



30 Days of Prayer for HINDUS

1st – 31st October 2016

Convinced to pray that no one should live and die without hearing God's Good News.



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Thank you to our friends to help with resources and images, edition, advice and prayers.

1 October:

Today begins the festival of Navratri (nine nights). It comprises three festivals over the next ten days: Navaratri, Durga puja, and Dusshera. Many Hindus will dedicate part of their homes to Shakti, and ask her to come and dwell there during the Navratri. Some Hindus will sow seeds on this day, the sprouts from which will be used as offerings.

Mark 4:26-29 reminds us to pray for God to move miraculously in the lives of those who need (*Hindus*) to seek Jesus Christ, and among Christians to be obedient to call of the Gospel, to begin planting seeds of the Gospel amongst Hindus.

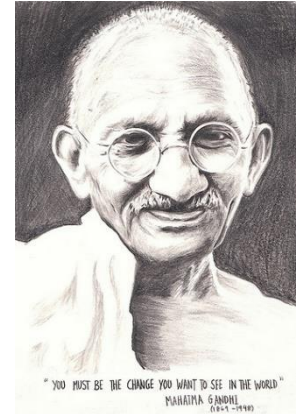
HAPPY NAVRATRI



2 October:

Today, Indians through the world commemorate Gandhi Jayanti, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, as well as Hindus worship Brahmacharini, the goddess of purity and austerity.

Based on 1 John 1:9, pray for Hindus to embrace the One who can purify us from sin.



3 October:

The third night of Navratri is devoted to Chandraganta, a goddess symbolising bravery and beauty. It's believed that the sound of the "moon-bell" on her forehead can drive away spirits from those devoted to her.

Let us pray for courage for Hindus who are considering Christ. Ask that they will take a step of faith. Pray too for our fellow Hindu-background believers, whose families oppose their faith.



4 October: Kushmanda, who's believed to have created the universe with her laugh, is the focus on worship on 4th day of Navratri. It's said that she's radiant and can give her devotees wealth, wisdom and blessings.

Jesus taught in Matthew 6:19-24 to seek out treasures focused on God. Pray that worshippers of Kushmanda would seek Jesus, the Light of the World, and that the followers of Jesus would value wisdom over wealth and earthly treasures.

5 October: In some parts of India, the fifth day of Navratri marks the beginning of Durga Puja, when idols are worshipped in the streets.

Let us get on our knees and lift up the spiritual battle that is taking place in the hearts and minds of Hindus. Cry out that they will come to know God as a compassionate Father.



6 October: Hindus believe in Katyani, a goddess, who is able to destroy demons, grant freedom from fear, and destroy the sins of her devotees.

Let us uphold all followers of Jesus, especially those who serve, that they would be able to use the spiritual focus of Navratri as a bridge to tell the good news of Jesus. Ask God to open the eyes of Hindus to their need for Jesus.

7 October: Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and knowledge, is the focus of worship during the seventh day of Navratri.

Proverbs 2:5 reminds us that “the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Pray, using Proverbs 9:10, that the fear of the Lord would spark the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One (Jesus) and understanding of his gospel.



8 October: Today is devoted to Mahagauri, a goddess that's known for her beauty, and who represents calmness, intelligence and wisdom.

Many Hindus live lives full of anxiety and uncertainty. Use Luke 8:22-25 that tells a story of Jesus and how he can calm the storms of life. Pray that Jesus would bring peace in the midst of stormy lives and for followers of Hinduism to experience amazement in Jesus.



9 October: Today, Hindus worship Siddhidatri, a goddess who's believed to be able to bestow supernatural powers. In some areas, young girls are worshipped as forms of the mother goddess.

Read Acts 8:9-25, the story of how Simon the sorcerer encountered the Truth. Pray for the bold witness of followers of Jesus to those who seek supernatural powers.

10 October: Maha Navami: the idols erected during Durga Puja are taken to a river/lake or sea and immersed in the water. Today is a time to celebrate the victory of good over evil.

1 Corinthians 15:56-58 reminds us that the followers of Jesus are victorious because God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. On your knees claim this victory in the lives of Hindus.

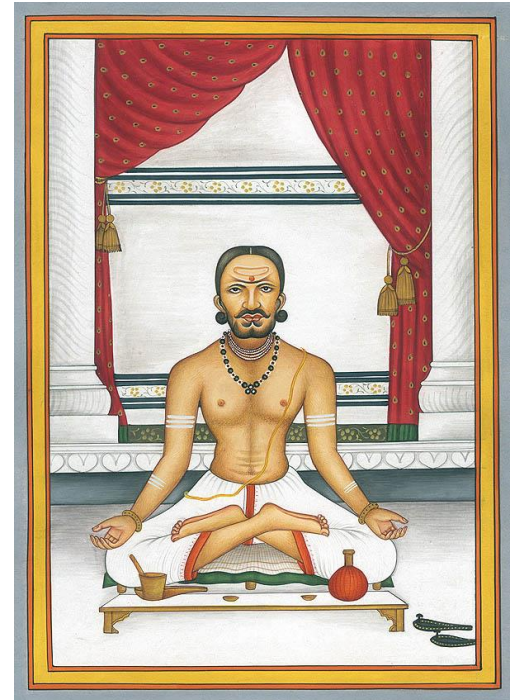
11 October: Today, known as Dusshera, celebrates the end of Navratri. Dusshera is the defeating of a demon king by an incarnation of Vishnu, lord Rama.

Jesus has won ultimate victory over evil. With confidence pray that the spiritual focus of the past 10 days will cause many Hindus to consider what they believe and open their hearts to considering Jesus.



12 October: One of the key person for Hindu worship is a Brahmin person. Brahmin are the priestly caste among the followers of Hinduism. Among the Brahmins Jesus Christ is least known.

Please study John 3:1-21, the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus. Pray for Brahmins to come into the Light, so that “whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”



13 October: Highly visible and publicly known people, but least known disciples of Jesus Christ, are among the Hindu political leaders. Today Hindu political leaders are driven with an agenda to make the world a Hindu world, beginning with India and Nepal.



It's a demanding and challenging times for Christians under current political climates where the political agenda is driven by the fundamentalist Hindu philosophy. Paul encouraged the church in Ephesus, with a similar political environment to pray for all those in authority. Based on 1

Timothy 2:1-4, it's our responsibility to pray for those who are in authority because "God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the Truth."

14 October: Indian business people around the globe are great influencers. However they are one of the most unpenetrated communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Read and study Acts 16:11-40. Paul and Silas had great encounters with three groups of people, among whom there were two different sets of business people – Lydia and the owners of the slave girl. Pray for your local Indian grocery shop owner as well as the leaders of businesses and industries to encounter the good news of Jesus, like Lydia and the owners of the slave.



15 October: Today, Hindus will celebrate Sharad Purnima, a harvest festival. The night is spent in festivity and various games of amusements, in honour of the goddess Lakshmi.

Study the topic “harvest” in the Bible. Read John 4:35-36. Jesus encouraged his followers to look out to the harvest fields. They are ripe for harvest. Join in prayer with the harvesters to plead and celebrate the harvest.

16 October: The festival of Raas Lila celebrates Krishna dancing with the Gopis. The day brings together two major aspects in the lives of farmers – prosperity promised by good harvests and spiritual blessings from a divine power which oversees all human achievement and endeavour.

Pray for the followers of ISKCON or Hare Rama Hare Krishna movement. Many Westerners have embraced Hinduism through the evangelistic work of this movement.

Also remember farmers in the rural India, who struggle and work hard to have a good harvest.



ISKCON

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Ācārya: His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda





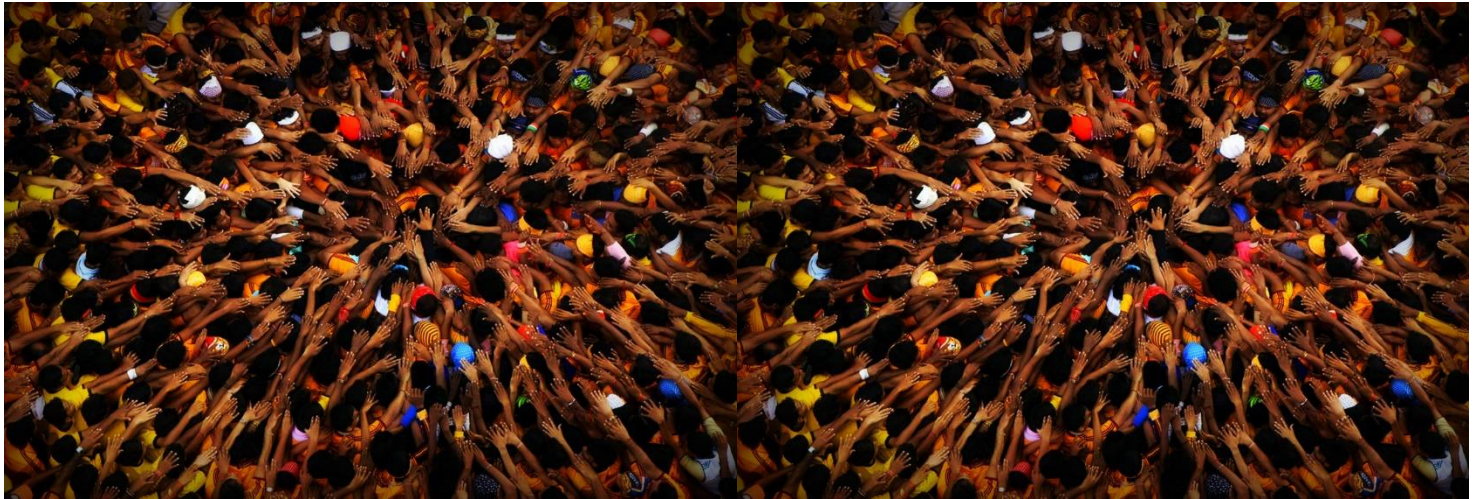
17 October: Gurus hold a great influencing position in a Hindu person's life. Gurus are personal spiritual teachers or guides. They reveal divine knowledge, teach specific skills, or hold mystical powers.

One of the groups of people for whom Christian would ever pray are the Gurus of Hinduism. Pray for the gospel to impact the lives of gurus. Pray for testimonies of Rabi Maharaj, Sadhu Chellappa, Sadhu Sunder Singh, and others, to spark a realisation for gurus to be followers of the Guru Jesus Christ.



18 October: Today we focus our prayers on Hindu Youth. With 356 million between the ages of 14-24 years, India has the world's largest youth population. By 2020, the average age in India will be 29 and it is set to become the world's youngest country with 64% of its population in the working age group. (www.huffingtonpost.com/siddharth-chatterjee/indias-youth-a-blessing-ob-9288120.html)

Cry out to the Lord to pour out His Spirit on young people, that they will see visions and dream dreams of Jesus and follow Him. Claim Joel 2:28-32 over lives of the young people.





19 October: According to the Hindu calendar, today, married women in Northern India will observe a fast of Karwa Chauth from sunrise to sunset to seek health and longevity for their husbands.

Faithfulness for married couples is a key social expectation in the Hindu worldview. Many times, Hindus look down at Christian married couples comparing them with the Western value that divorce is readily available. Pray for the faithfulness and strong commitment among Christian married people. That their faithfulness would be a key witness to Hindu married people. Pray for equal rights of women in the Hindu family.

20 October: Lift up children in Hindu communities, praying that they will hear the gospel in their lifetimes. Many Hindus value Christian schools and academic institutions for their discipline and academic achievements.

Pray for the Christians schools, where Hindu students attend, to exhibit and live out the gospel. Pray for programmes, such as the Bible in School in Western schools, to have an effective and lasting impact in the lives of children, that they may encounter Jesus Christ.

Study Luke 18:15-17, where Jesus blessed the children.



21 October: The Church in the West has an incredible opportunity to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as several thousand students from Hindu families come to Western universities for education.

It's a unique opportunity to seek the Lord for Hindu students, that they will find Christian friends and groups. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two. A mentor or an accountability partner is of great importance. Pray for the ministries, such as International Student Ministries, TSCF, UESI, and others, through whom Hindu students may have an opportunity to find a relationship with Jesus, and where they can grow in their walk with Jesus.



22 October: According to the Pew Research Centre, there were an estimated 60 to 70 million Hindus, who lived outside of India in 2010. Only three countries in the world had a majority population of Hindus – Nepal, India and Mauritius.

(<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2012/12/globalReligion-tables.pdf>) Many diaspora Hindus have been in the vicinity of many Christians for more than 100 years but very few have embraced Christ.

Paul at Athens (Acts 17:16-34) reminds us that God determined for every person the exact place where they should live, so that people would seek him and perhaps reach for him and find him. For Hindus in our vicinity, we are the hands, feet and mouths of Jesus. Pray for diasporic Hindus in your vicinity, neighbourhood, city, and nation.

23 October: Since AD 52 the church in India has been bearing witness for Christ. The Church in India is highly diverse, has a vast heritage and is both vital and growing and nominal and declining. It is still very Western however there are also few first generation Christians from non-Christian backgrounds such as Hinduism.

Based on John 17, pray for unity, indigenisation of the church, and effective discipling of Christians in India. Pray for greater relevance of the church to Indian society. Use Acts 16:5 to pray that the churches would be strengthened in the faith and grow daily in numbers.

24 October:

Hindus in Nepal need our prayers. More than 80% of the Nepalese people identify themselves as Hindus. Nepal adopted a new constitution under which there has been restriction for Christian propagation of the gospel. Nepal also suffered hugely due to the recent earthquake (2015).

Pray for Nepal, as it stands at a crossroads in terms of allowing freedom of belief. Pray for a move of the Holy Spirit in Nepal, for the church to remain strong and to grow, and for many Hindus across Nepal to come to know Jesus Christ and the truth of his gospel.



25 October:

Pakistani Hindus constitute approximately 2% of Pakistan's population. The overwhelming majority of Hindus in Pakistan are concentrated in Sindh province. Pakistani Hindus are a persecuted minority and known to be victims of kidnapping and forced conversion to Islam.



Pray for Hindus in Pakistan for their human rights to be honoured and freedom for expression of faith. Pray for the persecuted minorities of Christianity and Hinduism that they would be able to forge relationships and work on a common ground. That through this relationship Christians would be examples of Christ's love, compassion and the Truth.

26 October:

Today, in our society, yoga is a common word. Yoga means to yoke or union. The historic purpose behind yoga is to achieve union with the Hindu concept of god. Yoga is not just a physical exercise but it is through exercise that one achieves union with the divine.



Study Colossians 2:6-23. The Yoga practitioners around the world are trapped in a philosophy with an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body. Today spend time in prayer for those who practice yoga to find peace, relationship and satisfaction in Christ.



27 October:

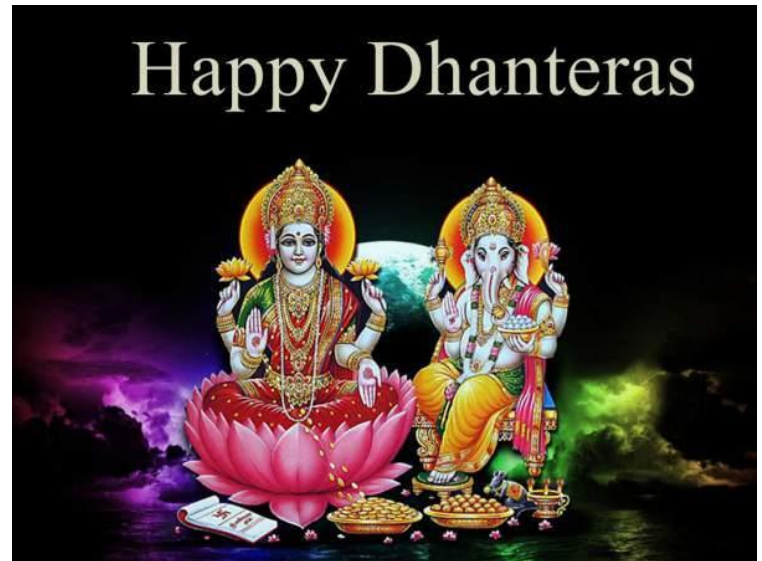
As gospel bearers we need to constantly look for ways in which could manifest the gospel. John 1:1-5 and 10-14 teaches us that Jesus was not only the Word but that the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. There have been several attempts to learn and implement how best the gospel could be presented and lived out among Hindu communities. There are several

contextualised ministries attempting to make the gospel relevant in their contexts. Ask God to give wisdom to gospel workers seeking to share the gospel in culturally relevant ways in Hindu communities.



28 October: The preparations for Diwali begin today. It is known as Dhan Teras, when people clean and whitewash their homes and purchase new utensils. Much of this festival focuses on prosperity. The goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, is said to visit each household to bless with it prosperity. Dhan Teras promotes and affirms a celebration of belief and longing for prosperity and wealth. Being wealthy is considered a result of good karma.

Spend time reading and studying Luke 12:13-34. Pray for the salvation of rich and wealthy. Among rich and wealthy Hindus, Christ is least known. Pray for courage and creative ways for the gospel work to reach out to this group of people through ministries such as Business As Mission (BAM).



29 October:

Today, the night just prior to Diwali itself, is called Chhoti Diwali (little Diwali). In each house there is a small platform decorated with small toys and geometric designs. Idols of deities are placed on this platform and are worshipped. Among ascetic Hindus, tonight is celebrated in worship of dead, invocation of black magic and devotion to the demonic spirits.

Using Ephesians 6:10-18 pray for Christians to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Pray for new believers from Hindu backgrounds to put on the full armour of God so that they can take their stand against the devil's schemes. Pray for ourselves, that whenever we open our mouth, words may be given to us so that we will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.



30 October:

The big day of the Hindu calendar, Diwali, is here. It is truly a festival of the home, and most pujas and festivities occur within the home and family. Today, there is an exchange of gifts and sweets between families and friends; and firecrackers explode continuously. Lamps are lit all night to guide Lakshmi to their homes. Shopkeepers, accountants, and merchants worship their account books and their merchandise in honour of Lakshmi's prosperity.

This is the climactic day for our time of prayers. Join in declaring the following: Light has come into the world (John 3:19). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus challenges us to "let your light shine before people (*Hindus*), that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). As you share the joy of celebration with your Hindu friend, be ready to shine your light.



31 October: The first day of the Hindu calendar, Vikram 2073, is New Year's Day for merchants.

Pray for a new beginning in the lives of your Hindu friends.

Thank you for faithfully praying throughout the past 30 Days for the Hindu World.

Using Ephesians 3:17-21 (NIV), I pray, “that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all God’s people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, to know this that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”