Updated-Gond Persecution

Continued Madia Threats and Damage

On March 10, Johnson (our Madia team leader) called and told about increased persecution in that field. Brothers in several villages are being threatened. Some of their houses were damaged or demolished. The opponents gave a deadline for them to evacuate their village.

- Please pray for timely wisdom and protection for our friends going through these fiery trials, also for strong faith to withstand.
- Pray for the detractors’ plans and schemes to be confounded and for their repentance.

Stories from the field

In the second week of January, many of our team from the field gathered for a three-day prayer retreat. It was a time of strengthening our bonds with the Lord and with each other. One by one, our brothers and sisters shared their testimonies. They recounted the joys and sufferings they faced during 2016.

Opposition in Antargadh

Moses told about the opposition and sufferings that his family and the believers in Antargadh region faced. Due to an issue regarding the land title, the district officer gave orders to demolish their ministry center. After much prayer, the officer issued an order in our favor. Then the villagers began to strongly oppose the work. They even placed magical talismans in front of the structure. However, the government order stood firm, forcing the villagers to calm down.

Spiritual Warfare in Katoli

This dear servant of the Lord went on to tell about persecution that took place in the remote forest village of Katoli. Through the witness of the first believer, a total of 37 families put their trust in the Lord. Disturbed by these developments, antagonists planned to rid their village of this ‘menace’. They called a witch doctor who tried his powers to kill all the believers. He finally left, saying, “What can I do before the Light of the universe?”

Beatings

The villagers then called our brothers for a meeting. They complained that, when our people shouted ‘Hallelujah’, all their powers left them. The opponents resorted to physically beating them and even tried to kill some. All except two young children fled the village and went to the town in the valley below. The villagers tied up the two children, threatened them and beat them badly.

After arriving in town, our brothers approached the head of the district who called the detractors and gave them a strict warning. After apparent
reconciliation, the believers returned home. A few days later, they were beaten again. Sonu (who is now taking training) was beaten on his head, affecting his hearing. Nevertheless, our people stood firm and the situation is somewhat peaceful now. New people are being added to the congregation. A total of 80 came to faith in 2016!

Let’s engage in spiritual warfare, upholding God’s children at home and abroad!

- Pray for strong faith of the believers and for soft and open hearts for the detractors.
- Pray for all our team members who risk their lives for the sake of spreading God’s message.
- Pray for the government officials to intervene and establish justice, order, and protection.

December 22 Report—Madia Persecution