

# PRAY FOR

## THE SIHANAKA OF MADAGASCAR



Did you know that a grain of rice is actually a seed? In fact, if you plant organic brown rice that you buy from the grocery store and keep it wet and warm, it should grow. I've had too much experience with failed science experiments in my house to make any promises here, but why not try it? Rice is actually the seed of a kind of grass. A lot of people in the world, especially in places like Asia and Africa, eat rice each meal of the day. This little seed is like others in that inside the outer protective layer, there is an embryo—the potential for new life. Isn't it amazing that God designed seeds to be able to grow into new plants and also to be eaten as food?

Located on the fertile plateau in the center of the island of Madagascar, there is an unreachable, unengaged people group, called the Sihanaka. This area is the country's main source for the staple rice crop. Many outsiders visit and study the region, but few visitors are specifically focused on the spiritual welfare of the people. Most Sihanaka people practice ancestor worship. Scripture resources in audio and written form are available; however, distribution is limited by the low evangelical presence in the area.



Pray that the Sihanaka will come to know the One True God, who made them in His own image to worship Him and enjoy Him forever. Pray that the Christians in the central area of the country will go to the Sihanaka region for the spread of the gospel and making of disciples. Pray that existing churches will receive training in how to go about being missionaries in their own country. Like a tiny grain of rice that holds life and nourishment, the gospel, when planted in the right soil brings forth new life, grows, and flourishes into something beautiful. Let's pray for the seed of the gospel to be sown in this needy land.



Don't forget to pray for the Sihanaka children too! Pray that as they look out at the rice fields that they will long to know the God for whom the Bible says, "the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy" (Psalm 65). Pray that they come to know this God, who alone is worthy of all worship, and join in this joy-song with all creation to their Maker.