



15 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE HINDU WORLD

OCT 16 - OCT 30, 2022

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the 15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World prayer guide!

As we write this, much of the world is emerging from the restrictions imposed by the covid-19 pandemic into a world that has been shaped by loss, fear, and confusion. Changes have occurred that will echo for generations to come.

Historians have noted that in seasons immediately following a pandemic, there is an explosion in society of creativity, risk taking, entrepreneurship and a sense that life must be lived to its fullest. Nevertheless, the basic patterns of life still remain: children are born, they go to school, get a job, marry, and have their own children. These patterns of life, are almost universally relatable and they often define a sort of cycle, which unites much of our experiences.

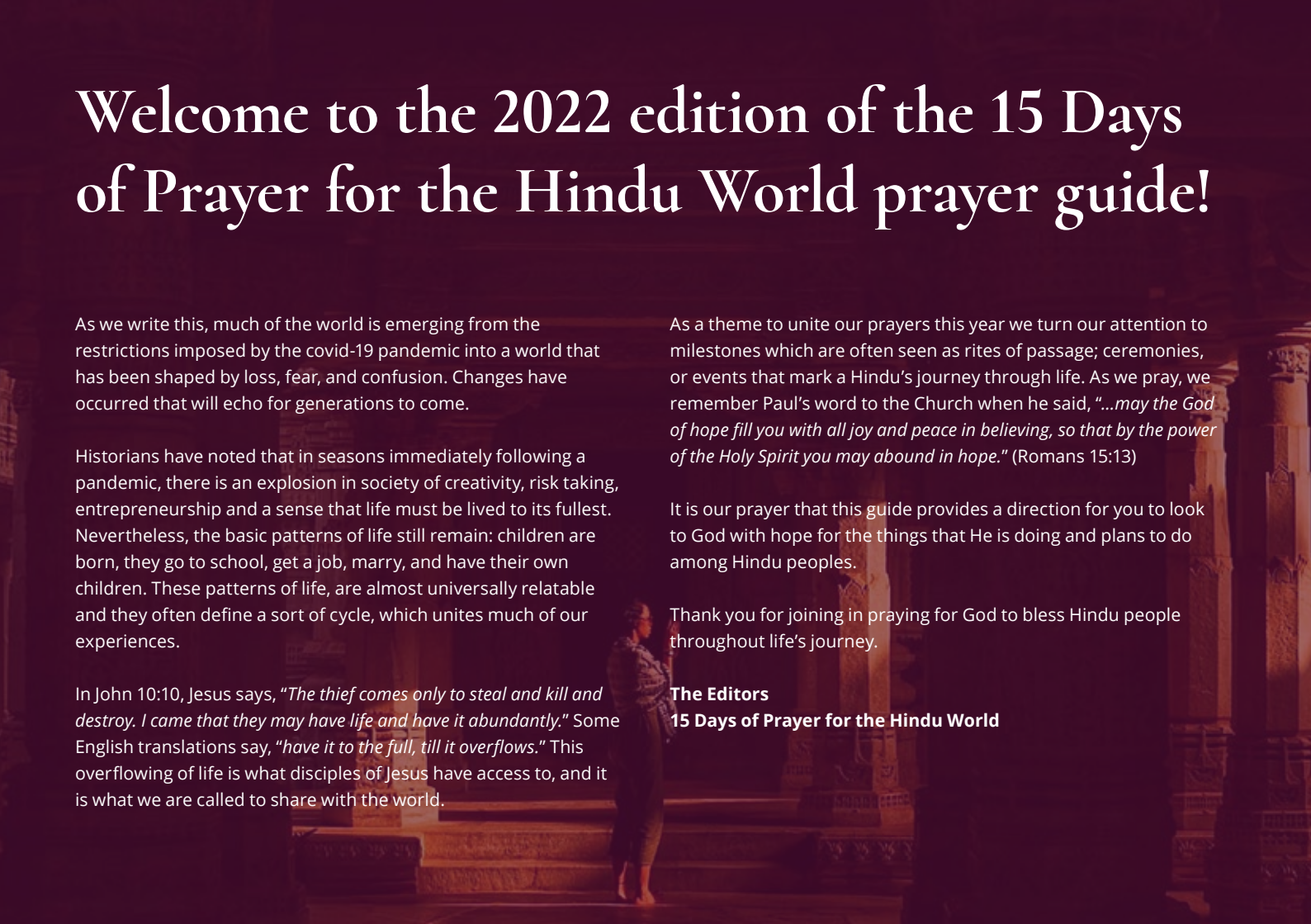
In John 10:10, Jesus says, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* Some English translations say, *"have it to the full, till it overflows."* This overflowing of life is what disciples of Jesus have access to, and it is what we are called to share with the world.

As a theme to unite our prayers this year we turn our attention to milestones which are often seen as rites of passage; ceremonies, or events that mark a Hindu's journey through life. As we pray, we remember Paul's word to the Church when he said, *"...may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."* (Romans 15:13)

It is our prayer that this guide provides a direction for you to look to God with hope for the things that He is doing and plans to do among Hindu peoples.

Thank you for joining in praying for God to bless Hindu people throughout life's journey.

The Editors
15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World



About 15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World

How did 15 Days start?

In 2016, a network of Christians, working to share the love of Christ with Hindu people everywhere, were inspired by Holy Spirit to revive a global Christian prayer movement that had existed and interceded for Hindus in the 1990s. We believe that globally mobilized prayer is key to seeing a release of obedient servants who will share the Good news of Jesus with the Hindu world as well as a pouring out of God's blessing upon Hindu peoples.

It has been six years since this prayer guide was reintroduced as a tool to aid in the revival of that prayer movement. We hope that it helps to make manifest the love that followers of Christ have for Hindu peoples; a love that includes a great desire for them to prosper and receive eternal salvation in Jesus.

Who writes and publishes the guide?

The content for the prayer guide is collected from a diverse group of Christ-followers from around the globe.

How do you decide what to pray for?

We accept submissions from all over the world. We are particularly excited to receive material from people who live with, work with, and have experience in loving Hindu people.

If you are interested in mobilizing prayer for a particular need in the Hindu world, please contact us using the contact form on our website: www.pray15days.org or send an e-mail to info@pray15days.org

About Hinduism

Is Hinduism a religion?

Hinduism is too varied and complex to describe as a singular religion. Due to that complexity, we will not try to provide a complete understanding of it in this guide. However, it is worth noting that, within Hinduism, there is no central orthodoxy, creed or set of beliefs that can be used to determine who is a Hindu. Hindus adhere to many different religions, traditions, teachings, or belief systems and any Hindu person might have their own separate set of creeds, beliefs, and rituals. In some ways, it might be better to speak of many Hinduisms rather than one Hinduism.

Who is a Hindu?

It is useful to recognize that the word “Hinduism” and the identifier “Hindu” is commonly and comfortably used by Hindus themselves to describe a broad set of ideas, cultural practices and collective identity that is based more on birth community than belief system.

About 15 percent of the world’s population identifies as Hindu. Being Hindu is primarily based on being born into a Hindu family, not on any set of beliefs, worship of any specific god, or act of conversion.

What are the origins of Hinduism?

An incredibly wide variety of saints, gurus, authors and personalities have made their own contribution to the foundations of Hinduism. That being said, there is no single founding person or event which is given credit for the creation of Hinduism. However, while most Hindus agree that there are some sacred Hindu texts which are considered almost universally valuable, there is no one set of holy scriptures which is held to be fully and equally authoritative over life by all Hindus.

Hindu traditions largely found their birth in South Asia, before recorded history. The Hindu community’s assessment of its own identity has changed and evolved over a very long span of time and many different forces continue to drive the development of this identity and to significantly influence it even today.

Praying for Hindus

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now."

ROMANS 8:18-22

Islam is the largest least-reached religious group in the world. Hindus make up the second-largest, least-reached religious group. Of all the cross-cultural ministers that the global church sends out, less than 2 percent are focused on sharing the gospel with Hindu peoples. Due to this great neglect, most Hindus still live without any meaningful access to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The heart behind this prayer guide is to encourage you, the Body of Christ, to pray that God will bless Hindu people. Most Hindus remain some of the poorest people in the world. However, on top of economic poverty, they also suffer from Bible poverty

and Gospel poverty. We feel that it is time that Hindus see the goodness of God on display. Please pray for Hindus to be blessed, to be fruitful, and for each and every Hindu to be given the chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As ministers of reconciliation, we are called to give the world an encounter with Jesus.

Please also take some time to look up the scriptures in the guide and to allow the Holy Spirit to direct your prayers, and to share with you His heart for the Hindu world.

Birth

For most parents, the day that your child is born stands out as a day marked by the miraculous. The moment I heard my son scream, my heart leapt like it had received an electric shock. When the nurse carried him out for me to hold for the first time, I could hardly contain my emotions. I am still in awe at the beauty, blessing, and miracle that children are.

Few things in life are as demanding and rewarding as raising children. The hopes and joys of our fathers and mothers are interwoven into nearly all our lives. Generally speaking, for Hindus, having children is often seen as more of a responsibility than a choice. While this certainly places undue pressure on some couples, it also points to the very high value that Hindus place on family as the center of life in this world.

One study of Hindu families in India,

identified that the average Hindu felt connected to over eighty immediate and extended family members.

How can we pray

Just as God spoke to Jeremiah, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."*, pray that Hindus will discover that Jesus knows their innermost being and longs to connect them with their destiny.

JEREMIAH 1:5

Pray that Hindu children will discover the good news of Jesus early in their lives so that they may devote as much as possible to serving Him and be able to enjoy the peace that comes from Jesus alone.

MATTHEW 7:7

Pray that Hindu children will be protected and that they will be granted the grace to turn their hearts towards God and find Him.

JOHN 4:10

Darshan

An old man walks by our house carrying a small plastic bag that contains his offering. He passes frequently, on his way to the local temple - a small structure, barely five feet high and four feet wide that sits on the corner of our little street. This temple houses the favorite local deity, the goddess Kali.

The man reaches the small temple, and facing it, stands in the road. If vehicles happen to come by, they will slow down and pass by him respectfully instead of honking or demanding that he moves out of the way. But he is seemingly unaware of any traffic. I watch him place his little offering on the pedestal - some rice, marigold flowers, and a small earthen lamp called a *Diya*, which he lights along with an incense stick and places in front of the idol. Clasp his hands together and bowing his head, he offers his prayers.

The word *Darshan*, is derived from the Sanskrit word, *Darsana*, which means, sight, vision or appearance. Idol worship, which is a common practice of most Hindus, is centered around the act or pursuit of *Darshan* - to behold or look upon God. It is closely intertwined with the concept of *Anubhav* which is a term used to describe a direct vision or religious experience, such as the feeling of being one with the divine.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindus who long to see God, that they will discover that Jesus can purify their hearts and grant them the privilege of seeing Him.

MATTHEW 5:8

Pray for Hindus who observe the natural things of this world to find God, to see His invisible attributes, His eternal power and His divine nature in creation and turn to Him.

ROMANS 1:20

Pray for Hindus who long to experience the living God, that they would find Jesus and receive the promise of full and eternal life.

PSALM 27:8

Pilgrimage & Gathering

Many Hindus place a high value on pilgrimage to holy places, or participation in auspicious events such as the largest gathering of humanity on earth - the Khumb Mela.

The Khumb Mela was most recently held in 2019, between January and March. Over 120 million pilgrims visited the north Indian city of Prayagraj (formally called Allahabad), to bathe in the holy waters where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers meet. A commonly held belief is that a third, spiritual, river joins them at the confluence and that bathing in all three rivers can help a pilgrim on their journey towards, "*moksha*" - liberation or salvation from the cycle of life and death. Elsewhere, particularly in South Asia, similar but smaller community festivals take place, many times centered around an important river.

For most Hindus, life itself is ordered around spiritual disciplines such as a yearly pilgrimage, weekly visits to temple, daily worship in the house, and the observance of festivals. These events are usually facilitated by the women of the family but with the participation of the men. There is a sense that they must do these things or suffer ill-defined consequences, either in this life or the life hereafter, or that their loved ones will suffer as well.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindus who sacrifice much to meet with God or to obtain freedom, that they will discover Jesus, who paid once and for all for the sins of mankind and offers that great gift freely to all peoples.

— **ROMANS 6:23**

Pray for those who are tired of ritual and long for a personal living connection with God and are earnestly seeking Him, that they will find Him.

— **MATTHEW 7:7**

Pray for the seekers, pilgrims and ascetics, that they will discover living water in the person of Jesus.

— **JOHN 4:10**

The First Ashrama : *Brahmacharya*

The classical or philosophical stages of a Hindu person's life are called ashramas. There are four main ashramas and Brahmacharya is the name for the first stage. This stage generally begins with the entry into formal schooling and ends with marriage. During this stage, young people are expected to prioritize their education, the instructions of their parents, and other pursuits with a particular focus on learning about and practicing, *Dharma*.

Dharma is a complicated word to translate, but it is popularly understood as personal responsibilities that one has towards oneself, ones' family, society as a whole, and to God. For most Hindus, the concept of *Dharma* is something essential to all parts of life and not only a spiritual concept relevant to certain practices.

Many parents mark their child's first

experiences with great celebration. In Hindu families, you will find ceremonies marking a child's first taste of rice, their first birthday, their first day of school, the arrival of puberty, and so on. Raising children is often seen as a duty not to be neglected. Whole families, extended and immediate, will participate in the raising of children, working together to mark these rites of passage and attempting to ensure that the child stays on a clear path to success.

This phase of life leads up to the attainment of full adulthood which happens upon marriage.

How can we pray

Pray that Hindu children will encounter the love of Jesus and find joy and purpose in Him.

MARK 12:4

Pray that Hindu communities will discover the great love of Father God.

1 JOHN 3:1

Pray that young Hindu children will be protected from evil and empowered to discover God in their formative years of study and preparation for life ahead.

1 JOHN 2:1

Reaching for change

Jaipal sat at his desk and stared at his grade sheet again. He was thrilled, and his whole family would be thrilled as well.

He had passed the board exam with such a high grade that he would now be called a “topper”- someone who had passed at the top of the class. His picture would be placed on posters around town, his teachers would be praised their teaching, his school would promote his success as their own success and his family would enjoy new respect in their community.

But the most important thing was that his grades practically guaranteed him one of the coveted spots at the government university. He would still have many exams before him, but today, regardless what was to come, he could take a deep breath and relax, for all the hard years of work had paid off.

If a student in India fails to make significant or notable progress it can feel like an immense failure. It may mean that they will not be able gain access to government jobs or public universities.

The cost of pursuing private education is too high for most, and a low grade can feel like opportunities for change are slipping beyond a families grasp and they will have to wait for the next generation to offer hope of a better future.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindu students who are working hard to gain the tools for life, that they will encounter Jesus who also provides absolute purpose and meaning along with those tools.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Pray for Hindu parents, that they will have wisdom as they guide their children's hopes and dreams, and prepare them for a meaningful life.

PROVERBS 12:22

Pray for systems, governments and economies to change in fundamental ways that will encourage greater access to quality education and the creation of valuable jobs for all.

PROVERBS 22:29

Known around the World

Eashwari was happy to be back at university. Her quick vacation home had been good, but she missed her friends and was eager to get back to her studies and the freedom she enjoyed at school abroad. Eashwari's family is wealthy, and she has relatives scattered around the globe. She hopes to one day become a citizen of the country where she studies, which means getting excellent grades and a job that secures a residents visa.

Eventually, her parents will start looking for a husband for her. Eashwari knows that there are many eligible bachelors among the global diaspora of Hindu peoples. Still, her elder sister's marriage had taken over three years to arrange, and that was with the help of a matrimony service that her parents had hired. But that is all in the future. For now, she can make the most of student life.

Brilliant young Hindus can be found in almost all of the top universities of the world. Raised from a young age with the understanding that they will one day join a global workforce, they handle travel and living in other cultures well. Many will go on to have influential positions within government, academia, medicine and more. However, most of these students retain a strong sense of their Hindu identity and are well integrated into the new places in which they live.

How can we pray

Pray for the global diaspora of Hindu peoples, that travel would provide opportunities for them to experience the love of Jesus in real and meaningful ways.

MATTHEW 23:12

Pray for Hindu students at universities, to achieve great things for themselves and their families, and lay the foundation for future generations to enjoy peace and health.

PROVERBS 13:22

Pray for the families who experience the loss and loneliness of not having their children nearby for a significant number of years.

EXODUS 20:12

The Second Ashrama: *Grihastha*

Today is the Hindu festival of *Dhanteras* and the beginning of the five days of *Diwali*. *Dhan* means wealth, and *Teras* means thirteen, which is the date of the festival according to a common Hindu calendar. On this day, families will shop specifically for things made from metals, or make investments which are meant to secure future wealth. They will buy things as mundane as kitchen utensils as well as gold and silver and even appliances and automobiles. It is the biggest shopping day of the year for Hindus. It is believed that purchases on this day will bring blessing, wealth and security for the year ahead.

Today is also an opportunity to highlight some of the characteristics of the second *Ashrama*. This life stage is called *Grihastha*, or the stage of the householder. This stage is seen as full of enjoying the pleasures of life - possessions, food,

family; but also as a stage of responsibility and carrying the burdens of a large, joint family. This stage features marriage, the aging of parents, the birth of children and the daily routine of work. For many it is marked by the absence of freedom, the heavy burden of responsibility to care for family, and obligations to the community. In this way, the stage of being a householder is often defined by pursuing wealth to provide for your family, as well as pursuing *Dharma* - your social obligations to society and to your faith.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindu marriages, that they will be a place of safety and joy, and for couples to meet Christ together.

— **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7**

Pray for Hindu joint families, and for effective ministry by believers to all parts of each family, from the youngest children to the elders.

— **1 TIMOTHY 5:4**

Pray that God's great plan for families will be made even clearer as whole families turn to Him.

— **PSALM 103:17-18**

Coming home for the first time

The bride arrives at her new home. Pausing at the entrance, she places her right foot against a pot of rice that's been placed before her. She pushes it over, breaking the pot and spilling the rice into the house. She steps through the door, into her new life, as the daughter-in-law of her husband's house. The pot filled with rice that she has just knocked over, symbolizes the prosperity and blessing that a daughter-in-law brings to a home.

Many Hindu families live in joint family homes which contain multiple generations, almost always centered on the male side. Several brothers may live under the same roof with their wives, children and parents. In India, there is even a special tax status for joint families, allowing them to file their taxes together.

When a bride joins her husband's family, she comes home for the first time. The wedding often takes place in the woman's home community, and ends with a ceremony where the bride parts with her family. This part of the wedding is marked by grief and tears, as she bids her family goodbye. It is not usually a permanent parting, for she will almost certainly visit and sometimes stay with her birth family for an extended time, such as when she is pregnant.

How can we pray

Pray for young Hindu brides. Their new position in life creates a spiritual openness and many have noticed that the daughter in law of a family is often the first to accept Jesus and share with her husband's family.

MATTHEW 5:6

Pray for the Hindu family of young believers, that they would not treat young believers harshly but have an open ear to the hearing Good News from them.

EPHESIANS 3:14-15

Pray for Hindu marriages, that they would experience the blessings of God, living in fruitfulness, peace and joy.

ACTS 16:31

Food, Clothing and Shelter

A popular saying in Hindi, the language spoken by hundreds of millions of Hindus, is, “Roti Kapda Aur Makaan”. This translates simply as, “Food, Clothing and Shelter” and refers to the basic necessities of life. As the most populous Hindu nations develop economically, their residents hope for more than the basic necessities for themselves or their children. Not just food, clothing and shelter but also education, technology, air conditioning, healthcare, cars, college, investments, retirement and vacations are the hopes and dreams of a huge middle class emerging in the Hindu heartlands.

Stepping into the householder phase of life, young Hindus are often confronted by the huge needs of their community and family. Recent economic development has afforded this generation a chance to establish themselves in fruitful careers.

However they must also be mindful that they may have to deal with the debts and burdens of the past, from previous generations who often struggled to provide the bare necessities of life and were not able to store up wealth of their own for the future.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindu young people who are entering into this phase. Many of them will have to move to new cities to pursue careers that can offer more of what that they desire.

ACTS 2:5-12

Pray that Hindu peoples will encounter Jesus and be changed for eternity

PSALM 51:10

Pray for Hindu men and women who are looking for a job. Many nations where Hindus reside are struggling with job creation.

GENESIS 2:15



Born Again to a Living Hope

Shreya knew that her mother and father might be angry. Her parents were from a proud family, with a leadership role in their village. But Shreya's encounter with Jesus had come when she moved to a local city to study and met some followers of Christ. Shreya read the New Testament and asked many questions and slowly began to love Jesus and decide to follow Him.

Shreya deeply loved her family, and wanted to share Jesus with them, but she was nervous. She arranged a meeting with her father, bringing along two friends for support. Shreya shared quickly with her father about her love for Jesus, and her love for her family, breathlessly anticipating her father's response. A big, man, he listened carefully and then gently nodded his head and told his daughter that he was

ok with her decision to follow Jesus. Everyone let out a sigh of relief. Shreya has a good relationship with her family, and she continues to share faithfully about the love of Jesus with them.

For many Hindu background believers, the risk of being rejected by their own family or community for their faith in Christ is real. But it is through the faithful, loving ministry of family members who follow Jesus that most Hindus also come to faith in Him.

How can we pray

Pray for Shreya's family, that they will also choose to follow Jesus and experience the peace found in Him.

JOHN 14:27

Pray for Hindu background believers, that they will have wisdom as they share about Jesus with their community.

ROMANS 12:18

Pray for Hindus who have family members who follow Christ, that they will have soft and open hearts towards Jesus' message of love, and even dreams and supernatural experiences that confirm the reality of Jesus's love for them.

ROMANS 8:26

The Third Ashrama: *Vanaprashtra*

As Hindus age, they enter into the third and fourth stages of life, when deeper questions of purpose, eternity and the soul often rise up.

Today we focus our prayers on those who are in the third stage, or ashrama, of life. Vanaprashtra, sometimes translated as “way of the forest,” is the stage that begins when responsibilities for the joint family are handed over to adult children. It is sometimes described as the “hermit stage” because it is a time for withdrawing from the duties of life and spending more time in spiritual contemplation, praying, thinking and considering the big questions of life.

This stage is considered a transitional phase, between being a active householder, and the spiritual pursuits that characterize the upcoming fourth Ashrama. It is a chance to evaluate what

you have done in your life, and who you want to be going into the next one.

Many Hindus bear the heavy belief throughout their life that they are essentially eternal beings, doomed to die and be born again in an almost endless cycle of suffering. Salvation is seen as liberation from this cycle of rebirth and suffering. The third ashrama is a time when Hindus may be open to learn about salvation through Jesus.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindus in this third stage of life, that this season of reflection will lead them to seek eternal truth and that they will find Truth in the form of Jesus.

TITUS 2:2

Pray for Hindus, who enter this stage and find time and freedom to ask the big questions in life, that they will find answers that lead them to Jesus.

ROMANS 10:9-13

Pray for those who are in this stage of transition, that they will discover the bridges of God, connections, relationships, ideas and concepts which can lead them to a saving faith in Jesus.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

The power of a name

Many Hindus mark the naming of their child through a ceremony called Namkaran which translates as 'naam' which means 'name' and 'karan' which means 'create'. A short time after a baby is born, the ceremony will be held in a temple or in the family home. A priest will consult various astrological charts and then pronounce a name for the child. Sometimes this name is taken as the legal name, but often the family will choose a different legal name, and keep the name bestowed upon the child as a part of family tradition. In either case, Namkaran is a time for celebration.

In South Asia, home of the majority of the world's Hindus, it is not uncommon for parents of a new child to wait days or even weeks, before giving them a name. Sometimes this is because they are looking for personality traits, or because they are waiting for input from the priest

at the Namkaran ceremony. Later, if a Hindu joins a religious order, yet another name will be given. Names often also play an important role in identifying caste or community affiliation.

How can we pray

Pray for Hindu parents, as they seek to raise their children, that God will give them wisdom and bless them.

1 CHRONICLES 29:19

Pray for children, who often defined by the names they receive to meet Father God who adds to their identity through adoption as sons and daughters of God.

1 JOHN 3:1

Pray for the bridge of understanding that a high value on names and naming ceremonies creates between Hindus and biblical stories where names matter.

JEREMIAH 1:5

Pilgrimage

Ram Kumar sat down. Gingerly he lifted his feet and sat cross-legged on the path beside the holy river Ganges. His family had been walking with him. It had been a long day of walking, but he was sure that it was worth it.

A Sadhu is a Hindu ascetic, or holy person who often is on a sort of continual pilgrimage, doing things like visiting important temples, auspicious festivals or following a particular Guru. The other Sadhus had shared with Ram Kumar that tonight was an auspicious occasion and that attendance at the ceremony would certainly help him along his journey. For the past 5 years Ram Kumar had walked everywhere and his feet had not stopped aching from the walking. The pain was something he had learned to accept as just another thing to overcome in his life as he pursued Moksha (liberation or salvation).

Pilgrimage is often not just an individual pursuit, but a family, and even a community one. It's not uncommon at large Hindu shrines, temples or festivals, to see whole villages arrive either by foot, tractor, bus or other means of transportation. They will often carry on continuous worship sessions during their stops, taking turns playing instruments or singing, while some attend to children, the preparation of food or other tasks.

How can we pray

Pray for those who earnestly seek that deep relationship with the divine, that they would be filled.

1 PETER 2:21

Pray that those who undertake pilgrimage in search of God will find the Living God, Jesus, on the journey.

ISAIAH 40:31

Pray for revelation that people are not trapped in an endless cycle of rebirth but are invited into everlasting life with Christ.

JOHN 3:16-17

The Fourth Ashrama: *Sannyasa*

Sonu looked at the funeral pyre before him. He had built it beside the river with his own two hands. Today, however, there was no body to be put to the flames. This day, Sonu would take the vows of a Sanyasi and become a Hindu monk, a renunciate or ascetic. This part of the ceremony included building and symbolically lighting his own funeral pyre to mark his renunciation.

The word Sanyasi literally describes someone who has “put down everything, all of it”. This includes material possessions, relational ties, material possessions, titles and status. Some Sanyasi’s are homeless, some live in a monastery and some even travel with other Sanyasis on pilgrimage.

As he stood and watched the fire burn, Sonu reflected upon his new name, “Muktananda” which was given by his

Guru. The name, Muktananda, translates as “the joy of being set free” or “bliss of spiritual liberation”. He would no longer be known by his old name, for Sonu stepped aside today, and Muktananda had been born.

Most Hindus who enter the fourth and final Ashrama do not take the extreme step of becoming a Sanyasi. However, the model of retreat, renunciation of worldly pleasures and pursuit of spiritual activities is a hugely powerful force, an ideal, which influences many of the choices that elderly Hindus make regarding how they will spend their remaining years.

How can we pray

Pray for elderly Hindus, who often spend a great deal of time and money on spiritual pursuits, that they will discover Jesus, the giver of eternal life and source of true peace.

JOHN 10:28-30

Pray for those who have taken on their vows, and died to their old life, that they will experience new life in Christ.

MATTHEW 6:19-21

Pray for the bridge of understanding that a high value on names and naming ceremonies creates between Hindus and biblical stories where names matter.

1 JOHN 2:15-17

Asato Ma

*Asato ma sad gamya
Tamso ma jyotir gamya
Mrityor ma amritm gamya*

Translation:

*Lead me from untruth to truth,
Lead me from darkness to light,
Lead me from death to immortality.*

Found in some of the earliest Hindu wisdom texts, the Asato Ma is one of the most widely used and well known Hindu prayers.

Over the centuries, ancestors of the current Hindu population, have cried out the above prayer to various gods and goddesses, just as their descendants continue to do so today. Some have certainly even cried out in desperation to any unknown God for an answer. To put it simply, Hindu people have not given up. Within their hearts, there is a real longing

for truth, light, and an acknowledgement that each individual has eternal potential but an uncertain future.

Jesus described Himself as “the way, and the truth, and the life”. He called Himself the “light of the world”, and “the resurrection and the life.” In Jesus, the unfulfilled longing of the Hindu heart is met, and filled to overflowing.

How can we pray

Pray that Hindus will hear the Good News that, in Jesus, this prayer of many generations, is met and answered in fullness.

REVELATION 21:4

Pray that ministers of the Gospel will be strengthened in their work and bold in their proclamation.

PHILIPPINES 4:6

Pray for Hindus who have taken the bold and desperate step to seek any unknown God, that they will find Jesus through His miraculous grace and receive the gift of liberation from sin and suffering common to all.

ACTS 17:23

Looking Forward with Hope

Romans 15:13 says, *"...may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

This is our prayer for the year to come. Hopefully, we are witnessing the end of a difficult season of pandemic for our world. Amidst the loss and other concerns which remain, it is to the hope we have in the goodness of God that we turn our eyes.

While many in this world grieve deeply, and for good reasons, we are reminded that those who know Christ grieve differently. We grieve with hope still in our hands for eternity. Let us pray for Hindu peoples that they will meet Christ and be able to, "...not grieve as others do who have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13b)

Jesus died for Hindu peoples, and His offer of grace and salvation is available to them. However, it is an undeniable tragedy that, to this day, most Hindus remain without any meaningful access to this Good News. Paul wrote of this same problem two thousand years ago when he said:

"For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Romans 10:13-15)

Today we lean forward with hope, that we will see a massive increase in the witness for Jesus Christ among Hindu

peoples. This witness has largely been ignored by the historical Church, and it remains a task unfinished. Hindu peoples continue to pray, and to seek truth, liberation, life everlasting. We invite you to stand in hope with us, that through the miracle of obedience, the global Church will set their eyes and hearts on the Hindu world and with boldness and faith, love Hindus and seek God to bless them.

Thank you for praying with us!



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