



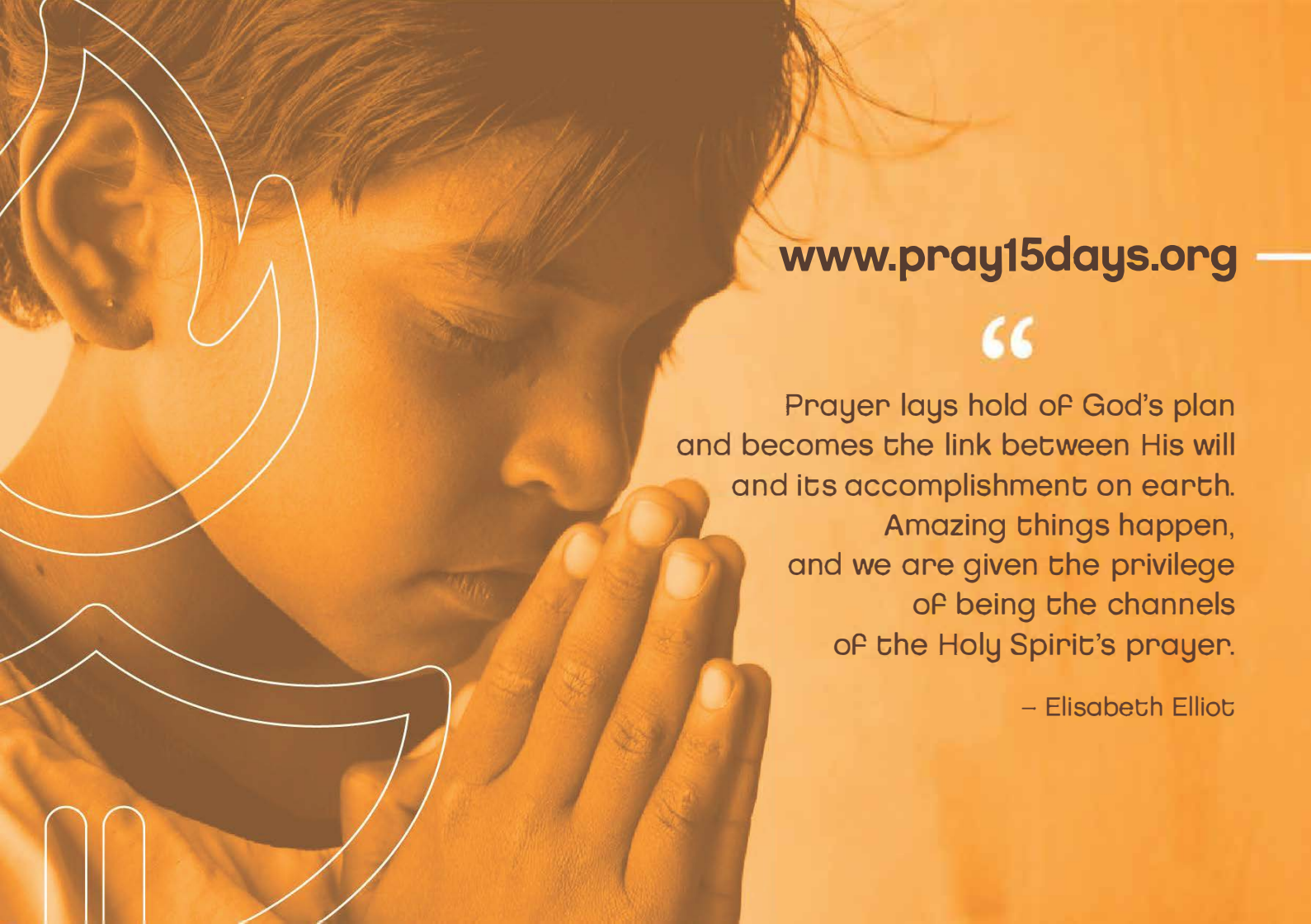
# 15 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE HINDU WORLD

OCT 24 - NOV 7  
2024

AND  
THROUGHOUT  
2025

**RESILIENT LIGHT:**  
Hindu Background Believers  
Amidst Persecution





[www.pray15days.org](http://www.pray15days.org)

“

Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth.

Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.

– Elisabeth Elliot

OUR THEME THIS YEAR:

## RESILIENT LIGHT: Hindu Background Believers Amidst Persecution

Hello Dear Friends,

We are delighted to welcome you back to this year's

### 15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu World.

This resource is utilized globally, and we find encouragement in knowing that every person who prays through this guide joins numerous others in demonstrating God's love for Hindu people and Hindu Background Believers.

### Welcome to the 2024 Fifteen-Day Prayer Guide for the Hindu World!

This year, our theme centers on "Resilient Light: Hindu Background Believers Amidst Persecution." You may be unfamiliar with the term "Hindu Background Believer," so let us explain: A Hindu Background Believer (HBB) refers to an individual who has converted from Hinduism to faith in Jesus Christ. These believers often face significant persecution, social ostracism, and intense spiritual challenges as they follow Christ while coming from a Hindu background. As you journey through this 15-day prayer guide, you will see the term "HBB" used to refer to these faithful individuals.

This guide has been developed to enrich your understanding and engage your prayer efforts more deeply. As we journey together, we will explore the vibrant traditions and complex realities faced by the Hindu people, spotlighting the unique struggles of those who have embraced Christianity. We invite you to join thousands around the world in praying for the Hindu people during the Diwali festival, from October 24th to November 7th and continuing through 2025. This is a special time of united, heartfelt prayer for billions who need to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. While we focus on these important days of prayer, we also encourage you to continue praying throughout 2025, using this guide as a valuable resource for strategic and effective prayers. Our hope is that this booklet will inspire ongoing intercession beyond the 15 days, helping you lift up the Hindu people in prayer throughout the year.

Our prayer focus is categorized into three critical areas: firstly, an educational exploration into the life and culture of the Hindu community; secondly, dedicated prayers for Hindu Background Believers who are subjected to unfair persecution; and thirdly, targeted prayers for specific states in India known for their harsh treatment of Hindu Background Believers.

As we pray, let us remember that Jesus Himself endured the greatest persecution of all, suffering on the cross to bring salvation to all humanity. His suffering sets the ultimate example, and Scripture encourages us in 2 Timothy 2:12: "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him." Let us join together in prayer, trusting in God's strength and protection for our brothers and sisters who are facing intense trials, knowing that their perseverance is not in vain and that, in Christ, victory is assured.

The Editors • 15 Days of Prayer International



# How did 15 Days start?

In 2016, Christians worldwide, who had been actively sharing the love of Christ with Hindu communities, felt inspired by the Holy Spirit to revive a global prayer movement. This movement had previously interceded for Hindus in the 1990s. We firmly believe that prayer plays a crucial role in mobilizing Christian workers to share the Good News of Jesus within the Hindu world and release God's blessings upon Hindu people.

Over the past eight years, since reintroducing this prayer guide as a tool to encourage intercession, we've heard many encouraging stories. Undoubtedly, there is a divine movement among nations, urging believers to pray for Hindus. Our hope is that this humble tool reflects the deep love that followers of Christ hold for Hindu people—a love that desires their prosperity and eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.

## Who writes and publishes the guide?

The content for the prayer guide is gathered from a wide range of Christ followers worldwide. An editorial team then compiles this material and crafts their own contributions, guided by the leading and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to determine the focus and theme.

## 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 whom 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](http://www.pray15days.org) or send an e-mail to to [info@worldprayerguides.org](mailto:info@worldprayerguides.org)



“After Jesus said this, But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

John 16:13

# About Hinduism

...BEFORE WE BEGIN PRAYING FOR THE HINDU PEOPLE, LET US FIRST UNDERSTAND ABOUT SOME OF THE HINDU CULTURE, BELIEFS, AND RELIGION...

## What is the Origin of Hinduism?

Hinduism, is one of the world's oldest religion, it has its roots and customs dating back more than 4,000 years. Scholars believe it originated between 2300 B.C. and 1500 B.C. in the Indus Valley near modern-day Pakistan. Unlike other religions, Hinduism has no single founder; it's a fusion of various beliefs and practices. Today, over one billion followers consider it a "way of life" rather than a single, organized religion. Hindus worship a single deity, Brahma, while recognizing other gods and goddesses. Key concepts include samsara (reincarnation), karma, and the pursuit of moksha (liberation). Hinduism is closely related to other Indian religions such as Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism."

## What Does It Mean to be Hindu?

Hinduism and the term 'Hindu' are widely accepted by those who follow this tradition. It encompasses diverse ideas, cultural practices, and a shared sense of identity. Unlike some religions, Hinduism lacks a central authority or fixed criteria for being considered a Hindu. There's no standard process for leaving Hinduism, nor a prescribed method for nonborn Hindus to convert. Being Hindu is an inherent identity, not dependent on specific beliefs, deity worship, or formal conversion.

## What Shapes the Hindu Religion?

Hinduism is shaped by a blend of religious texts, philosophical concepts, cultural practices, and social structures. Key religious texts include the Vedas, Upanishads, and epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana, which lay the foundation for its rituals and beliefs. Philosophical concepts such as dharma (duty), karma (cause and effect), moksha (liberation), and samsara (the cycle of rebirth) provide a deep spiritual framework.

Cultural practices are integral, encompassing daily rituals, rites of passage, and vibrant festivals like Diwali and Holi. While the influence of the traditional caste system has evolved, it historically played a significant role in shaping social dynamics within Hindu society.



“ Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my Face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

## INTRODUCTION

# Praying for Hindus

The heart behind this guide is to encourage prayers and support for the Hindu people. We believe that God desires to bless Hindu communities everywhere, and the greatest blessing they can receive is the transformative love of Jesus and the free gift of His eternal grace. As you engage in prayer, we hope you will be moved by themes of mercy, abundant grace, genuine love, truth, and a deep faith that is woven throughout this guide.

We also encourage you to reflect on the words of Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38: “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” As you pray, give thanks for Hindu communities around the world, and ask for God’s love and truth to reach them in powerful ways.

### And remember...

Hinduism is the 3rd largest religion (next to Christianity and Islam) in the world, yet they remain one of the least-reached with the gospel of Jesus. Throughout history, we’ve seen that prayer plays a vital role in preparing the way for the spread of the Good News. Despite this truth, less than 2 percent of cross-cultural missionaries sent by the global church are focused on reaching Hindu communities.

As a result, many Hindus still lack access to the message of Christ. We invite you to pray for Hindus to be blessed, to flourish, and for every individual to encounter the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Spend time in scripture, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers and reveal His heart for the Hindu world.

**Thank you for praying with us this year.**



# Praying for the Persecuted Body of Christ

In the middle of the Beatitudes, early in his ministry, our Lord Jesus Christ informed his disciples that they would be persecuted — reviled, falsely accused — for his sake. This might have seemed rather unfathomable to his early followers, as Jesus was just starting his ministry among them, and likewise, it may seem incredulous to us in this current day. But the Body of Christ is being persecuted — attacked, arrested, beaten, and killed — for His name's sake, just as Jesus foretold, in places like North Korea, China, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan and . . . India.

Christians in India have often suffered persecution since Independence from England in 1947, but usually these were more isolated incidents. However, in recent years, India, as well as Nepal and other nations, have seen an unprecedented rise in the persecution of the Body of Christ in what appears to be an intentional and coordinated effort to eliminate Christians from the entire country. Over the last 10 years, we have seen thousands of attacks on churches, pastors and church members; beatings and killings; and false arrests and imprisonment, even forced re-conversion.

And while the media does not carry much of this story, we shudder in horror at the reports and pictures that do trickle through, and often wonder, "What can we do when the Body of Christ, of which we are also members, suffers such terrible persecution?" We see our answer in the early Church, even when Peter had been arrested and imprisoned. What did they do? In Acts 12:5, we read that "Peter was

therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church." Even when Peter was miraculously delivered from prison by the angels, "He came to the house of Mary, . . . where many were gathered together praying." (12:12) The early Christ-followers, when faced with the persecution and imprisonment of one of their leaders, gathered together, dropped to their knees, and cried out to God for his deliverance.

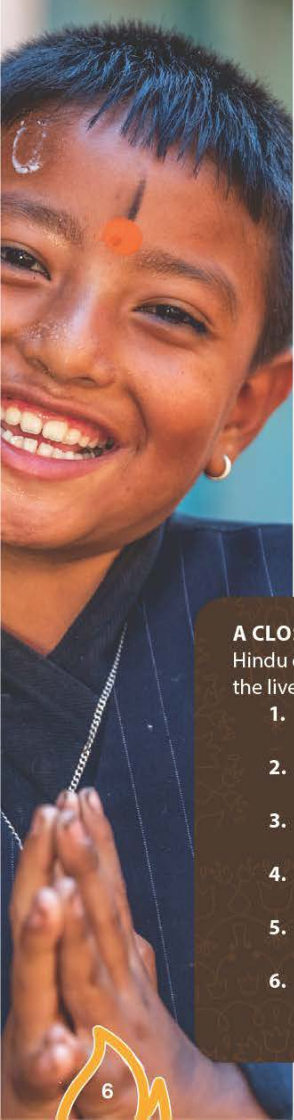
Following the example of the early Church, we must be in fervent prayer for others in the Body of Christ, especially those that come from Hindu backgrounds, as these HBBs face the most extreme persecution from their own families and communities, in India, Nepal, and other nations. We encourage you to pray that God may continue to provide for their needs and protect them as they grow in their faith in Him. Additionally, we must remember and pray for those who have left their original communities, perhaps displaced because of their faith in Christ, that they may find solace, Christian community and learn more of the matchless love of God the Father. And pray that they may learn, as we all must, to do as our Lord commanded:

---

Blessed are those who are persecuted  
For righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you,  
and say all kinds of evil against you falsely For My sake.

Matt. 5:10-12 NKJV

---



DAY 1 · OCTOBER 24

## Understanding the Hindu People

On the first day of our prayer journey, we invite you to become familiar with the extensive Hindu culture which includes strong religious practices, deep rooted philosophy and beliefs, yearly festivals, arts and literature, and complex social structure. Hinduism encompasses daily practices, major festivals like Diwali, and core community values, deeply influencing individuals' lives through its spiritual and cultural traditions. This lifestyle dictates ethical and social behaviors under the concepts of karma and dharma. As we delve into these traditions, our 15-day prayer guide aims to illuminate the understanding of the Gospel among Hindus while also acknowledging the challenges faced by Hindu Background Believers, who often endure significant persecution. Thank you for joining many around the world as we pray for the resilience of those enduring persecution because of their faith and for the Hindu community's openness to the transformative message of Jesus Christ.

### A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CULTURE OF THE HINDU PEOPLE:

Hindu culture is deeply rooted in the religious practices and philosophies of Hinduism, influencing the lives of its followers both spiritually and socially. Here are some key aspects:

1. **Religious Practices:** Hindu worship includes rituals like offerings and prayers to a pantheon of deities, primarily conducted in temples and homes.
2. **Philosophy and Beliefs:** Central concepts include karma (cause and effect) and dharma (duty), guiding moral decisions with the ultimate goal of moksha (liberation from rebirth).
3. **Festivals:** Vibrant celebrations like Diwali, Holi, and Navaratri mark significant religious and cultural events with unique rituals and community gatherings.
4. **Arts and Literature:** Rich traditions in dance, music, and ancient texts like the Vedas and epics such as Mahabharata and Ramayana.
5. **Social Structure:** Traditionally organized into a caste system, which, despite modern legal changes, continues to influence social interactions.
6. **Culinary Traditions:** A diverse cuisine that often emphasizes vegetarianism, varying significantly across regions but generally featuring staples like rice, lentils, and spices.

1  
HOW CAN WE  
PRAY?



Pray that the Hindus encounter the love and truth of Jesus Christ in profound and transformative ways. Pray that God will open their hearts to receive His blessings and embrace the hope and salvation found in Him.

*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

**HABAKKUK 2:14**

Pray that the Hindu people will experience a powerful move of the Holy Spirit through the testimony and love of the believers residing among them.

*Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**



## Hindu Population • The Great Need For Prayer

Hinduism is the third-largest religion in the world, with a significant number of followers primarily in South Asia.

As we delve deeper into understanding the Hindu people, it is essential to recognize the rich diversity within their community. Hinduism, one of the oldest religions in the world, is not a monolithic tradition but a vast, intricate collage woven with various threads of belief, practice, and culture. This complexity can be seen in the numerous ways the Hindu population is divided, reflecting the profound variations in their religious and philosophical schools, social structures, regional customs, ritual practices, and modern adaptations. By exploring these divisions, we gain a clearer picture of the multifaceted nature of Hindu life and spirituality. Let's now consider the vast global distribution of Hindus, which underscores the critical need for prayer for the Hindu community.

And He said to them,  
"Go into all the world  
and preach the  
gospel to  
every creature."

Mark 16:15

### HERE ARE SOME KEY STATISTICS OF THE HINDU PEOPLE

#### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

- **India:** The largest population of Hindus, with around 966 million adherents, making up about 79.8% of the country's population.
- **Nepal:** Over 23 million Hindus, constituting about 81.3% of the population.
- **Bangladesh:** Around 13 million Hindus, roughly 8-10% of the population.
- **Indonesia:** Particularly in Bali, with about 4 million Hindus, around 1.7% of the population.
- **Pakistan:** Approximately 3.5 million Hindus, about 1.85% of the population.
- **Sri Lanka:** Around 2.5 million Hindus, approximately 12.6% of the population.
- **United States:** About 2.5 million Hindus, around 0.7% of the population.
- **United Kingdom:** Approximately 1.5 million Hindus, roughly 2.3% of the population.

#### CASTE DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

- **Brahmins:** Traditionally priests and scholars, estimated at around 5-6% of the population.
- **Kshatriyas:** Historically warriors and rulers, around 4-5%.
- **Vaishyas:** Traditionally merchants and landowners, about 7-8%.
- **Shudras:** Historically laborers and service providers, making up the majority, around 40-45%.
- **Dalits (Scheduled Castes):** Outside the traditional varna system, constituting about 16-17%.
- **Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes):** Indigenous people, around 8-9%.

These statistics highlight the diverse and widespread nature of the Hindu population, providing a snapshot of their global presence and societal structure.

### HOW CAN WE PRAY?



#### GLOBAL POPULATION

There are approximately 1.2 billion Hindus worldwide.

Percentage of the World Population:  
About 14-15%.

Pray that the Hindu people would come to recognize the inherent equality of all individuals, seeing each person as God's creation and worthy of dignity and respect. May their hearts be open to the truth that all are equal in God's eyes and may this understanding foster love and unity among them.

So God created mankind  
in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:27

## Praying For Hindu Families

The structure of Hindu family life is intricately woven with religious, cultural, and social customs that define their daily routines and values. Central to this familial identity is a strong commitment to family unity, reverence for elders, and dedicated participation in religious rituals. For example, it is common for extended families to live together in a joint family system, promoting intergenerational support and closeness—a tradition that is both cultural and practical. Daily spiritual practices, such as puja (worship), are a staple in most Hindu homes, with nearly 77% of Hindu families engaging in puja daily according to a recent survey.

Additionally, major festivals like Diwali, celebrated by lighting lamps and exchanging gifts to symbolize the victory of light over darkness, play a significant role in strengthening familial and community ties. This blend of deep-rooted traditions and religious observances underscores the hierarchical yet closely bonded nature of Hindu family structures.

As the world evolves, some Hindu families are beginning to explore new spiritual paths, seeking to exchange their traditional beliefs for the knowledge of a loving Savior, Jesus Christ. This journey of faith can be both challenging and transformative, especially for those deeply rooted in their religious traditions. Hindu Background Believers often face significant personal sacrifices as they dedicate their lives to reaching out to their families and communities with the message of the Gospel. Their commitment to sharing the love of Christ and bringing others into covenant with the true and living God of the Bible is both courageous and vital. It is essential that we pray for these brave individuals, asking for God's protection, strength, and guidance as they spread the Gospel to Hindu families. Our prayers can support their efforts, asking that their message be received with open hearts and that they be empowered to continue their mission amidst the challenges they face.



Pray for the Hindu families that they will seek the truth, that Hindus may encounter the loving Savior, Jesus Christ, and find new meaning in His grace and love.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**MATTHEW 28:19**

Pray that God strengthens and protects Hindu Background Believers who are courageously sharing the Gospel with their families and communities, despite the personal sacrifices they face. May their efforts bear fruit, and may the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of those they reach, opening them to the knowledge of the truth and the covenant of salvation through Jesus Christ.

*I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.*

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**



### Praying that Pradeep's Faith Doesn't Cause Family Struggles...

Pradeep was born in a Hindu family in India, and for a period of his childhood lived on the grounds of a Christian seminary in India where his parents worked as support staff. After finishing college, Pradeep moved overseas as a global scholar, where he came to faith in Jesus. Some of his siblings have come to follow Jesus as well, but not his parents or his older brother. In fact, his older brother accuses Pradeep that, "because of Jesus you have abandoned our family!" Pray that relationships between Pradeep and his brother and parents would be restored and that his family members would come to faith in Jesus.

## Praying For Hindu Background Believers Impacted by the Indian/Hindu Diaspora

### WHY MANY PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS HAVE FLED...

#### A Closer Look at the Indian/Hindu Diaspora

In a North American city, a community of Indian immigrants gather at a local temple, united by chants that resonate with the traditions of their homeland. This group represents the Indian/Hindu diaspora, which comprises individuals who have left India for various reasons including better economic opportunities, education, escape from rigid social structures, and the pursuit of personal freedom. Importantly, many also aim to preserve their cultural and religious identity in a foreign setting, where they can practice their beliefs freely without conforming to majority norms. However, not all members of the diaspora have migrated by choice; some, like Hindu Background Believers, have been forced to flee due to persecution. For example, Ramesh, a young convert from Odisha, faced severe threats and violence from his community, prompting him to seek safety in Europe where he could freely practice Christianity and rebuild his life, illustrating the difficult sacrifices many make for religious freedom. His story is a poignant example of the sacrifices many HBB make, leaving their homeland not just in search of a better life, but in pursuit of the basic right to worship in peace.

#### What Does the Word Diaspora Mean?

The word "diaspora" refers to the dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland to other parts of the world. It is commonly used to describe communities of people who live outside their place of origin but maintain a connection to their homeland, often preserving their cultural, religious, or ethnic identity.

# 4

HOW CAN WE PRAY?



Pray for Hindu Background Believers who have fled persecution in India, like Ramesh. Pray for their safety, strength, and healing as they rebuild their lives in foreign lands. Ask God to provide them with supportive Christian communities where they can freely worship and grow in their faith.

*The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.*

**PSALMS 9:9**

Pray for Hindu Background Believers who have fled due to persecution, that they may find peace, comfort, and a sense of belonging in their new environments. Ask God to strengthen their faith and give them courage as they face the challenges of displacement. Pray also that they may be light to others, sharing their testimonies of God's faithfulness even in the face of adversity.

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**MATTHEW 5:10**

Please join us in prayer for the Indian/Hindu diaspora, especially those who have migrated due to religious persecution. Let us pray they find strength and community in their new homes and are able to freely serve the Lord Jesus Christ without discrimination.





DAY 5 • OCTOBER 28

## The Hindu Religion ..... Praying For Hindus to Know Jehovah God

Understanding the vast and intricate belief system of Hinduism is essential for grasping the profound spiritual needs of its followers and the great importance of praying for them. While there are said to be 330 million gods within this religion, all these deities are seen as manifestations of a single ultimate reality, known as Brahma. This complex belief structure can create a spiritual environment where individuals may seek divine favor through numerous forms, yet still yearn for a deeper connection with the one true God. Recognizing the diversity and depth of these religious beliefs underscores the critical need to pray for the Hindu people, that they might encounter the love and truth of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God's grace and the path to eternal salvation.

### Number of Religions Within Hinduism

Hinduism is not a monolithic religion but rather a broad umbrella term encompassing a variety of religious traditions, practices, and philosophies. Within Hinduism, there are several major sects and traditions, including:

1. **Vaishnavism:** *Worship of Vishnu and his avatars like Krishna and Rama.*
2. **Shaivism:** *Worship of Shiva as the supreme god.*
3. **Shaktism:** *Worship of the Goddess, particularly in forms like Durga and Kali.*
4. **Smartism:** *A more liberal and inclusive tradition that worships multiple deities, including Vishnu, Shiva, Shakti, Ganesh, and Surya, considering them all as manifestations of Brahma.*

*As deeply ingrained as these beliefs and practices are, there is a need to pray for the Hindu people to have their spiritual eyes opened to the truth of the Gospel. According to Ephesians 1:17, we ask that "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him," enlightening their hearts to understand the hope found in Christ. Through prayer, we can intercede for the Hindu people, asking that their deep-rooted religious culture be transformed by the light of Christ, leading them to experience the fullness of God's love and salvation.*

HOW CAN WE  
PRAY?

5



Pray that the Hindu people will receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation from God, as described in Ephesians 1:17. Ask that their spiritual eyes be opened to the truth of the Gospel, so they may come to know the hope and love found in Jesus Christ. Pray that God would break through the deep-rooted beliefs and practices that may hinder them from seeing His truth.

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

**EPHESIANS 1:17**

Pray for the Hindu people, that as they encounter the truth of the Gospel, they will turn to the Lord with open hearts, as stated in 2 Corinthians 3:16. Pray that the veil that blinds them will be lifted, allowing them to see clearly the light of Christ. Ask that their rich religious culture be transformed by the power of God's love, leading them to embrace the fullness of salvation through Jesus Christ.

*But the moment one turns to the Lord with an open heart, the veil is lifted, and they see.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:16**

# The Challenges of the Christian Persecution in India

*In the 2023 executive summary of the Religious Liberty Commission of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, the annual report titled **"Faith Under Fire: Documenting Targeted Hate and Violence Against the Christian Community in India (2023)"**\* recorded a staggering 601 incidents of anti-Christian violence. These disturbing events highlight the growing hostility faced by Christians in India. Below, we have outlined these 601 incidents, and over the next five pages of our prayer guide, we have identified five key areas of concern for you to cover in prayer. We invite you to engage with these pressing issues and lift them before the Lord as we intercede for our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

**'Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth'; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.**

1 Peter 2:21-24

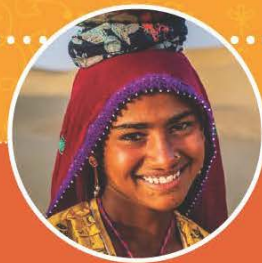
## Recent Statistics of Anti-Christian Hate Crimes

Types of Violence	Types of Incidents
Arrested	87
Church Burnt	2
Church/Worship Stopped	40
Falsely Accused/Arrested	146
Forced Conversion	15
Gender Violence	2
Hate Campaign	10
Physical Violence	54
Social Opposition/Boycott	37
Threat/Harassment	201
Vandalism	7

**Grand Total 601**

## Praying For Hindu Background Believers Serving God with Anti-Conversion Laws

In 2015, Tarun Vijay, a Member of Parliament in India's Upper House, emphasized the importance of maintaining a Hindu majority in the country. He expressed concern that the Hindu population had dropped below 80 percent for the first time in India's history, stating that measures needed to be taken to address this decline. Vijay's comments reflect a nationalist perspective increasingly common and influential in India, as well as in other parts of South and Southeast Asia. This viewpoint considers conversions away from the dominant religions—such as Hinduism in India and Nepal, or Buddhism in Myanmar and Bhutan—as threats to national identity. In response, these countries, or specific states within India, have enacted laws that prohibit religious conversion under ambiguous terms like 'inducement' or 'fraudulent circumstances.' These laws are often applied selectively, effectively preventing conversions from majority to minority religions. The presence of anti-conversion laws tends to empower nationalist religious extremists, legitimizing their persecution of minority religious communities.



### MEENA'S STORY

*This situation is highlighted by the story of Meena from Madhya Pradesh, who embraced Christianity through a local pastor and attended a house church. Her conversion led to accusations against her pastor under the anti-conversion law, resulting in his arrest and intense scrutiny and threats directed at Meena from her community. Pressured by her family to revert to Hinduism and publicly humiliated, Meena's ordeal underlines the oppressive environment faced by Hindu Background Believers, emphasizing the need for global prayer and advocacy for their right to freely practice their faith and for the repeal of such discriminatory laws.*

HOW CAN WE  
PRAY?



Pray for the protection and strength of Hindu Background Believers who face severe persecution and legal challenges due to anti-conversion laws. Ask God to grant them courage and perseverance in their faith.

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**MATTHEW 5:10**

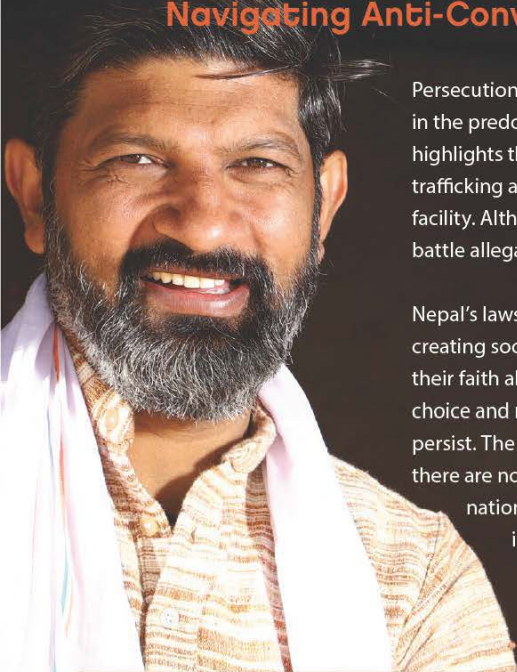
Intercede for the repeal of anti-conversion laws in India that are used to target and oppress Hindu Background Believers. Pray that the hearts of lawmakers and authorities will be softened and that they will see the injustice in these laws.

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

**MICAH 6:8**



## Praying for Christians in Nepal Navigating Anti-Conversion Laws



Persecution in Nepal is a growing concern as the Christian population increases in the predominantly Hindu nation. A recent article by the Global Press Journal highlights the plight of Pastor Hari Tamang, who faced false charges of child trafficking and attempted conversions after offering shelter to children from a closing facility. Although the trafficking charges were dropped, Pastor Tamang continues to battle allegations of trying to convert the children.

Nepal's laws permit the free practice of religion but prohibit converting others, creating societal tensions. The Christian community in Nepal maintains that sharing their faith aligns with Christ's teachings, emphasizing that conversion is a personal choice and not to be imposed. Despite this, accusations of forceful conversions persist. The growth of Christianity in Nepal has been rapid, with estimates suggesting there are now between 2 to 3 million Christians and 10,000 to 12,000 churches nationwide, reflecting a significant increase in the Christian demographic.



### Sita's Story

Sita is a young woman from a rural Nepalese village who after converting to Christianity from Hinduism through personal conviction, she was accused of coercion and arrested for sharing her faith, leading to intense interrogation and social rejection. Her family disowned her under community pressure, and she was ostracized, facing significant legal and social challenges. Sita's experience highlights the urgent need for prayer and advocacy for religious freedom for Hindu Background Believers in Nepal, where practicing their chosen faith can lead to severe consequences.



HOW CAN WE  
**PRAY?**

Pray for God to protect Hindu Background Believers in Nepal and give them strength to stand firm in their faith, despite the fear of arrest, harassment, or social ostracism.

*Be strong and courageous.*

*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

**JOSHUA 1:9**

Intercede for the authorities and lawmakers in Nepal, asking God to soften their hearts and open their eyes to the injustice of anti-conversion laws. Pray that these laws will be repealed, allowing for greater religious freedom in the country.

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.*

**LUKE 4:18**



## Praying For Christian House Churches Persecuted But Not Forsaken!

Christian house churches in predominantly Hindu nations like India and Nepal face severe persecution, significantly influenced by Hindu nationalist agendas and strict regulations on religious gatherings. In India, 2023 saw over 500 attacks on Christian communities, with many targeting house church gatherings through raids by local authorities and extremist groups, resulting in arrests and the disruption of worship services. Moreover, the systematic closure of house churches forces believers to meet secretly to avoid detection and harassment. Statistics indicate that about 60% of Christian congregations in Nepal have encountered some form of harassment or legal trouble. These situations underline the critical need for ongoing prayer and support for these communities, as they courageously continue their faith practices under such oppressive conditions.

### PASTOR HANOK'S STORY

Pastor Hanok reports, a Christian woman named Sadhya invited several church members, including himself, to a prayer meeting. Before the meeting, Sadhya received permission from her Hindu landlord to hold the meeting in her home at around noon, only minutes after the Christians gathered at Sadhya's home, 15 extremists broke into the house and attacked the Christians with wooden clubs and sticks. The landlord joined the extremists and helped drag Pastor Hanok out of the house, where he was further assaulted and threatened with being set on fire.

"I was panicked as all of this was going on," Pastor Hanok recalled. "For 30 minutes, the attack continued, but we eventually managed to run in different directions and reached the police station."



As a result of the attack, three Christians were seriously injured, and Pastor Hanok's car was damaged. A Christian man named Janaiah had his eardrum completely shattered, and a Christian woman named Annamma lost six teeth.

8

HOW CAN WE PRAY?



Pray that angelic protection surround our Hindu Background Believing brothers and sisters and that church house leaders are strengthened as they stand in the courage of the Holy Spirit.

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.*

**PSALMS 34:7**

Pray for the strength and perseverance of house church believers who are enduring persecution. Despite being pressed on every side, and facing significant challenges, may they find hope and resilience in the Holy Spirit's presence.

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9**



## Praying For Hindu Background Believers Pressured to Re-Convert to Hinduism - “Ghar Wapsi”?

### What is Ghar Wapsi:

Ghar Wapsi (meaning “Homecoming” in Hindi) is a controversial term used in India referring to the process of converting individuals from Christianity or Islam back to Hinduism. Proponents of Ghar Wapsi argue that it is a way to return people to their “original” cultural and religious heritage, while critics argue that it is often carried out under coercion, pressure, or even intimidation.

In several Hindu-majority nations, particularly in India, Christians face increasing pressure to participate in Ghar Wapsi, a controversial initiative aimed at reconverting them to Hinduism through social coercion, economic incentives, or threats of violence. Reports have emerged of Christian families being offered financial support or public recognition to renounce their faith, while others have faced threats of physical harm or social ostracism for resisting these ceremonies. Such coercive practices underscore the vulnerability of religious minorities and the broader issue of religious intolerance. Notably, in Uttar Pradesh in 2022, local Hindu nationalist groups held high-profile Ghar Wapsi events targeting Christian communities, forcing reconversion under intense public scrutiny. Similar pressures have been reported in rural areas, where Christians are forced into public renunciations of their faith. These developments highlight the severe pressures and risks Christians endure in these regions, underscoring the critical need for prayers for their protection, strength, and the courage to maintain their faith amidst such challenges, as well as for divine intervention to safeguard their religious freedom and dignity.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

9



### Recent Ghar Wapsi Statistics

- In Hyderabad, a Ghar Wapsi event saw around 1,200 people converting back to Hinduism.
- In Andhra Pradesh, 500 Christian Dalits were convinced to become Hindu and promised not to attend church again.
- In Chhattisgarh, nearly 2,000 people were re-converted to Hinduism in multiple events.

*As we witness the escalating pressures on Christians in Hindu-majority nations, particularly through the Ghar Wapsi initiative, let us fervently pray for their protection and resilience. May these communities find the strength to sustain their faith amidst intense scrutiny and coercion, and may divine intervention uphold their right to religious freedom and dignity. Let us stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, keeping them in our prayers as they navigate these profound challenges.*

Pray that Hindus in East Africa will have a chance to hear the Good News that in Jesus they will find peace and fulfillment.

**(REVELATION 21:4)**

Pray that Hindus will discover Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who knows the needs of Hindu peoples everywhere.

**(PHILIPPIANS 4:6)**

Pray for Hindus who seek relationship with the living God, that they will find Jesus and His miraculous gift of liberation from sin.

**(ACTS 17:23)**



## The State of Uttar Pradesh ..... Treasures in Jars of Clay!

HOW CAN WE  
PRAY?

10



### About Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh, located in northern India, is the most populous state in the country with over 240 million residents as of 2023. The state covers an area of about 243,286 square kilometers (93,933 square miles), making it one of India's largest states by land area. Uttar Pradesh is predominantly Hindu, with around 80% of the population identifying as Hindu, while Muslims make up approximately 19%. Christians and other religious minorities constitute less than 1% of the population. The state has a significant rural population, with agriculture being the primary occupation for many residents.

### The need for prayer...

Uttar Pradesh is one of the most challenging regions for religious minorities in India, and Hindu Background Believers endure severe persecution for their faith in Jesus. The hostility they face is often severe, fueled by societal and institutional pressures. In 2023, for example, a group of Hindu Background Believers in a village was brutally attacked by a mob after a prayer meeting. The attackers accused them of proselytizing and vandalized their homes, resulting in injuries and trauma. In another incident, a Christian pastor and his family were forcibly evicted and accused of illegal conversion activities by local authorities, leaving them to flee for safety and abandon their livelihood. These incidents underscore the dire circumstances Hindu Background Believers in Uttar Pradesh face, marked by violence and discrimination.

From 2020 to 2024, Uttar Pradesh has seen a concerning rise in anti-Christian persecution, fueled by extremist groups and nationalist ideologies. Here are several significant statistics and trends:

- 1. 2020: The Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) recorded 70 incidents of anti-Christian violence in Uttar Pradesh. These incidents ranged from violent assaults to disruptions of religious gatherings.
- 2. 2022: Reports highlighted a notable increase in physical assaults and social ostracism of Christians in rural areas. The "Ghar Wapsi" movement in Uttar Pradesh, aimed at "reconverting" Christians to Hinduism, gained momentum during this period.
- 4. 2023: Christian persecution continued to escalate with \*\*multiple attacks on house churches\*\* and believers, particularly those from Dalit and Adivasi communities. In one report, \*\*32 violent incidents\*\* against Christians were recorded during the first half of 2023 alone.

Pray for protection over Christians in Uttar Pradesh, that God would be their refuge and strength in these difficult times. That they are surrounded with God's peace and fortify their hearts with courage to stand firm in their faith despite the threats and violence they encounter.

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.*

**PSALMS 46:1**

Pray for peace to replace hostility, and for a spirit of understanding and respect for religious freedom to prevail. May those who commit acts of violence come to know Your love and be moved to repentance. Help the persecuted believers to extend forgiveness and love to their persecutors, reflecting the grace of Christ in their lives.

*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

**MATTHEW 5:44**



## The State of Odisha (Orissa) • Pressed But Not Crushed

### About Odisha (Orissa)

Odisha, located on the eastern coast of India, is home to approximately 46 million people as of 2023. The state covers an area of about 155,707 square kilometers (60,119 square miles). Odisha's population is predominantly Hindu, with around 94% identifying with the Hindu faith, while Christians make up about 2.8% of the population, and Muslims account for approximately 2.2%. Odisha is known for its rich cultural heritage, ancient temples, and diverse tribal communities, with about 22% of the population belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

### The Urgent Need for Prayer for believers in Odisha

In the state of Odisha, Hindu Background Believers face significant persecution for their faith in Jesus, encountering hostility from their communities and local authorities amid longstanding religious tensions. Many have suffered violence, social ostracism, and economic difficulties due to their conversion.

**The is a great need to pray for believers in Odisha, India, here are a few stories:**

#### The Attack of the Kandhamal District of Odisha:

The 2007-2008 pogrom in the Kandhamal District of Orissa (now Odisha) was one of the worst incidents of anti-Christian violence in India's recent history. During this period, Hindu extremist groups attacked Christian communities, leading to the deaths of over 100 people, the destruction of around 300 churches, and the displacement of more than 50,000 Christians. Thousands of homes were destroyed, and many Christians were forced to live in relief camps for months due to the widespread violence.

#### Eviction of Christian Families in South Odisha:

In July 2024, seven families who had converted from their tribal religion to Christianity were evicted from a forested village in south Odisha. The tribal village council forced them out, leaving them without proper food or shelter during the heavy monsoon season. Despite complaints to local authorities, no action has been taken to address this injustice..

#### Attack on Christian Homes in Jharsuguda District:

On October 7, 2023, religious fanatics attacked more than seven Christian homes in a village called Hirma in Jharsuguda district, Odisha. Religious fanatics targeted more than seven Christian homes, violently dragging families out of their houses and beating them mercilessly, including women and children.

**These stories underscore the unwavering faithfulness of the Lord in sustaining His people through trials, providing them with strength, hope, and a tangible sense of His presence, even under the most trying circumstances.**

Pray for the Hindu Background Believers in Odisha to continue trusting God as their rock, fortress, and deliverer. Surround them with Your shield and grant them strength to endure the hardships they face.

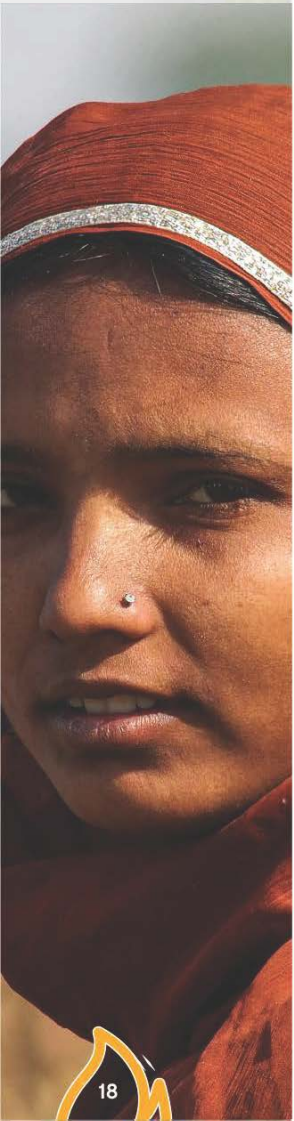
*The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

**PSALMS 18:2**

Pray for healing and transformation in the state of Odisha. "We ask that You convict the hearts of those who perpetuate violence and intolerance, leading them towards peace and understanding. May Your presence bring about a change in the spiritual and social climate, fostering respect for religious freedom and harmony among communities."

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

**2 CHRONICLES 7:14**



## The State of Manipur, India... Persecuted, Not Forsaken!

### About Manipur

Manipur, located in northeastern India, is a state with a population of approximately 3.2 million people as of the latest census. It covers an area of around 22,327 square kilometers (8,621 square miles). The population of Manipur is religiously and ethnically diverse, with a majority being the Meitei people (predominantly Hindu), and the Naga and Kuki-Mizo hill tribes, most of whom are Christian. The religious composition includes Hindus making up about 51% of the population, Christians approximately 41%, and Muslims around 8%.

### A Call to Prayer for Believers in Manipur...

In the state of Manipur in northeastern India, Hindu Background Believers endure considerable persecution due to their faith, exacerbated by the region's complex ethnic and religious dynamics which often lead to tensions and violence against religious minorities. The ongoing persecution underscores the urgent need for prayer and support for the Hindu Background Believers community in Manipur. It is vital to pray for their safety, the cessation of hostility, and for divine intervention to foster peace and tolerance in the region.

### Recent Violence and Attacks:

*In May 2023, tensions between the Kuki tribe (predominantly Christian) and the majority-Hindu Meitei people escalated into violence. Over 350 churches and church properties were burned, and more than 200 Christians have lost their lives in the ongoing violence.*

*The pro-Hindu government's decision to give additional land and benefits to the Meitei people, coupled with the eviction of Christian Kukis from their ancestral land, triggered great violence.*

*Believers have been beaten, threatened, and forced to renounce their faith. Thousands have been displaced, and the situation remains volatile, with attacks on Christian villages even in the last week of September 2024.*

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Manipur who face persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for their protection, and that God would cover them with His wings and provide them a safe haven from the violence and threats they endure. May God strengthen their spirits and grant them resilience to continue in their faith journey despite the hostility they face.

*He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day*

**PSALMS 91:4-5**

Pray for the state of Manipur, that peace and tolerance would prevail in this region. Pray for the spirit of peace to blanket the state, helping to heal divisions and build bridges of reconciliation across different ethnic and religious groups.

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

**ROMANS 12:18**

## Christian Leaders Call For India to Be Designated “Country of Particular Concern”

*In an article published on August 14, 2024, by Christianwalk.com columnist Milton Q. covers the urgent appeal from Christian leaders across the United States.*

*“We invite you to stand in solidarity with believers advocating for immediate action in support of Hindu Background Believers, particularly in India. Join us in prayer, united in our hope for the amendment of the oppressive laws that afflict persecuted Christians in India.”*

Over 300 Christian leaders in the United States, including denominational leaders, are calling on the nation’s State Department to designate India as a “Country of Particular Concern” due to its persecution of Christians. According to The Christian Post, the Christian leaders say that persecution of religious minorities in India grew worse since Modi’s regime began in 2014.

“This surge in violence is propelled by a Hindu ethno-nationalist or Hindutva supremacist political ideology, which conflates a militant Hindu ideology with Indian citizen identities,” the letter, organized by the

Federation of Indian-American Christian Organizations in North America, states. “As a result, both the Hindu religion and India’s Constitutional secular democracy have been severely distorted, leading to alarming levels of state-sanctioned violence against Christians, lower-caste Dalits, and other religious minorities both on the streets and within state structures.”

The letter was signed by church leaders of various denominations, including 18 bishops, three archbishops, numerous clergy members, and leaders from Christian and theological organizations. It also refers to a January 2024 petition signed by more than 3,000 ecumenical Christian leaders in India, denouncing the Indian government’s persecution of religious minorities.

The letter also cites a report by the United Christian Forum, which notes a significant rise in attacks on Christians, from 127 incidents in 2014 to 720 in 2023. As pointed out in the letter, over 65,000 people being displaced in Manipur, and more than 350 churches were destroyed or damaged since May 2023 due to the persecution.

# 13

HOW CAN WE  
PRAY?

Please pray as you  
are led by the Holy Spirit.

*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth  
our infirmities: for we know not what  
we should pray for as we ought: but  
the Spirit itself maketh intercession  
for us with groanings which  
cannot be uttered.*

**ROMANS 8:26**



## A Call to Continued Prayer for Persecuted Hindu Background Believers

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;  
For this is God's will For you in Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As we prepare to conclude our 15-day prayer guide, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for joining us in this vital prayer journey. During these times of prayer, we've explored into the complex and challenging situations facing Hindu Background Believers across various states in India. We've witnessed the struggles of house churches, the legal battles faced by pastors, and the harsh realities under anti-conversion laws. Our exploration has revealed the depth of adversity, but also the profound strength and faith displayed by our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The call to "pray without ceasing" is a reminder that our commitment to intercession should not end after these 15 days. The challenges faced by HBBs do not relent, and neither should our prayers. We encourage you to integrate these prayer needs into your daily life, continuing to lift up the persecuted in your personal devotions, church services, and community groups.



As we thank you for taking this journey with us, we hope you will continue to hold our persecuted brothers and sisters in your prayers, making them a permanent part of your intercessory prayer routines. Your prayers are a crucial support to those enduring persecution, and together, we can stand in solidarity, advocating for their rights and well-being through our persistent and faithful prayers.

**May the Lord bless you for your faithful commitment to interceding for the persecuted, and may you find joy and peace in your continued prayer life.  
Thank you for your dedication and spirit of compassion.**

WAYS TO  
PRAY WITHOUT  
CEASING.

14

- 1. Morning Offering:**  
*Begin each day by dedicating your thoughts, words, and actions to God, specifically remembering the persecuted Hindu Background Believers.*
- 2. Prayer Alarms:**  
*Set daily reminders on your phone or watch to pause for a moment of prayer, perhaps focusing on a specific state or issue discussed in this prayer guide.*
- 3. Journaling:**  
*Keep a prayer journal where you note specific requests and updates about the persecution of Hindu Background Believers. This can help you track prayers and see how God is moving.*
- 4. Incorporate into Mealtime Prayers:**  
*Include a prayer for Hindu Background Believers during your mealtime prayers, a reminder of the daily bread we receive and the spiritual sustenance they seek.*
- 5. Prayer Walks:**  
*Dedicate time during walks or exercise to pray for freedom and justice for persecuted believers, using the rhythm of your steps to guide your prayers.*

## A Closing Prayer For the Hindu People & Hindu Background Believers!

Heavenly Father, as we conclude this 15-day prayer guide, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to stand in the gap for the Hindu people and the Hindu Background Believers facing persecution in India. We have explored the depths of their trials and witnessed the extraordinary strength and faith they exhibit in the midst of adversity.

Lord, we lift up all those who suffer for their faith, asking for Your protection, peace, and perseverance to envelop them. May Your presence be a constant source of comfort and courage as they navigate the challenges of daily life under scrutiny and threat. Strengthen their spirits so that they may continue to shine Your light in the darkest of places.

We pray for the communities and authorities in these regions, that their hearts be softened and their minds opened to the beauty of religious diversity and the strength it can bring. Instill in them a spirit of compassion and justice that transcends cultural and religious boundaries, leading to a future where all may worship freely without fear.

Dear God, remind us to carry the burden of this prayer beyond these 15 days, integrating the concerns and needs of the persecuted into our daily conversations with You. May we be relentless in our prayers, vigilant in our awareness, and unyielding in our support. Encourage us to use every moment—from our morning routines to our evening reflections—to remember those in need of Your grace and mercy.


Thank you for the privilege of prayer and for the community we have built together through this guide. May our continued intercessions be pleasing to You, and may we see the fruit of our prayers as You move mightily among Your people.

*"In Jesus' name, who suffered  
the ultimate persecution, we pray. Amen."*

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

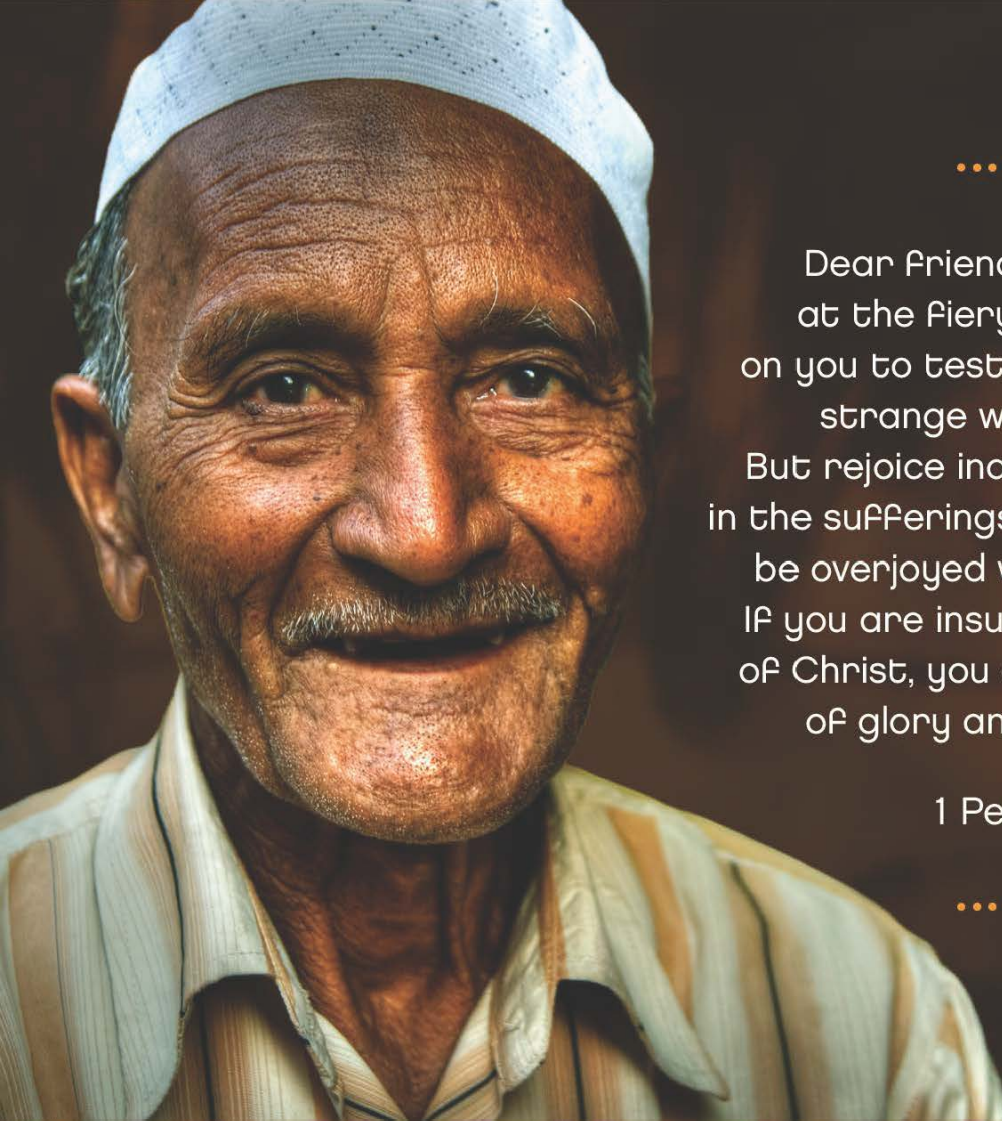
**HEBREWS 4:14-16**

A woman wearing a vibrant red headscarf and a patterned dress stands on a rooftop, looking out over a sprawling, densely packed cityscape. The buildings are multi-story and feature a mix of colors, including blue, white, and brown. The scene is captured from a high angle, emphasizing the vastness of the urban environment. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, with shadows cast across the rooftops.

And He said to them,  
“Go into all the world  
and preach the  
gospel to  
every creature.”

Mark 16:15





Dear Friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 4:12-14 (NIV)



✠  
☆☆☆☆☆☆  
GODD JESUS  
HELP ME ☆






For more than 50 years, God's Word has reached millions of people across the globe — including the Hindu world — through the worldwide ministry of **Bibles For The World.**

As a sponsor of these Prayer Guides for peoples of the world, it is our privilege to make this copy available for you. God's heart for unreached peoples has not changed, and the task of reaching them must be fueled by informed, consistent, and fervent prayer. Thank you for joining us in prayer for those who live in the Hindu World.



## Bibles For The World

P.O. Box 49759 • Colorado Springs, CO 80949  
[biblesfortheworld.org](http://biblesfortheworld.org) • 888-38-BIBLE



LEARN MORE, PRAY MORE, CHANGE MORE!  
VISIT [WWW.WORLDPRAYERGUIDES.ORG](http://WWW.WORLDPRAYERGUIDES.ORG)  
FOR MORE ENGAGING AND INFORMED GUIDES  
ON A VARIETY OF PEOPLE AND CONCERNS.

