

Muthuvan



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two rooms, but most living is done on the verandah in front of the house – which is the family room! Boys and girls who are ten years or older are no longer allowed to stay in the family home. They stay in a chavadi (dormitory) under the supervision of community elders, until they are married.

They are one of the most under-developed people groups in Idukki. They have recently begun sending their boys

Pray for:

1. There is great need for the development of the Muthuvan community. Pray that God will bring about these changes.

2. Muthuvan children to pursue education at school, and even dream of pursuing college and other higher education opportunities.

3. God to open doors for communicating the Gospel and for church planting by the Muthuvan among themselves.

4. A well equipped mother tongue translation team to be formed to speed the process of translating the Scriptures accurately.



to school, but girls are still discouraged. Most children resist staying in tribal hostels run by the government. There are a few single-classroom primary schools located near some of the interior villages. The Muthuvan children who go to school are not allowed to mingle or associate with other children. If it is possible, they bring food from home rather than defile themselves by eating food prepared outside a Muthuvan house. God's Word in the Muthuvan language is essential to help transform their lives.

Population: 12,000

Literacy: Low

Scripture Status: Translation in progress

Muthuvan are found along the border between Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Though they live not very far from other communities, they prefer not to associate with outsiders. When other people began

to move into their areas, many Muthuvan moved deep inside the forests, to isolate themselves. Those who did not move into deep forests, continue to preserve their distinct identity. There is no proper road access into most of their villages, and it could be several days' walk from the nearest town.

The Muthuvan consider themselves as high caste, and all others in the area as low caste. They avoid any form of mingling with lower castes. To them, all Christians are lower caste, including the Bible translation team who live among them. This makes it very difficult to share the gospel, and as a result, there are very few known Christians among them.

Muthuvan houses are still built in the traditional fashion. Mud is used to make the walls and floors of the house, and these are plastered over with cow dung. There are no windows in the houses, and roofs are made of grass. The houses have

