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Issue 47: **Suriname**

## HINDUS TRADE THEIR IDOLS FOR GOD'S LOVE IN SURINAME



*The Gods of the Indian Trade.*  
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people about Jesus.

One day a friend came to me and asked, “Do you have a Bible you could give me for a friend?” Both that man, Ronald, and his friend are Hindustani men in Suriname. Their ancestors came from India and followed Hindu ways and so did they.

Javanese Indonesian, and was a Muslim before becoming Hindu like her husband.

Ronald told me, “We keep worshipping the Hindu gods but have no peace and our life is a mess.” I shared the good news of the gospel with him. “Through Jesus you



Over a year after asking me for a Bible, Ronald said, “I’m reading that Bible you gave me. May I come see you?”

My wife Nadira and I went to the home of Ronald and his wife, Marijke. Ronald is an older man with back pain and Parkinson’s disease. Doctors have not been able to help him, and prayers to their Hindu gods brought no help or peace, either. Marijke cares for Ronald at home. She is a

can know inner peace and joy, and most importantly forgiveness for your sins. But remember, following Jesus means trusting in Christ alone and giving up your idols.”

Together we read in Matthew 6:24 where Jesus says “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”

Then I asked him, “What

Psalm 96:1-3 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.

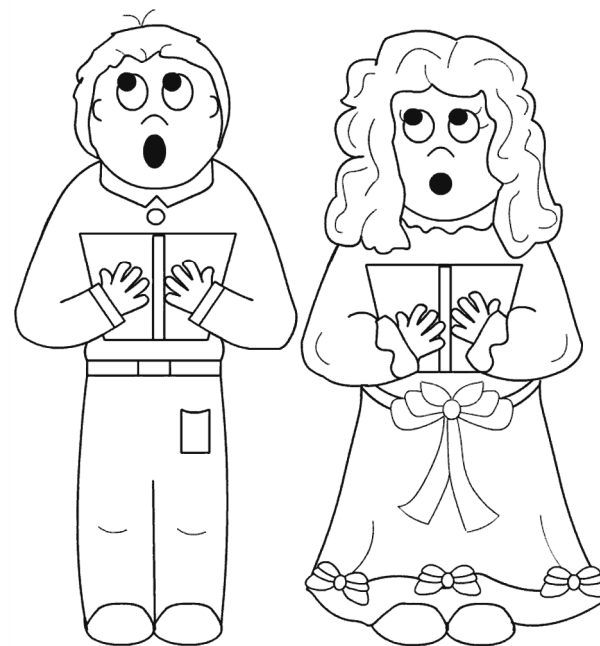
<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

What are true things about God that Hindus need to hear about? (See the chart on page 6 and think about Psalm 96:1-3.)

Pray that more Hindus will hear about the true God.

*O sing unto the Lord a new song:  
sing unto the Lord, all the earth.*

*~ Psalm 96:1*



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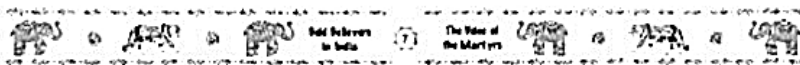
# The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

## Comparing Hinduism and Christianity

God has made us with a longing in our hearts to be close to Him. (See Acts 17:26, 27 and Ecclesiastes 3:11.) Hindus feel that longing, too. But they do not believe, or have not been told, that the way to be close to God is through His Son Jesus. So they try to fill that longing with other gods, rituals, and works.

	Hindu Teachings	Christian
God	Hindus believe in one main god, called Brahman. Some Hindus pick one god to be their own special god. But Hindu teachings tell of many gods.	There is one God. "The Lord our God, the Lord is one!" (See Deuteronomy 6:4.)
Relationship	Hindus do not believe their gods are like fathers to those who worship them.	Our Father, God, loves us as His children. "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18).
Holy book	Hindus respect many Hindu writings. The "Vedas" are a collection of sacred writings. The Bhagavad-Gita is a respected book of stories.	The Bible is the Word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16).
Life after death	Hindus believe in "reincarnation"—the belief that after people die, they can come back to life again as other people or animals. "Karma" is the belief that the way someone behaved in a former life determines what they will be in the next life.	After a person's life on earth ends, there is a judgment. "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Believers enjoy unbroken fellowship with God for eternity. (See Psalm 16:11.)
Salvation	Salvation for Hindus means freedom from being reborn again and again. They believe they become part of their main god when their cycle of birth and death ends. Some of the ways Hindus try to get closer to this "salvation" include rituals, good works, meditation, yoga, and the worship of gods.	The only way to eternal life is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).



do you think about what I have shared with you?"

Ronald replied, "I read the Bible and I know that my life has no hope and peace. I also know that only the God of the Bible could truly change me and save me from my sin. I want to put my trust in Jesus."

I led him in prayer to confess his faith in the Lord. What a joy to watch him give his life to Jesus!

When my wife and I visited Ronald and Marijke a few days later, I looked around and said, "The pictures of Hindu gods are gone. You threw them away already. That's wonderful!"

Together we praised and thanked God for removing fear from Ronald's heart and giving him boldness to stand up for Jesus Christ.

At the same time, Marijke told

Nadira, "After 23 years of going through religious rituals, I am not satisfied with my life. I have

no genuine peace, only inner turmoil."

Just as Ronald had done, Marijke was also searching for what could bring her hope and joy. Nadira told her that Jesus could forgive her sins and give her everlasting peace. Marijke eagerly prayed to receive Jesus as her Savior.

Since Ronald and Marijke began following Jesus, we have seen changes in their lives and smiles on their faces. Nadira and I meet with them each week. They want to learn more about God and his Word. Many of their relatives live in the community and we hope that the Lord makes a way for us to use their home for a future house church. Join us in praying that they will continue to grow and be strong in Jesus. ■



Ronald and Marijke in front; Mr. Shiwdatt in back.

Thank you to Gurudatt and Nadira Shiwdatt for this true story.



Pray for  
Gurudatt and Nadira Shiwadatt  
and their son, Nathan.

- Ask God to lead them to Hindustani people in Suriname who are ready to hear about Jesus.
- Also ask God to make those people curious to want to know more.

**Use crayons or colored pencils (not markers) to color this picture of a Hindu worshipping false gods.**

**As you color, pray for the Hindu people in Suriname. Pray that they will listen to the Shiwadats tell them about the true God.**

