

Naya Jeevan Recommended Resources

Reading

Recommended Reading: Books and Websites to Help You Understand Your South Asian Friend



BOOKS BY CHRISTIANS ABOUT INDIA

Hinduism

By HL Richard

An excellent, short and readable overview of a religious worldview that defies precise definition.

Disciple Making Among Hindus

By Timothy Shultz

Built on the author's 30 years of experience in India and the US, this book is a comprehensive look at the process of a Hindu considering Christ and becoming a firm and growing disciple.

Connecting with Hindu International Students

By W Stephens

A short and enjoyable read, this booklet is full of cultural and religious insights and friendship-building tips.

Christian Barriers to Jesus: Conversations and Questions from the Indian Context

By Dr. J. Paul Pennington

Horrors! *Christians* put up barriers that turn Hindus away from Jesus? The unfortunate truth is exposed and addressed in this honest book from a veteran missionary.

The Spirit of Hinduism

By David Burnett

A Christian look at Hinduism in the context of Indian history. An excellent combination of being detailed and yet readable for the novice. Bibliography, including websites, and "interfaith" discussion questions with every chapter.

Missionary

Conspiracy:

Letters to a Post-Modern Hindu

By Vishal Mangalwadi

An effective rebuttal to Arun Shourie's book "Missionaries in India" (see below), scholarly and philosophical, yet loving and humble.

A Reasoned Look at Asian Religions

By David L. Johnson

Truly fair and thorough in evaluating the gist and bases of five Asian religions. The author shows why it is reasonable to evaluate and not just accept conflicting philosophies in the name of tolerance.

The Christ of the Indian Road

By E. Stanley Jones

A missionary of the Student Volunteer Movement, Jones presented Christ to high society Indians at the turn of the century, and gained quite a listening audience through his daring question and answer lecture format.

Living Water and Indian Bowl: An Analysis of Christian Failings in

Communicating Christ to Hindus, with Suggestions Toward Improvements

By Dayanand Bharati

For the more advanced evangelist, this book presents radical but compelling ideas on how to encourage Hindus to become "Khrist bhaktas" (Christ devotees) rather than merely westernized Christians in India.

The Confusion Called Conversion

By Ebe Sunder Raj

Deals with why Christians must proclaim their beliefs, a heated debate in India; intricately connected with the whole issue of caste.

Speaking of India

By Craig Storti

A practical guide to working with and understanding Indians on the professional level.

Books written and edited by **Dr. Sam George**, founder of Parivar International, a South Asian family ministry, and chair of Diasporas for the Lausanne Committee; these include Understanding the Coconut Generation, Desi Diaspora, Malayali Diaspora, Tamil Diaspora, and others.



BOOKS BY HINDUS ABOUT INDIA

Bhagavad-Gita

Translated by Swami Prabhavananda and Christopher Isherwood

In this most popular Hindu scripture, you will meet Arjuna, a warrior faced with the daunting task of fighting his own relatives in battle; and Krishna, his charioteer and teacher, who explains to Arjuna why he must fight. Surprisingly light and easy reading in a mixture of prose and verse, the Gita ("Song of the Lord") provides the justification for the caste system, and propounds devotion to Krishna as the supreme worship.

Myths and Legends of India

William Radice

Two volumes of selected stories from religious epics, legends, and folktales (the most entertaining bits). Don't miss the very instructive introductions.

Hinduism for our Times

By Arvind Sharma

A Hindu writes to Hindus to interpret their beloved religion meaningfully in today's world, especially as Hinduism interacts with western cultures and religious values.

Missionaries in India

By Arun Shourie

A must read for those who want to know what Hindus think of Christianity. This book will

make you hopping mad, because of its distortions and prejudices. But it will also fill you with a desire to refute the lies with the truth.

Karma Yoga and Bhakti Yoga

By Swami Vivekananda

A famous Hindu philosopher of last century expounds two beautiful and popular Hindu paths to God: one of "works" and one of "devotion." Don't be fooled by the eloquence; though beautifully described, ideals and philosophy cannot save – where's the power to live up to them?

The Story of My Experiments with Truth

by Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi is no longer a living person but remains a powerful symbol in India. His struggles with Christianity are a major part of this striking autobiography, and his problems echo those of many Hindus today. Essential reading for Christians who want to understand Hinduism and India's struggle for independence.

Christ the Yogi: A Hindu Reflection on the Gospel of John

By Ravi Ravindra

This work represents a common Hindu understanding of "Christ" as an ideal concept which Jesus the man fulfills. Conveniently ignores or explains away anything in the Gospel which might portray Jesus as the unique Son of God.

The Rozabal Line

By Ashwin Sanghi

The first in a series of contemporary religious novels, continuing with The Krishna Key and many others. These modern thrillers will give you a view of how a Hindu might weave ancient religious beliefs into modern life.



BOOKS ON SIKHISM

Holy Nit-Nem with Jap-ji

Translated by Rajinder Singh Vidhyarthi

The "Great Prayer" of Guru Nanak, this is the foremost portion of the Sikh scriptures. Written by their first guru in the 15th century, this book resembles psalms and proverbs. The reader will be surprised to find tantalizing questions posed by Guru Nanak which can be properly answered through Jesus Christ.

Lions, Princesses, Gurus: Reaching Your Sikh Neighbor

By Ram Gidoomal and Margaret Wardell

A winsome introduction to the Sikh religion of your turbaned neighbor. Best feature is "Things to do" at the end of every chapter, to get you out of your armchair and into the Sikh marketplace.

Sikh Outreach Strategies Seminar

By Jamie Dowdy

For training in sharing the good news with your Sikh neighbors,
email jfdowdy@hotmail.com

Light of the Satguru: Good News for Sikhs

By Jasvir Singh

A Sikh background follower of Jesus shares a clear and simple progression of thought for leading Sikhs to the light of Jesus.



RESOURCES ON BUDDHISM

From Buddha to Jesus: An Insider's View of Buddhism and Christianity

By Steve Cioccolanti

Peoples of the Buddhist World: A Christian Prayer Guide

By Paul Hattaway

Sharing your faith with a Buddhist

By Madasamy Thirumalai

Nov 1, 2014 issue of *Mission Frontiers* magazine has some great articles on ministry among Buddhists.

June 2012 issue of *Ministry International Journal for Pastors* also has an article on how to minister to Buddhists.



RESOURCES ON ISLAM

English Translation of the Holy Quran

By Maulana Muhammad Ali

One of the most recommended English translations with explanatory notes.

Muslims, Christians, and Jesus

By Carl Medearis

The author tells how he engages Muslims in fresh, non-threatening ways that diffuse tensions and pique interest in Christ.

The Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross

By Dr. Nabeel Jabbour

You will come away with an appreciation for the difficulties Muslims have in understanding and being attracted to the Gospel as it is typically presented by Christians. A powerful appeal to reexamine cherished assumptions and to make sense to your audience.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus

By Nabeel Qureshi

A student investigates everything he thought true and finds his beliefs turned upside-down.

Bridges Course

By The Crescent Project "Bridges" course

<https://www.crescentproject.org/bridges> for a recorded DVD evangelism course.

For General South Asian Culture:

Books by William Dalrymple

William Dalrymple is a best-selling contemporary secular author of travel/history/culture who writes extensively on South and West Asia. A few passages contain graphic descriptions not for the faint-hearted. Most-recommended titles include [Nine Lives](#), [The Age of Kali](#), [City of Djinn](#).



BOOKS TO GIVE TO NON-CHRISTIANS

[Seeking God, Seeking Moksha: The Teachings of Shri Krishna and Jesus Christ](#)
By Paul Sudhakar Menon

A Yeshu bakhta (devotee) draws up a comparison of the teachings of Jesus and Krishna, without commentary, on various subjects. While not evangelistic per se, this short book provides talking points between followers of the two great teachers, and will be enlightening to either side. Some opening and closing comments are given by two other Christ bakhtas, Anil Yesudas and Rahil Patel.

[Glad News! God Loves You, My Muslim Friend](#)

By Samy Tanagho

Written by a Muslim background believer for Muslims. Friendly and appealing, deals with every issue bound to occur to Muslims considering Christ. Excellent gift to your Muslim friend.

[Gray Matter](#)

By David Levy, MD

A neurosurgeon tells of his journey from tinkering with cars to tinkering with brains, and his faith journey from bitterness to forgiveness in Christ. With plenty of medical drama to keep anyone interested, how he incorporates prayer and forgiveness prescriptions in his medical practice is both fascinating and non-threatening.

[Sadguru Prabhu Yishu ki Mahagatha](#)

Beautiful gift book containing 24 stories of Lord Jesus in original Hindi poetry with full

color illustrations by a yeshu bhakta artist and 2-CD set of matching songs. (Available through Amazon.in or write to nayajeevan@cru.org)

[A Look Inside America](#)

By Bill Perry

A guide to American cultural values and major holidays, from a Christian point of view but non-evangelistic. Written in easy English and contains vocabulary lists.



WEBSITES

www.nayajeevan.org/resources

A Christian-only website with strategies, resources, and articles on South Asian ministry

www.aradhnamusic.com

Indian-western fusion music that honors Lord Jesus

<http://www.mgl-southasian.com>

Great selection of scriptures, books, tracts, videos, music at low prices for many South Asian languages

<http://www.hvk.org>

A Hindu anti-Christian website

<http://www.christianaggression.org>

Hindu anti-Christian diatribe

<http://www.interfaithshaadi.org>

A website promoting tolerance and interfaith marriages with respect

<http://www.learningindia.in>

An upbeat presentation of Indian culture, with articles and podcasts

www.yeshusamaj.org

Articles and videos explaining truths about Jesus in a way that relates well to Hindus

www.karma2grace.org

Many interesting features that draw the Hindu to Jesus' message of grace