



DAY 12

Adoration

*The works of the Lord's hands are truth and justice;
All His precepts are trustworthy.
They stand firm for ever and ever,
Done in faithfulness and uprightness.
He sent redemption to His people;
He has ordained His covenant forever;
Holy and awesome is His name.* (Psalm 111:7-9)

*Your name, O Lord, endures forever,
Your renown, O Lord, through all generations.* (Psalm 135:13)

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession

No temptation has overtaken us except what is common to man. And God is faithful, who will not let us be tempted beyond what we are able, but with the temptation will also provide a way out, so that we may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Renewal

May we have no other gods before You. (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7)

May we not make for ourselves an idol in any form. (Exodus 20:4; Deuteronomy 5:8)

May we not take the name of the Lord our God in vain, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name. (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11)

Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal.

Petition

*Hear, O Lord, our voice when we call;
Be merciful to us and answer us.
Our hearts said of You, "Seek His face!"
Your face, Lord, we will seek.* (Psalm 27:7-8)

Relationships with Others

- Greater love and compassion for others
- Loved ones
- Those who do not know Christ
- Those in need

Intercession - Standing In The Gap

All things are for our sakes, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4:15)

Praying for the Persecuted Christian in Indonesia

OVERVIEW:

Indonesia is the most populous Muslim country in the world, composing 13 percent of the world's Muslim population. There are five officially recognized faith categories in Indonesia: Islam, Hinduism, Catholic Christianity, Protestant Christianity and Buddhism. Confucianism/Daoism is also recognized. While most Indonesian Muslims practice an animistic version known as "folk" Islam, proponents of radical Islamic ideology have encouraged and engaged in violence against Christians. This strategy has led many Muslims to question their faith and to be more open to the gospel. Bold evangelists are taking advantage of this opportunity to share the gospel, leading many Muslims to faith in Christ.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Indonesia is a majority Sunni Muslim country where many are proud to be Muslim, but few actually attend mosque or otherwise practice the religion. There are small Hindu, Buddhist and Christian minority groups.

PERSECUTOR:

The main persecutors in Indonesia are extremist groups and hard-line Muslims, who in turn influence moderate Muslims. While the government does not normally persecute Christians, neither does it consistently defend their rights.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN INDONESIA:

Even though it is illegal to proselytize, it is legal, though difficult, for Muslims and others to convert to Christianity in Indonesia, and there is more openness to the gospel than in other Muslim countries in Southeast Asia because Indonesians value harmony. Christians living in cities can worship openly. In rural areas, churches that actively share their faith face persecution from Muslims, local governments and the community. In some areas, small house churches of about 12 people are generally tolerated and allowed to meet openly. Muslims pay a price for converting to Christianity, and even in cities most Christian converts from Islam choose to attend churches outside their community. Those who openly share their faith face pressure from family members because their conversion to Christianity affects the family's social standing. Muslim families often disown children who come to Christ, sometimes even conducting symbolic "funerals" for them. Foreigners who openly evangelize Muslims are required to leave the country. One Indonesian province, Aceh, has implemented Sharia, or Islamic law.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for Pastor Saefuddin, who was recently released from prison after evangelizing Muslims.
- Pray that front-line workers will be bold and wise as they share the gospel.
- Pray for Andreas in Jambi province who is facing charges of blasphemy against Islam.
- Pray that mission training schools will produce faithful missionaries.

Praying For The Unreached People of Gond in India

Population: 14,214,000

Evangelical Christian: Unknown

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY:

A crude gate on the mud road, the wooden poles on both the sides and the beam across it stands high enough for any one to enter. There are remains of bundles and ropes hung on it. Among them you may find a new bundle of shrinking animal skin. If you see these before a village, you can be sure: you are entering a Gondi village.

Gonds celebrate their legacy every year during the Dasara. On that occasion, all the living heirs of the crown in each generation are honored by carrying them on a pallak (royal cart carried on shoulders).

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Gonds are agriculturists and choose to live on the riverbeds close to forests. Most of them possess agricultural land. Those who have a god portion of the land cultivate rice, javar (cereals) and green dal (pulses). Tending goats and cattle are also common. Poorer Gonds work in the fields of the richer Gonds. There is not much work available for them except in farming seasons.

Southern Gonds live in clusters. Each village will have 25 to 30 huts and is surrounded by their fields. Villages will be two to four kilometers away from one another. From one village to another or to the near by town, they travel by bullock-carts. All farmers offer sacrifices at the end of each harvest. The size of the yield determines the size of the animal offered. A good harvest may demand a goat and poorer, a chicken. Pigs are also sacrificed for a moderate harvest. For them, monsoon not only brings showers but also sicknesses.

Girls are married of between the age of 13 and 15. Marriages will be in summer. A girl and a boy in love, running away is an accepted custom. Once they come back, the Panchayat meet together to discuss the terms and conditions of the marriage. Marriages are also arranged by the parents. Depending up on the financial conditions of the families the bride groom's parents have to give the bride's parents some amount of money.

Among the Southern Gond tribes, there are seven clans. Each clan has gods numbering form one to seven. They maintain their identity and distinguish one clan form another based on the number of gods each has. People of the same clan can not get married. When one meet someone, he asks, how many gods the other person has in his clan. This is how they know whether they belong to the same clan or not. Clans with the same number of gods will not get married together. This is observed strictly. If the financial condition permits, one is allowed to have more than one wife.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

They believe that evil spirits are the causes for sicknesses. Sacrifices are believed to be powerful to keep away these evil spirits. Perumal, the high-priest, responsible for three or four villages together, offers these sacrifices for every village. The sacrifice will be followed by a social dinner. The sacrificial goat has to give permission for the sacrifice by nodding its head! The people will wait till the animal does it.

The sacrifice is witnessed by the whole of the village. But the dinner made by cooking the animal will be enjoyed only by the men. All the men gather at the riverside to prepare the dinner. White toddy from palm or the country liquor called, black toddy may supplement the diner. Drinking, in general, is not just the right of men. The sacrifice animal's skin is stuffed with hay and hung on the village gate. This is to frighten the evil spirits and give courage to the villagers. The Southern Gonds prefer witch doctors even when a Public Health Centre is accessible. They will have to carry a chicken along. Gonds think that enemies' witchcraft brings them ill health. Chanted herbs or water is given by the witch doctor as remedies.

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE BACK TO GOD FOR THE GOND:

1. *You are inquired of by the **Gond** who didn't ask and you are found by the **Gond** who didn't seek you. You said, "See me, see me," to the **Gond** that were not called by your name. (ISAIAH 65:1)*
2. *Lord Most High, you are awesome. You are the great King over the **Gond**. May the **Gond** sing praise to you for you are King of all the earth. You reign over the **Gond**. You sit on your holy throne. (PSALM 47:2, 6-8)*
3. *O Lord God! behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm; there is nothing too hard for you. Show your loving kindness to the **Gond**. You are the mighty God, the Yahweh of Armies is your name. You are great in counsel, and mighty in work; let your eyes be open to all the ways of the **Gond**. (JEREMIAH 32:17-19)*

Standing In The Gap For:

- Friends
- Relatives
- Neighbors
- Special opportunities
- Special Prayer Request

Thanksgiving

*We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks,
For Your name is near;
Men tell of Your wonderful works. (Psalm 75:1)*

*Lovingkindness and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring forth from the earth,
And righteousness looks down from heaven. (Psalm 85:10-11)*

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.

Closing Prayer

*O Lord, may our hearts not be proud, nor have eyes that have been arrogant;
Let us not concern ourselves with great matters
Or things too wonderful for us.
Surely we have stilled and quieted our souls;
Like a weaned child with its mother,
Like a weaned child is are our souls within us. (Psalm 131:1-2)*