

Naya Jeevan Recommended

Reading



BOOKS BY CHRISTIANS ABOUT OTHER FAITHS

Hinduism, by HL Richard

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

Hinduism, by Potana Venkateshwara

Raised as a sincere Hindu, the author sympathetically describes traditions, philosophies, and rituals with their ideal meanings, yet admits they fall short of full truth and salvation, realized only in Jesus.

The Celtic Way of Evangelism, by George Hunter III
Detailing the life of Patrick of Ireland, yet with surprising relevance to mission among Hindu peoples today.

Christian Barriers to Jesus: Conversations and Questions from the Indian Context, by Dr. J. Paul Pennington

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

Disciple Making Among Hindus, by Timothy Schultz

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 friendshipbuilding tips.

Karma 'n' Chips

An insightful understanding of Hinduism from a British Hindu background believer.

Speaking of India, by Craig Storti

A practical guide to working with and understanding Indians.

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 gracious.

Understanding the Coconut Generation, by Dr. Sam George

The author, an Indian Christian living in US, examines cultural and generational challenges for the South Asian Americans born in America, as opposed to their parents, who immigrated from abroad. The American-born generation tends to be more culturally like the mainstream culture, while still appearing to be Asian on the surface. Thus the "brown-on-the-outside, white-on-the-inside" analogy of the coconut.

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 last 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.



BOOKS BY HINDU AUTHORS ON HINDUISM

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.

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

Missionaries in India, by Arun Shourie

A must read on the most extreme anti-Christian views, this book may make you hopping mad, because of its misconceptions. But it should also fill you with a desire to speak the truth in love.

Karma Yoga and Bhakti Yoga,

by Swami Vivekananda

A famous Hindu philosopher of the 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.



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 Neighbour, 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.

For training in sharing the good news with your Sikh neighbors, email Jasvir Basi at truthsikhers@gmail.com; Jamie Dowdy at jfdowdy@hotmail.com; or Manmohan Singh at manmohan.singh@lcm.org.uk.



ISLAM

English Translation of the Holy Quran, by Maulama Muhammad Ali
One of the most recommended English translations with explanatory notes.

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus,
by Dr. Nabeel Qureshi

A journey of faith so well researched and documented, and so engagingly told that the reader is carried along with the author to leave the world of Islam for salvation in Christ.

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.

Bridges Course, by The Crescent Project

See <https://www.crescentproject.org/store.cfm> for a recorded DVD, online streamed evangelism course, or in-person seminar.

FOR GENERAL SOUTH ASIAN CULTURE:

Books by William Dalrymple, a best-selling contemporary secular author of travel/history/culture who writes extensively on South and West Asia. A number of passages contain graphic descriptions not for the fainthearted; use to expand knowledge and cultivate compassion. Most-recommended titles include Nine Lives, The Age of Kali, City of Djinns, The Anarchy.



BOOKS TO GIVE YOUR NONCHRISTIAN FRIENDS

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.

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 Hindi with full color illustrations and 2CD set of matching songs. (Available through Amazon.in)

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.yeshusamaj.org

Creating bridges from Hindu concepts to the gospel

www.karma2grace.org

Respectful Hindu-Christian dialog from the Christian point of view

www.margnetwork.org

Contextualized approach to Hindu-Christian interface

<https://www.youtube.com/user/aradhnmusic>

Devotional_music_in_the_Yeshu_bhakti_style

Learningindia.in

A website for expatriates living and working in India, helping to understand the culture

www.mgl-southasian.com

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

www.hvk.org

A website promoting Hindutva philosophy

www.savetemples.org

Hindu website promoting Hindutva and negative attitudes toward other religions

www.interfaithshaadi.org

A Hindu website promoting interfaith marriages with equality.