

Simte *of Manipur, India*

Located in the southern hills of Manipur, and in the area southwest of the city of Imphal, cloister the **Simte** people.

The hilly terrain offers no access other than by road and though the scenery is beautiful, life is hard. The **Simte** are mostly farmers, though a few are government employed. They often hunt but that alone does not provide sufficient sustenance for a livelihood.

The **Simte** are characterized as the more docile of tribes in the region. Translating consultants in India refer to them as perhaps the best citizens of India in the state of Manipur, as “often they are (the) victims of tribal wars but have been very forgiving”.

Local missionaries report that the **Simte** have amazingly strong churches, second only to the Mizo. Along with the churches, they have Christian schools, a Bible College and even an orphanage—all extraordinary when you consider *they have not had a Bible*.

Statistics

- **People Group:** Simte
- **Country:** Manipur, India
- **Language:** Chin, Thado
- **Family:** Himalayan / Tibetan
- **Other Major Languages:** Bengali, Chin, Paite, English, Gangte, Gujarati
- **Population :** 11,920
- **Christian broadcasts in their own language:** None
- **Population of Manipur district:** 51,539,400
- **Population of India:** 1,022,021,300



Prayer Points

- ◆ Pray for wisdom and understanding for the translators and consultants in the translation process.
- ◆ Pray that God would bless the fervent Simte believers with increased faith as they see a Bible translation for their people so they may come to know Him.
- ◆ Pray that the young Simte people will not be drawn up into the futility of insurgent fighting and that they can find purpose and direction from the Lord, through the church ministries and elders.
- ◆ Pray for safety for the translators and those reaching out to work with the Simte.



Dr. Charles Keen
3720 West 4th Street
Mansfield, OHIO 44903

Phone: 513-295-6847
Email: keen@firstbible.net
Website: www.firstbible.net

A fundamental approach to the 10/40 window.

FirstBible
INTERNATIONAL

The *Simte* of Manipur, India



Country

The Republic of **India**, consists of 25 union states and 7 union territories, and the nation dominates South Asia and the Indian Ocean. Nearly 16% of the world's population is Indian, living on 2.4% of the world's land surface.

The great racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity makes a simple subdivision of the population difficult. **India** is the world's largest functioning democracy, since becoming independent from Britain in 1947. Internal tensions have steadily increased because of caste, religious and regional loyalties.

Beliefs

Though Buddhism today is predominant throughout much of Myanmar since its fifth century introduction, Christianity has taken root through the early sacrifices in the 1920's of missionaries to these hills.

Needs

The Simte Christians have a grave concern for their young people as they are frequently lost to insurgency in the local fighting between the Kuki and Naga tribes. The young Simte men became tired of having their communities destroyed and desired to stand up and fight for their people and homes. They are working to develop a long-term strategy that tries to keep the youth involved in activities and programs not leaving them vulnerable to drift into insurgent violence. Approximately 60% of people are literate, excluding many elderly and with the help of special primers, they are being taught to read.



FirstBible and the Simte New Testament

Unreached People Group: Simte of Manipur, India

Project: Translating the New Testament into Simte

Targeted Completion: 2007

FirstBible International is working with its affiliate *Bibles International* to complete the translation of and print the Simte New Testament.

In 1995, an agreement was reached to begin the translation work. Nationally, the local church association raised better than 1/2 of the funds for the printing of the translation in 1992. The people themselves were actively involved in: making crafts and selling them, gathering special offerings at church, as well as other projects both individual and group to raise the funds.

Our translators on this project are all Pastors, young and dedicated like Lalpu Simte, who, in particular, has been instrumental in leading his people Biblically.