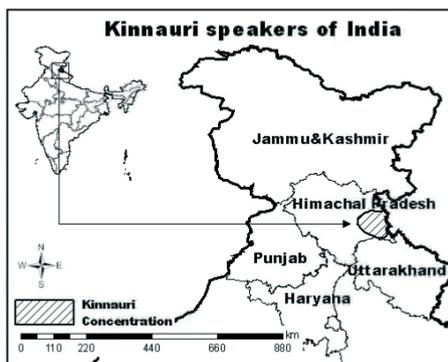
Literacy: High

Scripture Status: Translation starting soon

Beautiful mountains and valleys cover the entire Kinnaur district of southern Himachal Pradesh. With the rising Himalayas as the background, the scenery is quite picturesque. The area is

under snow for several months in a year, making living in the area a big challenge. Due to continuous snowfall, frequent landslides caused by melting snow, floods, erosion and the mountainous terrain, access to Kinnaur is often difficult and governed by the seasons. Frequently, the only winding national highway into the district is either blocked by landslides or washed away by floods.

Kinnaur is a prosperous region due to the abundance of apples, apricots, almonds, and chilgozas (local pine nuts). As a result, most Kinnaura are quite wealthy, their wealth displayed in the way their houses are built. These houses are usually large structures, often up to three storeys tall, built out of wood and stone, and having beautiful balconies overlooking apple and apricot orchards. Electricity and piped water are available for every house and roads link almost every village to the national highway. Satellite



Pray for:

1. A breakthrough among the Rajput Kinnaura, in responding to and accepting the gospel
2. The breaking down of caste barriers and for opening doors to the gospel by every community
3. Existing Christians among the Kinnaura to grow strong in their faith and be powerful witnesses within the community
4. The translation team to be well trained and equipped to translate the Scripture, accurately.

