

Boyce College World Impact Center News

On Tuesday evening of last week as I listened to the group *Aradhna* leading the audience in a unique worship experience through their singing of Christian *bhajans* (an indigenous Indian musical style), my mind took me back to the 10+ years that my wife Gloria and I served among the people of South Asia. South Asia is home to the world's largest number of Hindu followers. Hindu society is complex to the outsider peering in, especially the caste system. Estimates are as high as twenty-six thousand different *jatis* or people groups among Hindus, each of these *jatis* coming from a different caste or sub-caste. Caste originally was based on one's occupation, and it is a system that organizes Hindu society. It determines one's social standing throughout one's life. One cannot change his or her caste standing during this lifetime. Only through performing one's *dharma* (religious requirements) and, therefore, improving one's *karma* a person can hopefully return in the next life born into a higher caste.

Hinduism and Hindu society appears so complex and intricate that believers struggle with how to communicate the gospel effectively. The biggest fear I have found is the fear of syncretism, that is, a fear that a Hindu will accept Jesus as simply one of many 'gods' within the Hindu pantheon. Is it really that difficult to make disciples of those who have come from the Hindu faith?

George David in his book *Communicating Christ Among Hindu Peoples* (1998) asserts that Christians need to practice a life of discipleship in the Indian context in order for the Hindus to be attracted to Jesus Christ. He uses Indian terms to describe how this is done. First, David says Christians must live a life of *bhakti* or devotion. Hindus understand *bhakti* as it is common for a Hindu to devote himself or herself to a god or goddess such as Shiva or Kali. Hindus must see we who are Christians as devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ with our whole heart, our whole being. Second, according to David, Christians must live a life of *nishkalanka* or cultivating a life of purity. Our life of devotion should lead to the purification, the refinement of our character. Hindus must see our devotion to Christ bring about life transformation. David further says we must live a life of *aradhana* or worship. True *aradhana* is admiring God and appreciating God for who He is. When that takes place, our hearts overflow with prayers of praise and singing.

Reflecting on David's suggestions on living the life of a disciple of Jesus as integral to the process of making disciples among Hindu peoples, I realized *bhakti*, *nishkalanka*, and *aradhana* are applicable to those who follow Christ whether we live and work among Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims or postmodernists! May our lives be lives of complete devotion to Christ that daily transforms us more into the image of Christ, leading us to worship Him with our entire being.

Dr. R. Bruce Carlton

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Missions Department News:

CS Crossings Camps & Hands On: Crossings Camps is now partnering with the International Mission Board's Hands On program. Students who serve one summer with Crossings will be

automatically accepted into Hands On and provided a 50% scholarship towards the program. Up to 12 credit hours are also offered through Hands On including the missions internship requirement.

☞ Nepali Ministry Conference

Where: Sojourn Community Church, 930 Mary Street, Louisville, KY 40204

When: October 31st @ 9am- Noon

Cost: Free

To register simply email reachingnepal@gmail.com and let us know the number in your group.

☞ Spanish Speakers Needed:

One of the Boyce Praxis teams has identified a Hispanic community in need of a church plant and needs the help of some fluent or semi-fluent Spanish speakers. If you are able to help work in this community, translate Bible teaching, evangelism, etc, please contact the World Impact Center to get connected with this team!

☞ World Impact Center 2010 Mission Trips:

The World Impact Center has already scheduled the two mission trips for the summer of 2010! There will be a North America trip and an international trip. The summer of 2010 seems so far away, but students can begin praying and planning for which trip they feel led to join.

First, Dr. Kerns will lead another team to Utah in the summer 2010 to minister to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As you know, Dr. Kerns is Boyce College's resident expert on ministering to Mormons. We will be looking for at least 6 students who would be willing to invest a week or so of their time to learn about and be a part of ministry to Mormons.

The second trip is equally as exciting, and perhaps even more challenging. The World Impact Center is looking for students who want to venture to one of the most needy areas and some of the least reached peoples in South America. No, we are not planning to go up the Amazon or wander deep into the Andes Mountains. Instead, we are looking for a team of students to go to the Foz de Iguazu (Falls of Iguazu), an area of South America where Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay share borders. This area is populated with peoples of Arab and Chinese descent as well as other unreached peoples. Journey with Dr. and Mrs. Carlton to this unique area of South America where we will have the opportunity to witness and minister to people who desperately need to hear the Good News.

☞ Internship: If you are planning to do your missions internship this summer you will need to make an appointment with Dr Carlton as soon as possible to begin the process. The sooner you begin arranging details the less likely you are to encounter problems as the summer approaches. Remember certain pre-requisites must be completed and all field supervisors and job descriptions must be approved.

Boyce Highlight: Praxis Student Team



Two Boyce Praxis students and a few Seminary students are currently working as a church planting team to the South Asian Indians of Louisville. South Asia is home to more unreached people groups than any other region, and Louisville is now home to about 7,000 to 10,000 Indians, representing more than eight language groups! They are primarily Hindu, however there are also significant numbers of Sikhs and Muslims. These diverse people are working in Louisville as business owners, students, waiters, nannies, medical researchers, and many other professions. Many of these men and women have yet to hear the gospel despite moving across the world to the 'Bible-belt'.

The S.A.I.L. team (South Asian Indians of Louisville) has worked to build relationships in the Indian community through visiting restaurants, businesses, Temples and cultural events. These relationships have led to countless opportunities to share Christ and even begin groups of seekers meeting to study God's word. The team is currently hosting three groups composed of Americans, Indian believers and Hindus who meet together to story through the Bible from creation forward. Many who knew little if anything about the Bible are now able to hear and retell stories of Biblical events and teaching. The Lord is working through these groups to draw people to Himself and disciple those who know Him.

Spotlight on the Unreached:

The Amhara of Ethiopia



The vast majority of Amhara live in the mountains of Ethiopia about a day's walk from the nearest road. They are heavily influenced by Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, which teaches a works-based salvation through rituals and fasting. Most Amhara have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel. While the Bible is available in the Amharic language, Coptic priest do not encourage their congregations to read it and only 15% of the people are literate. The storying method has proven to be a relevant and effective means of communicating the truths of Scripture among the Amhara, and some believers who are not literate have been trained to story among their people. Although these local believers along with international workers are

seeing individuals and families come to Christ,
only .09% of the Amhara have a personal

relationship with Jesus.

Prayer Requests:

- CS S.A.I.L. Team:** Pray for the team's relationships with Indians here in Louisville, that those they have come to see as dear friends would become brothers and sisters in Christ.
- CS The Amhara:** Pray for Amhara believers of Ethiopia as they take the stories of God's Word to the lost around them.
- CS Hands On:** Please continue to remember our Boyce students currently serving through Hands On in Wales, India and China.