

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

INDIA

General information

- According to Indian Christian traditions, the apostle Thomas evangelized in present day Kerala.
- The world's oldest existing church structure was believed to be built by Thomas the Apostle in 57 AD.
- Syriac-speaking Christians had already evangelized parts of India by the late 2nd century.
- The French Dominican missionary Jordanus Catalani was the first European to bring Catholicism to India. He arrived in Suratin 1320.
- Protestant missionaries translated the Bible into the local Tamil language, and afterwards into Hindustani. William Carey translated the Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit, and numerous other languages and dialects.
- India ranks 15 among countries with highest church attendance.
- There has been an increase in anti-Christian violence in recent years particularly in the states of Gujarat and Orissa; which is usually perpetrated by Hindu nationalists. The acts of violence include arson of churches, re-conversion of Christians to Hinduism by force and threats of physical violence



Prayer items—

- Ministry: Pray for the many Gospel for Asia-supported workers who are sharing the love of Jesus in a country where millions have yet to hear His name. Reaching out to those without hope, these workers are helping to lift families out of poverty and show them new life found in Jesus. Ask God to give them wisdom and clear guidance in their efforts, and pray that many will experience His love.
- Health issues: India has the third largest population of AIDS victims in the world, and 43 percent of all children under the age of five are underweight.
- Social issues: It is estimated that there are more than 20 million prostitutes in India. Each day, 40 girls under the age of 15 are kidnapped or sold into prostitution. Others enter it willingly, seeing it as the only way to survive.

See: <http://www.gfa.org/pray/india/>