



Would you like to share the gospel in an untouched* Tribal Village?

***Would you like to go to a remote village where maybe no westerner has been for 10+ years. The village has possibly never seen the Jesus film, and the most people have never heard the gospel or know the name Jesus?**

Salem district contains three million people. Of the scheduled tribes in Tamil Nadu state, 0.1% are Christian and 99% are Hindu's. The tribes in the Salem district include the Irular, Malayali and the Lambadi people. Remote village evangelism is being conducted in three mountain regions and on the plains reaching hundreds of villages in total.

Your Mission Trip to India?

Anthony Pike /Agapa will be hosting bi-annual trips to Salem in January / February commencing 2013. If you would like to arrange your own trip, please contact Rajan from Agape direct as per contacts below.

Are you suitable to do mountain Treks?

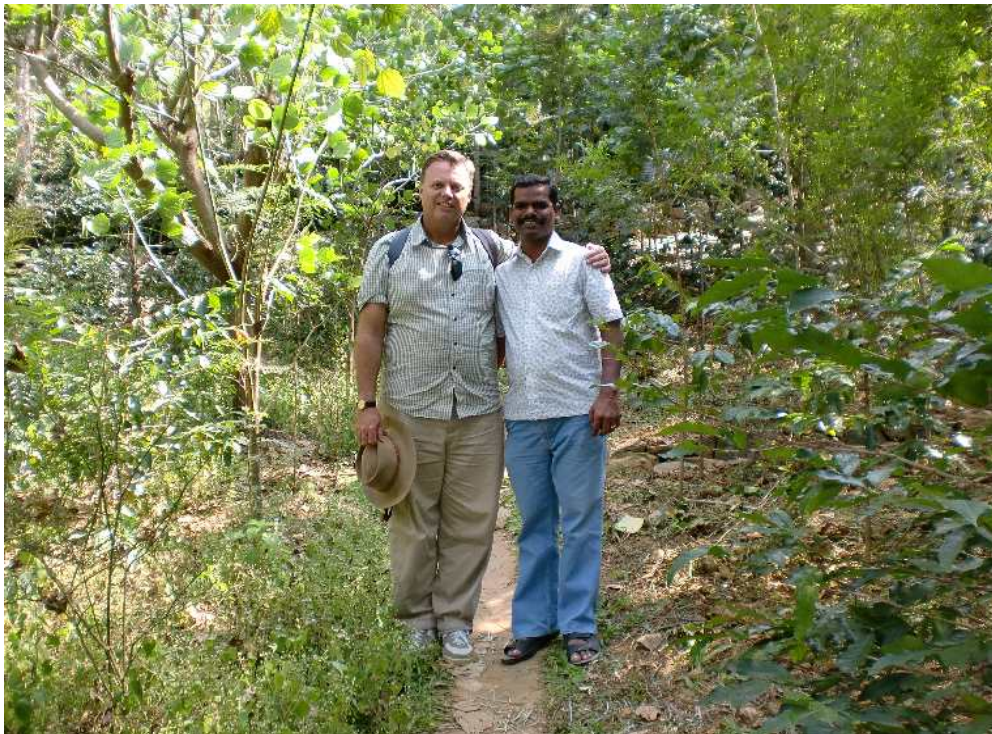
Suitable people to attend need to fit the following criteria and have a willingness to adjust your life whilst in India:

1. You must be experienced in evangelism / street ministry / WYAM or similar and provide a letter from your pastor / ministry leader of your suitability prior to any booking being received. You must be willing to preach a culturally relevant brief gospel message or give a testimony if traveling in a group. Competent church preaches will be given significant opportunities.
2. Salem does not provide many western "essentials". When you are in India, you need to become an "Indian". Western food is mostly unattainable. Please liaise with your local Indian restaurant to learn how to eat Indian food without cutlery! You may on occasion sleep on the floor!
3. We recommend a few days prior to arrival that you visit a "tourist location such as Chennai or Ooty, with the focus for you to practice essential Indian customs and behaviors before you commence ministry.
4. Hills tribal work is potentially dangerous and is difficult. You may be required to walk up to 10 km with a pack, ride on the back of a motorcycle and sit in smog dust clouded buses! Ok: you were warned! Plus... no toilets!!
5. We recommend a land cost of approximately \$500 USD per week per person to cover cost of interpreter, driver, accommodation and meals. Cost is less per person for larger groups.
6. Salem is best accessed by train from either Chennai, Bangalore or Trichy. The Chennai train line also services the tribal region of Ooty!

**Anthony Pikes trip to Agape Christian Mission:
1/2/2011 - 15/2/2011**

We based ourselves in the orphanage and then ministered to people from up to 40 villages sharing the gospel countless times in small groups, one-to-one and in meetings. We prayed for just over 35 first time decisions over the 2 weeks!

Anthony with Pastor Rajan



The Agape Children's orphanage

I had the pleasure of walking 52 children to school most days and spent 2 hours with them drawing after school on the first day.



The Children come from a variety of situations. Some including Gaythri (below right) are AIDS orphans. HIV-AIDS is a significant problem in the long distance truck driving community and so many children of truck drivers end up orphans.

A number of children come from homes where a parent is disabled and unable to care for or provide for their children. A number of these parents are in remote tribal villages without effective education opportunities. In one of the Malayali villages I visited, the teacher had "just disappeared"; so no school!

A small number of children belong to the evangelists and pastors working in remote tribal areas. Agape sends all its children to a christian school so they are all getting an excellent education.



Ministry to Christian Leaders.

The monthly pastors meeting had approximately 20 pastors and evangelists in attendance. I spoke for around 2 hours (including answering questions) on living and demonstrating the fruit of the spirit as leaders and managing the pressures and expectations of ministry.



1 Day Trek to Mt Yercauld

Mt Yercauld is a one hour drive from the orphanage up a steep mountain with 60 hairpin bends. We initially visited a school on the way before walking to a remote Irulu village where the Jesus movie had been shown previously. This was the first follow up visit.



School visit at Humpal:
Taught English / Tamil
(Jesus Loves you)
(jesu ona ni/sic/er/rah)

We then walked in to a remote Irula tribe village;. We discussed fear and evil spirits in the daily life of animistic tribal people. The women confirmed they had similar fears to the women in Australian Aboriginal communities. We preached that Jesus sets people free from fear and protects Christians from evil.



I then conducted a presentation in the tribal village school using English language flip cards, talked about Australia and then sang the song I made up about Jesus in Tamil and English.

One Day Mountain trek to Lambardi in Patcha Hills area.

Traveled to remote Lambadi Tribal region on Monday collecting the evangelist pastor on the way. We visited 3 villages and conducted three group gospel meetings.



Lambadi tribal people lead a semi-nomadic life in Salem.. They are popularly known as Banjaras or Sugalis. They dress themselves in brass anklets, bangles, embellished jewelry and glass beads. They live day to day as farmers, reaping, harvesting, planting, sowing etc.



Three day trek to Kalvarayan Hills

Traveled to Kalvarayan Hill to visit Malayali tribal people. In a meeting in the first village, I prayed for a medicine man to accept Christ.



We traveled to a second village, prayed around houses, then a third...



On the road at 7am visiting the first village. Prayed for another medicine man to give his life to Jesus. After conducting meetings in homes praying for healing, we around the village and two other women came to Christ.



I must have shared the gospel message with about 15 groups of people and was exhausted at the end of the morning.

In the evening we traveled to a distant village and then to a house church meeting where I shared the gospel.

Two day trek to Kolli Hills

We traveled to the Kolli hills, about 100 km from Salem to stay with Pastor Ponnusamy in the village of Kuli Valavue. Pastor Ponnusamy was village chief before he became a Christian. There are approximately 275 villages on the hills with very few Christians. The Kolli hills are known as "Kolli Moloi", the "Mountains of Death"

On the first evening we visited first village and entered 4 homes including the home of the village chief. They are receptive to the "love of God" gospel and received prayer and bibles. I discussed clearly the need for the Chief to make a decision for the village. The people are mired in fear of spirits.



On the second day we visited 3 villages sharing the gospel with about 8 groups of people. This included two village assistants (hereditary second in charge of villages.) and a village chief.



We prayed for the removal of worshiped Hindu territorial spirit "Kollipavai, the local deity". The Hindu faith has so intertwined with legal village structures, that if people become Christian's, they almost fall out of village life.

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