



# The Rutara

## Rutara Straddles the Border

The Rutara people live in two countries of South Asia. Rutara culture is very similar on both sides of the border that divides the two political entities. Many Rutara cling to animistic traditions, although elements of a locally popular world religion have seeped into Rutara traditional religious practice.

Rutara people are eligible for government help from one of the nations because of their tribal status. But few have accepted this federal generosity, perhaps because of their royal heritage: Rutara people claim descent from an ancient regional king.

- **Pray that the small but growing Rutara church will stand strong against animistic cultural traditions.**
- **Pray that many mother-tongue speakers will be drawn to Jesus because of the way believers among them live.**
- **Pray for lasting spiritual fruit from a special meeting the team held recently for seekers of the truth.**
- **Pray for the Lord's sustaining grace and protection upon the team members and their families.**

## Acting on Acts

The team is still studying the book of Acts in preparation to translate it. This in-depth study is called *exegesis*, from the Greek word *exegeisthai* meaning *explain* or *interpret*. (Ex means out and *exhegeisthai* means to lead.) After they complete the process of deeply exploring each passage of Acts to pull out the meaning, they'll begin to draft the book.

### Translation Step 1: First Draft

Translating the Scriptures in first draft begins with exegesis, which is the explanation or critical interpretation of a Scripture text essential to creating this draft.

## Philemon Step-by-Step

The team has been incorporating the corrections they discovered during village testing of the book of Philemon. After these have all been entered into the computer, the team will be ready to translate Philemon from Rutara back into literal English so that a consultant can work with the text.



- **Location: Restricted access area, South Asia**
- **Number of speakers: 200,000**
- **Project Goal: New Testament with Old Testament portions**
- **Year Project began: 1995 with Seed Company sponsorship in 2005**
- **Expected Completion Date: 2016**
- **Pray for the team as they assemble their study notes and begin drafting Acts.**
- **Praise God for the Rutara team's good progress on the small book of Philemon.**



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### Encouragement from 1 Thessalonians

*“Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).*

Imagine reading this passage for the first time. The Rutara people will soon have that opportunity. The Apostle Paul is praying for the believers of Thessalonica and for every believer that reads this text. The promise in verse 24 provides rich assurance for every Christian because of the character of our Father God. With the Rutara believers we can rejoice that *“He who calls [us] is faithful.”*

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