

Kurumba, Betta



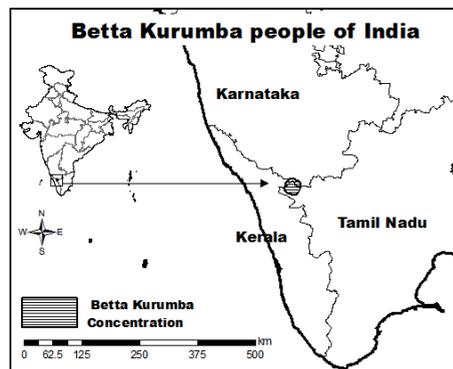
Betta
Kurumba
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approach their
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Population: 32,000

Literacy: Low

Scripture Status: Completed -
Mark & few passages of OT

Kulli lay in bed, too sick with pain to attend to her housework or take care of her two small grand children. Like other Betta Kurumba, she lived in a small hut, made of bamboo, covered with mud.



It was dark inside, but cooler than outside in the hot sun. The heights of the Western Ghats stood over the village – a cluster of huts – nestled deep inside the forests of Kerala. Weeks before, she had been washing clothes at the river when she slipped on a rock. She fell heavily onto the riverbank, landing on her hip. She was in deep pain.

She approached a Christian family, asking if they would help. Her sari was tied under her arms in Betta Kurumba style, and her bare shoulders sagged with discouragement. "I need 1,000 rupees to pay for the ritual expenses," she said.

"We cannot give you money for the ritual. Perhaps you should see a doctor instead," they replied. "But, we will pray to our God and ask him to heal you."

"You can pray for me," she said. "But I must go to my god as well."

Betta Kurumba people cannot

approach their god directly. They must go to the Binjikaln(priest), the mediator between them and their god, who would then communicate with their ancestors. If the ancestors are offended, they must apologize and atone for whatever sin they did. If the apology is not accepted, he must go to another priest, hoping ultimately to find out what made the ancestors angry.

Days later, Kulli was still in pain. "The priest could not help," she said. "I gave him all my money. He said it must be



sorcery, but I know it is because I fell in the river. Now, I don't have money to go to a doctor."

Betta Kurumba are blinded by traditional belief systems and face similar situations daily. A team is working on translating God's Word into their language. When God speaks to them in their own language, then perhaps the Betta Kurumba will be able to trust Him completely as God their creator, healer, and provider.

Pray for:

1. Betta Kurumba Christians to take the lead in Scripture translation and the translated Word of God starting a change in their world view.
2. The few Betta Kurumba followers of Jesus to come together in worship and share within their community, the news about Jesus.
3. Long lasting development activities among the economically and socially backward Betta Kurumba.

