

Paliyan



Population: 9,518

Literacy: 40%

Scripture Status: No Scripture
translation is in progress.

Satish was thoroughly surprised. This missionary had travelled a long distance to reach Kumalipaliyakudi, a Paliya settlement, to study how strongly the language of Paliya Bhasha was used by its own people. To his utter amazement, no one from this Paliya settlement spoke their mother tongue. Everyone spoke Tamil, the state language, so

There is no focused missionary effort to reach the Paliya, who are very strong followers of their own religion and customs.

fluently that he wondered whether it really was a Paliya settlement. Later Satish was told that, when missionaries came to the Paliya region about 70 years ago, they gathered a few Paliya families to do farming. Now all the residents of that settlement are Christians and none of them speak their mother tongue, Paliyan. Slowly all of them have switched over to Tamil, the language the missionaries spoke, and now they all speak only Tamil. However, in contrast, the Paliya of other settlements speak no other language than their own and their culture is also unique to the Paliya.

Several districts of the south Indian states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are home to the Paliya people. The Paliya region is not only rich in natural beauty, but also home to a large tribal

population whose ethos is distinctly different from that of the mainstream culture. The Paliya are one of several scheduled tribes. Paliya people from Tamil Nadu are also believed to have migrated to the states of Kerala and Karnataka.

The Paliya hold education and modern health care in high regard. Both boys and girls are sent to school, but they drop out once they reach primary or secondary school level. Girls stay at home to take care of the younger ones and boys go to work to earn some extra income. This tribal community is largely Hindu. The Paliya are notable for their general kindness and hospitable nature. But they remain one of the least evangelised communities of India. There are many churches near Paliya settlements but these rarely take any active step to evangelise the Paliya people. Focused missionary efforts are needed to reach this very receptive community for the Lord.

Pray for:

1. God's Word to be given to them in the medium they understand the best.
2. nearby areas to have vision to reach out to this community.
3. More pastors and evangelists to be sent to these people.

