



Global
CHE
Network

Creating Healthy Communities
by the Power of Jesus

A 21 Day Prayer Journey

Join us in praying for those in villages around the world who suffer without the life and light of Christ.

Day 1

Most people living in the village are farmers. They go to work early in the morning and work until late evening. Others work in shops or selling produce, while others are potters, carpenters, and blacksmiths. Life is hard as they toil the ground and make a living for their families.

Lord, help us to remember Your word so that we can carry it with us wherever we go. When things get difficult, remind us of the words You have spoken and the promises You have given to us. May we always look to Your Word for guidance in times of hardship. Scripture: Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Day 2

People in the village are deeply religious. In Hindu contexts, they usually worship a number of gods and goddesses. They devote regular time to prayer and worship. Many superstitions flourish among them. When we see people bowing down, burning candles, praying, and worshipping idols, we need to cry out to God for them that they may know the true and living God.

Pray the Scripture Exodus 20:4-5 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me."

Day 3

Villagers are socially knit together. Their life is co-operative and interdependent. Their social sense is so strong that the guest of one is considered as the guest of all. Each member of the village is familiar with the family history of other villagers.

Our relationship with God is that of children to a parent, sheep to a shepherd, creators to the Creator. We are dependent on Him for life, for breath, for sustenance, for help in trouble, for love, for forgiveness, for mercy. Read Psalm 86- Pray that God will help the villagers to know that he is the Creator and the one who knits their families together.

Day 4

People who live in villages value celebrations and have festivals at specific times of the year.

John 4:23: The hour is coming and now is, when true worshippers will worship You, Father, in spirit and truth, for You are seeking such to worship You.

Day 5

The typical village houses cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry. They are frequently in debt that they are often never able to repay.

I John 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Lord Jesus - time grows short and the days grow darker still. Many have not heard of Your salvation that paid for them too. There are many in this world that are spiritually and physically hungry. Feed one hunger and they live for a few days or years. Feed the other hunger and they will live forever. Lead us into the joy of supporting Your work with prayer and time or the things of this world that You have graciously provided to us. Thank you for the opportunity to participate and share the love we know with others. Amen.

Day 6

Village life is simple in some ways, but complicated in others. The people are extremely poor. They live in one-room mud houses that often fall to the ground in the rains. In spite of their hard work they are not able to earn enough to provide their families with more than two meals a day.

"Jesus says, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Mathew 25:35 - Creator God, we cry out for all those who don't have the means to survive. We especially pray for provision for the parents of sick, malnourished and dying children. Help us to share and give from the abundance you have given us.

Day 7

Most people in the village are oral learners. Many are illiterate and cannot read or write; others have only elementary education and prefer oral methods. They often don't have access to quality education at all.

Acts 4:13 - When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Day 8

Famines and floods often take away the fruits of a farmer's hard labor.

Matthew 25:35 - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Day 9

Two wooden doors, two wooden windows, no glass, no screens, no electricity, one room built of cinder-block, with an inch of dirt and dust covering the poured floor, is a clinic. This frequently closed medical clinic, high, in the poorest village. On the rare occasions when a missionary doctor visits, 200 or 300 villagers overwhelm her. Some patients walk as long as four hours through the mountain over footpaths to visit the clinic. The doctoring doesn't end until the last patient is seen. No one has money for medical care. Some lack money for food.

Matthew 9:35 - Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

Day 10

They share use of common village facilities—the village pond, grazing grounds, temples and shrines, cremation grounds, schools, sitting spaces under large shade trees, wells, and wastelands.

Acts 2:45 - They sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, according to as anyone had need.

Day 11

Women in the villages of India are dependent on their husbands for their survival. They usually stay at home where they prepare meals, take care of the children and work in the village market. If their husband dies, they become widows who can easily end up on the streets where they are forced into prostitution. Many times their children are sold into slavery to pay the landlord.

2 Kings 4:1-7 A prophet died and left debts that his widow and two sons could not pay. The creditor decided to take the two sons as slaves in payment of the debt. When the widow begged for Elisha's help, the Lord miraculously provided them with enough oil to sell and pay off the debt. Lord, we pray for the widows that you would provide a way for them through your very word. We pray that you will help them to see that you are the one true God. Please help them to escape the corruption and evil that is around them. Amen.

Day 12

Indian Villages are typically built very close to each other with small lanes for passage of people and sometimes carts.

Matthew 11:1 - After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

Day 13

The number of castes resident in a single village in India can vary widely, from one to more than forty. Typically, a village is dominated by one or a very few castes that essentially control the village land and on whose patronage members of weaker groups must rely.

Matthew 19:30 - But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Day 14

Residents are quick to judge each other, and improper work or social habits receive strong criticism. Villagers feel a sense of village pride and honor, and the reputation of a village depends upon the behavior of all of its residents.

Isaiah 11:13 - *And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear.*

Day 15

In villages they hold their culture in high esteem, observing many of their old traditions, rituals and ceremonies. Everyone stays in the homestead, which is often made up of circular, fenced huts with thatched roofs. Traditional clothing is often intricate, carrying meaning with each outfit. Men, women and children wear beads as accessories. Men wear the amabeshu – an apron made of goat or cattle skin, but worn at the back.

Leviticus 26:19 - *I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.*

Day 16

In a village, they own large herds of cattle, sheep and goats, which they follow around seasonally in search of new grazing grounds and water sources. Cattle represents food and power; the more cattle, the richer he is and therefore the more power and influence he will have within his tribe.

Psalm 50:10 - "For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine."

Day 17

In a typical village, women are responsible for all domestic tasks that include making their homes. Houses are made from mud, sticks, grass, cow dung and urine. The women also milk the cows, collect water, cook and look after the children. They are impressive in their looks as they are tall, slender and bedecked with large beaded necklaces and long braided hair.

Psalm 132:16 - *Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.*

Day 18

Village life consists of the traditional family of five or more children, many of whom suffer from malnutrition. The basic foods are rice (though it is often less thoroughly milled than in other countries, making it contain more vitamins and roughage) fish and vegetables.

Hebrews 6:14 - For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU."

Day 19

According to traditional beliefs in India, although childbirth is reason for celebration, it also exposes the family to harm from the spirit world. A woman who dies in childbirth is believed to become an evil spirit.

Jeremiah 1:5 - "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."

Day 20

Nearly every village in the village countryside has a market. Farm families grow their own food. If they have extra food, they sell it at the market. Fiesta is the practice of organizing parties to celebrate religious events, patron saints, or major community occasions.

2 Chronicles 23:13 - And when she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and the singers with their musical instruments leading in the celebration.

Day 21

In India, the caste system is a unique feature of the village community. It determines the role, status, occupation and marital relationships of the people. The caste system exercises such a decisive influence on the villagers that it has rightly been described as the "alpha and omega" of village life.

Mark 9:35 - Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."