



### The Least of the Lost

#### By Steve Liversedge

"The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly." - Isaiah 60:22

vangelism Resources' mission statement is — "Mobilizing Disciples to Accelerate the Harvest." We want to evangelize as many of the unreached as possible and to equip them to become disciples and disciple-makers so that they can accelerate the harvest among their own people.

To do this, we provide training through our Schools of Evangelism (SOEs), Portable Bible Schools (PBSes), Mobile Schools of Evangelism (MSOEs), Great Commission Challenge Camps (GC<sup>3</sup>s), Inductive Bible Study Seminars (IBSes), and WIN (Women's Impact Network). This is the mobilizing. We focus on the last and the least-reached people groups, especially in India and other countries in the 10/40 Window, in order to complete the mandate of the Great Commission left to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the harvest.

One of the "least" of the lost remaining is the Musahar people group. They are considered "untouchable" and are one of the most marginalized and poorest of the poor. Because they are a people with little hope in this life, they are receptive to the gospel as they come to understand that they are precious to God. Downtrodden by every other people group, they receive hope of eternal life through the

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Rakhi comes to the Freedom Child Center every day. She has just one notebook and pencil. She comes early to the center because she loves the singing time. Unfortunately, today the teacher will not teach a song because she has a sore throat.

Rakhi goes up to the teacher requesting her to sing, but the teacher apologizes and explains why she cannot sing today. Rakhi walks back to her seat with tears in her eyes, walking past the other children sitting on the floor, laughing with their friends. The teacher watches tears in the eyes of Rakhi and asks her what is wrong? She responds that she misses the song, because that is the only time in the entire day when she feels happy.

The teacher learns from Rakhi that her mother goes to the brick kiln every day to work so that she can buy rice for the evening meal. Father Rupesh has been gone nine months, about 1200 kilometers to Haryana to work, hoping to repay the debt that their family collected when the

landlord persecuted them for not working for him. Sickness and debt have crippled their family.

When the teacher realized that the only moment of happiness was not there for Rakhi, she felt a deep pain. She invited Rakhi and her friends forward and asked them to sing. Rakhi was hesitant, but she stood up and sang her favorite song, "I am happy today" in Hindi. Waving her hands in rhythm with the song, the tears dried on her cheeks and a smile ran through her face. That was a touching moment for Rakhi and the teacher.

Every day 1,200 children have a moment of joy, to laugh, to dream, to play and to know Jesus as their best friend. These are Musahar children, the Maha-Dalit children, the poorest of the poor, the outcaste of the village. The higher castes purify themselves when the shadow of a Musahar falls on them.

For a Musahar child, coming to the Freedom Child Center is the chance to come to know who they are in

Christ. They are beloved children of the Living God, sons and daughters, created in His very image. At the centers, their lives are transformed by the Spirit working through 60 faithful teachers, empowering Musahar children by providing them an alternative to the extreme poverty and oppression through greater access to nutrition, health, education, and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Shubh Sandesh Foundation, in partnership with ER, wants the Musahar people to know the true freedom that is found in Jesus Christ. No longer untouchable, outcaste, and bonded to the landlord, we want the power of God to liberate them from the bondage of oppression and sin, through the love of Jesus Christ.

ER partners with Shubh Sandesh Foundation, providing \$50 per month to 10 of their 60 Freedom Child Center teachers. Join us as we pray for this ministry, these teachers, the children whom they are serving, and their families.



## **Upcoming Travel**

Please pray with us for ER staff as they travel overseas on the following dates:

#### March 9 - 29

Paul Braun visiting ministry directors in Bangladesh and eastern India.

#### March 17 - April 2

Steve Liversedge, Dale
Garside, Shanti Rawate
(India director), and Alex F.
(ER's partner in Hong Kong)
travelling to Cyprus to lead
PBS training for pastors
from several countries in the
Middle East and Central Asia.

#### April 22 - May 7

Steve and Lorrie Liversedge,
Dale Garside, Caleb and Abby
Pfeifer, and Shanti and Steven
Rawate meeting in Kinshasa,
DRC to help Elnathan Nyamuke
(Africa director) with PBS and
WIN training for delegates from
15 African nations.

### Thank You, Dear Reader

#### By Lisa Fowler

Joy unending. Two beautiful words that together describe what it's like to choose renewed life with Jesus every day—and this is what we want the whole world to know.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: 'Give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted" (Isaiah 12:3-4 ESV).

hose of us at the ER home office are especially moved by what the Spirit has done at Asbury University (AU) over the past two weeks. An outpouring of the Spirit has brought about physical, emotional, and spiritual healing to so many—and joy! It is a type of unending joy that is qualitatively different from any fleeting feeling because this joy can only come from the generous love of the Holy Spirit. We believe that what has taken place at AU, and at many universities nationwide, is a launching pad for missions because when this kind of joy overwhelms your heart, mind, and soul, you truly cannot keep yourself from sharing the loving kindness of Jesus Christ our Dearest Friend, our Bridegroom King.

As I write to you, I'm overcome with joy and gratitude for you, dear reader. Thank you for being part of the ER family. As you continue to navigate various life circumstances, blessing or hardship, may the joy of the LORD be your strength. May our lives resound the missionary heartbeat of our Heavenly Father. The celebration awaits. Unending joy.





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crucified and risen Christ.

What has happened among the Musahars since 2016 is nothing short of amazing. ER partners with leaders in Bihar and Jharkhand States, where the Musahar live. We began by searching for Musahar believers, "men and women of peace" whom we could disciple. At first we sent in evangelists from other groups who felt called to reach the Musahar. Many of those who responded entered SOEs, but the numbers were not sufficient to start a movement. MSOEs came along to fill the void, with 12 MSOEs

evangelize 1,000 villages and one million Musahars by 2030, plant 50 churches, and ordain ten Musahar pastors. In addition, they seek to liberate 10,000 Musahar children who are bonded laborers so that they can go back to school.

Let one story suffice. Poonam Devi and her husband are missionaries to the Musahar. Poonam came to faith in Christ through a miraculous healing two years before her marriage. Since then she has been burdened to reach the Musahar people. She is from a higher caste, one that

looks down on the Musahars as outcasts. God, however, touched Poonam and she

began breaking social norms by entering a Musahar village called Salempur. This created a panic in the village as the Musahar saw a high caste woman walking their streets. Suspicion turned to fear and hostility.

Finally a Musahar woman called Renu Devi came to Poonam and asked if they could talk privately. She shared concerns for her husband, who had been fighting cancer for two years. All hope was gone. Poonam shared with her the good news and the healing power of Jesus. Renu prayed and believed and began

coming to the village church started by Poonam and her two sons and daughter. After a few weeks, Renu's husband was miraculously healed. The entire family believed and were baptized. Renu's story spread, and as a result many more Musahar have come to faith in Christ.

When we started working among the Musahar, the Joshua Project reported that .06 percent of their population of 3,105,000, or 1,863, were evangelical Christians. Today evangelical Musahars number 19,030, a growth rate of over 900 percent. If such growth continues, by 2025 this "least of the lost" will have become a reached people group. Continue to pray for this UPG and the over 100 other UPGs among whom we work in 15 states of India. Your prayers here bring results there. Thank you all for making the effort to bring the precious Musahar, the least of the lost, to their loving and compassionate Lord, and by doing so, hastening the return of the Master.

# "Downtrodden by every other people group, they receive hope of eternal life through the crucified and risen Christ."

being held since 2017 and 408 Musahars having been trained.

In addition, many Musahar women, SOE and MSOE graduates, have become "Bible Women," 27 of whom are sponsored by ER so that they can travel to nearby villages to evangelize and make disciples. So far the Bible Women have evangelized 500 villages and 50,000 Musahar people. From that number, 10,000 have come to faith in Christ and over 3,000 have been baptized. Only last month, 296 first-generation new believers were brought into the kingdom.

Our partners' vision is to

#### An MSOE for the Musahar people

