

Information, resources, etc:

Cuttack Diocese

<http://dioceseofcuttackchurchofnorthindia.org/>

CNI Synod

<http://new.cnisynod.org/>

The Methodist Church

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/world-church/>

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) has worship resources, fact sheets and reports

<https://mwib.org.uk/index.php/2012/02/04/dalit-people/>

All We Can

<https://allwecan.org.uk/where-we-work/asia/india/>

International Dalit Solidarity Network

<http://www.idsn.org/>

Dalit Solidarity Network UK

www.dsnu.org

National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights

<http://www.ncdhr.org.in/dalit-rights-situation>

Action Village India

<http://www.actionvillageindia.org.uk/home>

International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2013 liturgies & resources

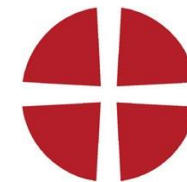
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/606>

Candles, etc. from Life Association

<http://www.dalit.co.uk/>



The Plymouth & Exeter
Methodist District
partnering the Cuttack
Diocese, Orissa



Resources for Cuttack Sunday



Rt Rev S R Nanda, Bishop of Cuttack

The state of Orissa - the Cuttack
Diocese is along the eastern strip

Introducing the Diocese:

The Church of North India (CNI) is a united church established in 1970 by bringing together the main Protestant churches working in northern India.

The Diocese of Cuttack is situated in Orissa, one of India's seven poorest states. Approximately 2% of the population of Orissa (estimated at 45m) are Christian. It is an area which retains a heavy Baptist influence from the work of the Baptist Missionary Society. The Rt Rev Surendra Kumar Nanda is the Bishop of Cuttack.

The Diocese is divided into 4 Pastorate Unions, each comprising a number of Pastorates, around 140 congregations, and an estimated 12,500 communicant members.

The Diocese works with partners to support a number of educational establishments, including 5 Stewart Schools, a Skills Centre at Mohana, and teacher training college, as well as a Christian Hospital at Berhampur.

The area includes the large urban populations of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the coastal tourist resort of Puri with its historic Hindu temple, as well as numerous fishing communities.

Inland, the area is predominantly rural, mountainous and remote. Between 80-90% of the population in this area is made up of scheduled castes (Dalit) and scheduled tribes (Adivasi).

'Dalit' is the name the people have given to themselves - it means 'broken' or 'crushed'.

Challenges for the people:

The challenges are many, including

- Caste-associated discrimination
- Religious discrimination
- Lack of adequate quality education, for all children, but particularly for girls - around 70% of women in rural India are illiterate.
- Lack of sources of income generation - 37% live below the International Poverty Line
- Lack of adequate medical facilities
- Deforestation, soil erosion and drought mean poor agricultural production
- Effect of globalisation and industrialisation on communities – migration and displacement
- Trafficking of, and violence towards girls and women

Both the Dalit and the Adivasi people suffer discrimination for different reasons: the Dalits in the Indian context are the communities which are considered 'out-castes' - previously 'untouchable'; the Tribal or Adivasi people are thought of as primitive and backward. Together these two groups make up around 25% of India's population and about 85% of India's Christians.

They are socially marginalized, politically under-represented, economically exploited and culturally subjugated. The women are particularly oppressed.



Prayer Points:

1. Please pray for the Churches of the Diocese of Cuttack as they strive to follow Christ in difficult and challenging circumstances.
2. Pray for the Evangelists, as well the Mission and Evangelism desk of the Diocese of Cuttack, as they preach the gospel to the unreached, pray for God's divine protection on them as they face threats to their life and property
3. Pray that the leadership of the Diocese of Cuttack under guidance of the Bishop Nanda, may they be able to know, to discern and to lead in the way that God wants the Diocese to go.

There are numerous Bible readings which could be looked at contextually by Preachers leading worship on this Sunday. e.g.

Isaiah 42 : 1-4 - Crushed, broken, ground down

Matthew 8 : 1-4 - Touching the untouchable

Luke 15: 8 - 10 - 'Lost' Dalit women

John 4 : 1 - 26 - Living water from Jesus