TO MY HINDU FRIEND

HELLO MY DEAR FRIEND!

May I call you a friend even though I do not know you personally? Let me explain why I start like this: We have at least three things in common:

- We are longing for the divine. In many countries, the number of people who abandon religion and deny the existence of God is permanently growing. But I noticed that especially Hindus have a very impressive zeal and eagerness to come into contact with God! That indeed is to be respected and admired!
- 2. Both of us are in the same boat. We all have done evil things in our lives (just like any other human being) and need to get right with God. What I want to present to you now holds true for you as well as for me likewise.
- **3.** Both of us are loved by God. The book The Holy Bible, which claims and proves to be the Word of God, tells us the following: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Did you already know that God loves you unconditionally?

And now, it is my desire to proclaim **GOD'S LOVE TO YOU.** That's why I call you my Hindu friend.

I am glad that you started to read this pamphlet in which I would like to tell you about this God and show you the path, as explained in the Bible, how to approach him.

While reading this pamphlet and the verses from the Bible, you will notice that the God being talked about differs from what you have been taught in your religion. Still, I sincerely would like to ask you to keep reading. I promise: If you are genuinely looking for the truth, you won't regret reading!

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	Hindus who found God

I want to give a short outline of this pamphlet: As indicated, I will try to explain the abovementioned verse from the Bible phrase by phrase in the following:

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE." JOHN 3:16 -BIBLE FOR GOD - the greatest giver SO LOVED - the greatest feeling THE WORLD - the greatest target group THAT HE GAVE - the greatest deed HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON - the greatest gift THAT WHOEVER - the greatest invitation BELIEVES - the greatest decision IN HIM - the greatest person SHOULD NOT PERISH - the greatest deliverance BUT - the greatest difference HAVE - the greatest certainty EVERLASTING LIFE - the greatest possession THE GREATEST GIVER

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

"Who is God?" might be the most-asked question ever. Sadly, countless different answers or ideas may be given to this question. I want to tell you what the God of the Bible reveals to us about Himself. He is a personal God, not just an indefinable power, not an abstract first cause. God has a personality with characteristics, for example:

- ✓ God LISTENS when human beings pray to Him: "The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer." (Psalm 6:9).
- ✓ God is so pure that He HATES evil: "For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness" (Psalm 5:4).
- He WATCHES human beings struggle trying to reach Him: "The eyes of the LORD are in every place" (Proverbs 15:3).
- ✓ God can **THINK**: "My thoughts are higher than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9).
- ✓ God IS INTERESTED in human beings. In fact, He loves them: "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16).
- ✓ God KNOWS everyone: "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Luke 12:7).

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT GOD IS A DIVINE PERSON AND NOT JUST A POWER?

- First of all: Only due to this fact it is possible to get to know God and have a relationship with Him! If He were only a power, He would somehow appear to be distant, unapproachable and beyond reach. But the God of the Bible is a divine person, who seeks a fulfilling relationship with everyone!
- Secondly, this personal God is able to understand my sufferings and have sympathy with me which someone without emotions or empathy could never do. The Bible describes God's compassion:

A DEAD MAN WAS BEING CARRIED OUT, THE ONLY SON OF HIS MOTHER; AND SHE WAS A WIDOW. WHEN HE SAW HER, HE HAD COMPASSION ON HER AND SAID TO HER, 'DO NOT WEEP.' (LUKE 7:13)

THE GREATEST FEELING

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

Please read what the Bible states about God's love to human beings and His desire to draw them near to Himself:

- ✓ After the first human beings had sinned (committed something evil) and therefore hidden themselves from God, He searched for them: "Then the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'" (Genesis 3:9).
- "I have surely seen the oppression of My people, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them." (Exodus 3:7, 8).
- ✓ "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you." (Jeremiah 31:3).
- \checkmark "I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love." (Hosea 11:4).
- ✓ "The LORD did not set His love on you nor chose you because you were more in number than any other people; but because the LORD loves you." (Deuteronomy 7:7, 8)

Love is not real if it doesn't prove prove that it is true by doing something for the loved ones. God's real love is so great that it drives Him to reach out to human beings. He does not only claim to be love, He even proves that this is indeed the truth.

And notice the following: Love between humans mostly survives only when it's requited. Rejections will lessen or even destroy someone's love. That's not the case with God. HIS LOVE TOWARDS HUMAN BEINGS LIKE YOU AND ME IS UNCONDITIONAL, TREMENDOUS AND UNCHANGEABLE!

A woman from Sri Lanka told me:



"IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE GOD'S LOVE FOR HUMAN BEINGS BECAUSE YOU WON'T FIND THIS WITH OTHER GODS! MANY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID THEIR GOD WOULD PU-NISH THEM; THEREFORE, THEY ALWAYS PRAY TO HIM NOT TO SEND A PUNISHMENT!"

WHY IS THIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE REMARKABLE?

To answer that, we need to go back in time. In the very beginning of this earth, human beings lived in close communion with God. Suddenly, they wanted to live independent of Him – so they acted against Him. This is what the Bible calls "sin". Some people think that only actions like murder or adultery are sins. But we read:

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"Sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4)
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Committing a sin is acting as if God, the lawmaker, was not there, and thus disrespects and ignores Him. It denies God's greatness and holiness. Here are some examples of sins:



CORRUPTION, DISOBEDIENCE, LYING, ADULTERY, GREED, VIOLENCE, BETRAYAL, ENVY, CURSING, HATRED, IGNORANCE, GOSSIP, SLANDER, SELFISHNESS, PRIDE, IDOLATRY, PORNOGRAPHY, ALCOHOL ADDICTION, BRAWLING (c.f. Mark 7:21, 22)

AND SUDDENLY WE REALIZE: "WE ALL HAVE SINNED!"

Since God is absolutely perfect and pure, evil is intolerable for Him: "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness." (Habbakuk 1:13). **HE CAN'T JUST IGNORE SIN.** The Bible tells us what our sins cause in God's heart:

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." (Genesis 6:5, 6)

To understand God's hatred for sin, we must see its ugliness in contrast to His holiness. If a pupil insults another pupil, he or she gets a limited punishment. The punishment will be greater if he or she insults a teacher, and even greater if the headmaster is insulted. And to insult a king or president, would be even worse. The greater the person insulted, the greater the injustice. When we talk about sins, we are dealing with things which insult the great and mighty God!

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Therefore, the relationship and communion between human beings and Him was completely destroyed through sin. This separation is like an insurmountable and unbridgeable gulf. Due to the fact that sin insults God to the highest degree, God's holiness demands that He has to punish those who sin. This punishment is summarised in the following Bible verse: "Your iniquities have separated you from your God" (Isaiah 59:2). Therefore, one would spend the eternal afterlife in a prisonlike place (called hell), far away from God without any chance ever to get back to Him. In order to overcome the separation from God, multiple religions have come up with numerous teachings how to come back to Him. They are all different, but basically refer to self-righteous works of humans - which will never work due to sin.

> "DO THIS AND THAT AND OBEY THE OTHER, AND THEN YOU WILL REACH GOD!"

Against this backdrop of how terrible sin is for God, isn't it great that He still loves all human beings, including you and me? The Bible says:

"IN THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US." (I JOHN 4:10)

But still, human beings seek a relationship with God, not realizing that their evil deeds prevent this. The relationship is too corrupted.

God watched human beings. He saw their struggle and failure to keep His laws, as well as their own laws. And He also witnessed that nobody succeeded in recovering that lost relationship! But He already had a plan in mind to solve this problem, as the Bible says. Please keep reading.

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THE GREATEST TARGET GROUP

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

This Bible verse goes on to tell us whom God loves: **EVERYONE!** THE WHOLE WORLD! Regardless of whether we...

- live in India, Guyana, Bangladesh, USA, Germany, Suriname, Nepal, Great Britain or somewhere else.
- ✓ are poor or rich
- work as a physician, teacher, farmer, garbageman or something else (or are unemployed)
- ✓ are married or single

- ✓ live in a palace, a simple cabin or are homeless
- ✓ are sick or healthy
- \checkmark go to the temple or not
- ✓ actively seek God or not
- ✓ pray every day or not
- ✓ live a virtuous life, or are criminals

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"COME TO ME, ALL." (MATTHEW 11:28)

"GOD DESIRES ALL MEN TO BE SAVED." (1 TIMOTHY 2:4) "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

THE GREATEST DEED

We as human beings try everything to come back to God, don't we? Here are some things we do. We...

- ✓ worship different gods
- ✓ pray as much as possible
- ✓ go to a temple/church to come right with God
- ✓ bring sacrifices
- / ask priests what we have to do

- ✓ might even hurt ourselves
- ✓ keep rituals
- ✓ idolize sacred objects, talismans, amulets
- ✓ obey rules
 - pay money
- \checkmark have our own thoughts about God



"NOT ENOUGH!"

But nevertheless, if we are honest and sincere, we notice: We can't achieve our goal of coming to God – there is always this inner voice that says "Not enough!", isn't there? Why is that? Well, it's both simple and frustrating: Because we never stop committing evil things in our lives. Our lives prove that we frequently disobey God's rules, no matter how hard we try not to. This holds true for everyone! But because we can't do anything, God did something! That's the wonderful message of the Bible! God gave something that would help us! Religion says "Dor," God says "Done".

My friend, here is an example to illustrate this: When you are fatally ill, you would go to the hospital, wouldn't you? Well, at least I would. Since I wouldn't be able to help myself, I would go to someone who could – a physician!

We as human beings have to understand that we can't help ourselves either,

BUT RATHER NEED HELP FROM THE OUTSIDE: GOD! NOW, WHAT DID GOD GIVE?

THE GREATEST PRESENT

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE "HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

> Mahatma Gandhi, the honorable Indian national hero, once said about this Son of God, Jesus Christ: "MY AFFECTION FOR JESUS IS GREAT. HIS TEACHINGS, HIS KNOW-LEDGE AND HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH MAKE ME HONOR HIM [...] I WILL TELL MY FELLOW HINDUS THAT THEIR LIFE IS INCOMPLETE IF THEY DON'T STUDY JESUS' TEACHINGS REVERENTLY."



And Krister Sairsingh, a former Hindu, wrote: "DUE TO THE URGING OF A CLASSMATE I BEGAN TO READ THE NEW TESTAMENT [A PART OF THE BIBLE] TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JESUS. HE COMPLETELY CAPTIVATED ME. HERE WAS SO-MEONE WHO WAS SO STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE WHO HAD EVER LIVED."

Also read what Jesus means for Andria, a former Hindu woman who gets beaten very often by her abusive father: "I LOVE MY FATHER EVEN THOUGH HE BEATS ME," Andria said in tears. "I CAN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE IS OLD NOW; WHAT IF HE GETS SICK? WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM? I WILL NEVER LEAVE HIM NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS. I FORGIVE HIM AND I PRAY THAT ONE DAY HE WILL KNOW JESUS AND FEEL THE SAME JOY AND PEACE I FEEL NOW."



"THEIR LIFE IS INCOMPLETE IF THEY DON'T STUDY JESUS' TEACHINGS REVERENTLY."

WELL, WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT JESUS?

Jesus is not just a prophet, a moralist or a great teacher; He is the son of God.

The Bible says about Him: "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" (John 1:18). As the holy, superior God in heaven wanted to be approachable for human beings, He had to be made manifest in flesh. That's why almost 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born as a human baby – both God and man at the same time.

Since this is unfathomable for us, Jesus Christ proved in His life that He indeed was unique - for at least two reasons:

HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO NEVER DID ANYTHING EVIL.

The Bible says about Jesus: "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). "He knew no sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21) and "In Him There is no sin" (1 John 3:5). Even though He was cursed, insulted and beaten, He never spoke a bad word. He always told the truth. He didn't even have a selfish or greedy thought! Through His perfect, sinless life He supplied evidence that He is the son of God!

HE IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER DIED ON THIS EARTH AND ROSE AFTERWARDS, NEVER TO DIE AGAIN.

Even though it might seem a weakness to die, Jesus Christ's death was absolutely necessary. We have already seen that God has to punish sin by sending human beings to this prison-like place, called hell, from which, once they are there, they can never escape. But God does not want to punish sinners because of His love for them. He therefore sent His Son so that He would take the sins of human beings upon Himself, and therefore also their penalty. He was punished for those sins even though He had never committed them. God treated Him as if Jesus Himself was a horrible and evil sinner. Thus, He received from God the judgment that our sins deserved. He went before God, bearing those sins as if He was responsible for them on the cross, and thus suffered death for them. In this way, He satisfied God's holy anger and righteous demands, thereby bridging the gap between us and God.

That's explained in the Bible: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." – 1 Peter 3:18 Since this satisfies God's justice, Jesus' death enables you and me to come to God! This explains why Jesus' death was necessary: Because God must be just and merciful at the same time, according to His holiness and love. This is impossible with us humans. If a human judge acquits a guilty criminal, this might be merciful, but not just. If he pronounces the due judgment, the judge would be just, but not merciful. Now, God's plan serves both: His justice (as He punishes sin) and His mercy (as He punished someone on our behalf to set us free).

My friend, most people have grown up with the way of thought that everyone has to suffer for their own bad deeds (the Hindu concept of karma, for example states the same). In a sense it is indeed true that evil leads to negative consequences. The Bible clearly states: "Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). Cause and effect, so to say.

Therefore, it would be just if we as human beings suffered death and hell as a consequence of our deeds. "THE WRATH OF GOD UPON THE SINS OF HUMAN BEINGS"

However, Jesus Christ voluntarily took the sins of human beings on Himself in order to enable them to escape from this punishment:

"Jesus Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree." (1 Peter 2:24)

"God made Him sin for us." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

This makes it possible for us to escape eternal death and to get right with God without having to suffer the consequences of our sins. We indeed can approach God through the redeeming death of His son Jesus Christ.

Dr. Mahendra Singhal, a former Hindu says:



"HINDUS WILL DO THE UTMOST TO SHOW THEIR LOVE FOR SOMEONE. A MOTHER WOULD STARVE IN ORDER TO GIVE HER CHILD SOMETHING TO EAT. A FATHER WOULD STARVE TO SEND HIS CHILDREN TO SCHOOL. THE IMAGE OF JESUS CHRIST THAT MADE THE GREATEST IMPRESSION ON ME WAS HOW FAR HE WAS WILLING TO GO TO SHOW HIS LOVE, AT A TIME WHEN I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIM. WHEN I PREACHED TO HINDUS, I DISCOVERED THAT IT REALLY TOUCHED THEM THAT JESUS ON THE CROSS CONFIRMED HIS LOVE FOR US." "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

THE GREATEST INVITATION

Earlier, we saw that God loves every single person. The Bible verse says again that everyone is invited to receive God's love.

Why is that? Because we are all in the same boat:

- ✓ "For there is no difference: For all have sinned" Romans 3:22, 23
- ✓ "There is no one who does not sin" 1 Kings 8:46

I have met many people who claim to be sinless and without fault. But don't our lives testify of the opposite? In my case, I have to admit that I am a sinner. Do you agree concerning yourself?

No one can make excuses! Before God, there is no alibi, no talking our way out, no claim that we are innocent! We need to accept that we deserve His righteous condemnation and punishment because of our sins.

GIVEN THIS REASON, EVERYONE NEEDS GOD'S HELP - AND GOD INDEED OFFERS HELP TO EVERYONE!

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By the way, dear reader, the Bible speaks a lot about the fact that Jesus turned to all people when He lived here on earth 2,000 years ago, not just to an exclusive elite or rich people, who would have a lot to offer:

- ✓ He says: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
- He dealt with various people (you can read this in the Bible): a Roman officer, a man from a despised nation, a demon-possessed woman, an adulterer, a corrupt customs officer, a convict who was sentenced to death, small children, an old, poor widow, ... Because He cared for everyone, His enemies sarcastically said about Him: "Look, a friend of outcasts and sinners!"
- He met all the various needs of human beings: He fed the hungry; He healed the outcast lepers, the lame, blind, deaf-dumb people; He sought the lost; He loved the children; He was a doctor for the physically and spiritually ill people.

The same holds true even today. It's important to understand that the message of the Bible (and also of this pamphlet) does not only apply to those who go to church, but to

EVERYONE - INCLUDING YOU.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

THE GREATEST DECISION

Even though Jesus died for the sins of human beings, their relationship with God is not restored automatically. How THEN, YOU MIGHT ASK. Well, the Bible gives the answer: "BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED" (Acts 16:31). Believing in the Son of God saves us from an eternal judgement and brings us back into communion with God.

BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELIEVE IN HIM?

1. We have to accept that we are sinners: "God be merciful to me a sinner" – Luke 18:13. This also includes agreeing with the fact that we are incapable of helping ourselves. We must stop relying on our own good deeds, our prayers, our sacrifices, our virtuous lives, our religious actions, and instead accept that it's 100% up to God's mercy that we can be saved:

"FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS" (EPHESIANS 2:8, 9)

My friend, none of us has what is necessary to get to heaven – neither money nor good works. We need someone who let's us enter heaven for free because we cannot earn it.

- 2. We have to believe in our heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross in order to save us: "He died for all" (2 Corinthians 5:15). By faith, we accept that Jesus Christ took our sins for which God otherwise would have to punish us on Himself and paid with His life for them on our behalf.
- 3. We have to make things right with God. If a relationship with anyone in your family is strained, it can only be restored by confession and forgiveness, can't it? The same holds true for God. This means that we confess our sins to Him in prayer and believe that He will forgive because He has paid for those very sins on the cross. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

You can freely speak to God or the Lord Jesus. There are no pre-formulated prayers. The following, however, might give you an example of how someone can accept Jesus Christ as his or her Savior.

"LORD JESUS CHRIST, I KNOW THAT I AM A SINNER AND THE-REFORE HOPELESSLY LOST. MY SINS HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIB-LE FOR ME TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU. I AM THANK-FUL THAT YOU HAVE COME DOWN TO THIS EARTH IN ORDER TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT WITH GOD. I BELIEVE THAT YOU DIED ON THE CROSS, ALSO FOR MY SINS, BECAUSE IT WAS YOUR DESIRE TO SAVE ME. THEREFORE, I WANT TO CONFESS ALL THE SINS I HAVE COMMITTED AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS. I WANT TO GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR DEATH ON THE CROSS FOR ME WHICH WILL SAVE ME FOR ETERNITY. FROM NOW ON, I WILL ACCEPT YOU AS MY SAVIOR AND LORD. AMEN" By the way: We should not only accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, but also as our Lord: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus" – Romans 10:9. This means that He is now in charge of our life and it should be our daily desire to honor, worship and obey Him. However, it is also our privilege that we can pray to Him every day and in every place and that we can read His words to us in the Bible. While this daily communion with God is not a necessity to be saved, it is still both important and wonderfully beneficial for a believer.

Now, I have heard of some people who are afraid of losing their family and culture if they believe in Jesus. Well, changing one's religious beliefs is a serious matter because we all grow up from early childhood with those beliefs. It might even be painful because family and friends cannot relate to our decision. But isn't understanding the truth about God and eternity more important than anything?



Dr. Mahendra Singhal, a former Hindu who started to believe in Jesus Christ, also spoke about this struggle:

"THERE WAS ANOTHER DIMENSION TO MY DILEMMA. MY ACCEPTANCE OF JESUS CHRIST WOULD MAKE MY PARENTS LOSE THEIR SOCIAL RESPECT AND POSI-TION IN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. MY BROTHERS AND SISTER WOULD SUFFER DISGRACE. THAT, TOO, WAS UNTHINKABLE. I DID NOT REALLY FEEL FREE TO MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS."

(If you want to know the rest of Mahendra's story, you'll find it at the end of this pamphlet)

This might be a serious issue. But Jesus Christ has a promising answer: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29).



Please read what Sadhu says about this: "THE WORDS ABOUT JESUS GAVE ME HOPE WHICH GREW EVERY DAY AND FINALLY BECAME GREATER THAN ALL THE CONCERNS OF MY FAMILY, THAN ALL THE FEAR OF TRADITION. IT WAS AN ENORMOUS LIBERATION."

Many people fear they will have to give up their culture when they become Christians (by the way: Christianity is not a "white religion" – Jesus lived in the Middle East and the Bible was brought to India much earlier than to the American continent, for example). Gandhi is right when he says: "Changing a belief does not mean giving up a national identity". Your culture would remain the same and you don't have to give up your cultural food, clothing or lifestyle.

But believing in Jesus Christ does cause changes – that's undeniable. While it might happen that other people cannot understand our decision, the changes concerning our spiritual lives and future after death are entirely positive. The greatest one of them is getting saved. From what? Later on, I want to show you what the Bible says about the deliverance Jesus offers.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

THE GREATEST PERSON

Earlier, we saw that Jesus Christ, the son of God, came down to this earth and became man in order to die here – voluntarily, to save people. Therefore, the Bible states that we need Him and no one else:

"JESUS SAID TO HIM, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME." - JOHN 14:6 "NOR IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER, FOR THERE IS NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED." - ACTS 4:12



A former Hindu, a woman this time, who now believes in Jesus Christ writes:

"The more I learnt about Jesus, the more I was fascinated by Him. I began to learn that when Jesus died on the cross, He made it possible for my sins to be forgiven. And when He rose again, He made it possible for someone like me to go to Heaven. This was an alien concept to me. All my life I was told that only strict performance of religious duties and purity of mind and body can bring you near to God. But suddenly I came across this new teaching that there is nothing I can do to earn God's forgiveness, nothing I can do to earn a place in Heaven except through faith in Jesus."

THE GREATEST DELIVERANCE

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

Believing in Jesus Christ is really worth it. Not only does it restore our relationship with God (more on that later), it also saves us from condemnation. As stated earlier, "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This does not only speak of physical death, but rather of something that comes after death: "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). God describes the events after death as a court in which He judges everyone: "And they were judged, each one according to his works" (Revelation 20:13). This means that the punishment of human beings will be set according to their bad deeds (this punishment is eternal, but differs in intensity).

This judgment is hell, a place with the following features:

- 1. a place without God no chance ever to recover the relationship with Him
- 2. a place without exit no one can leave it
- 3. a place of endless sufferings: "the fire that shall never be quenched" (Mark 9:43)
- 4. a place of emotional breakdowns: "There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:50)
- 5. Hell is the opposite of heaven where those who receive Jesus Christ as their Savior will enjoy God's presence forever.

My dear friend, God does not want you or me to enter this place. And He still offers the way to get saved from that judgement:

EITHER GOD PLACES OUR SINS ON THE LORD JESUS AND PUNISHES HIM FOR THEM

... OR HE PUNISHES US FOR THEM BY SENDING US TO HELL!



THE GREATEST DIFFERENCE "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

God never forces people to believe in Him. He presents the facts and leaves the decision to each person.

Therefore, the Bible says:

"I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSING AND CURSING; THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE." DEUTERONOMY 30:19

WE - YOU AND I - CAN CHOOSE!

It is up to us if we continue to live as before and stay on the path that leads to doom – or if we believe in Jesus Christ and receive His grace.

Now, what is implied in His grace? This will be expanded upon in the next section.

THE GREATEST CERTAINTY

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

I want to ask you, my friend: Could we ever be joyful if our way to God depended on our own works? I suggest not. Here is why: We would never know what our "karma" is right now, or at any point. How is the balance? Towards evil or good? We would never know if our life was good enough to please God. At what point would God say: "Now you've done enough to pay off your sins"? And then, we might be troubled if we commit a sin again. This would be an ongoing cycle of which no one could ever break out.

Therefore, we would never reach a state of full satisfaction and inner peace. The already-mentioned woman from Sri Lanka told me: "I CAN ASSUREDLY TELL YOU THAT THEY LIVE WITH INNER RESTLESSNESS!"

I KNOW for sure that I will never be good enough. But I rely on the perfection of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. I rely on the guarantees God gives me. And since He cannot change and is faithful, He always keeps His promises.

I know that Jesus paid for my sins when He died; therefore, I can now have assurance of salvation. This means: I am sure that I am already accepted by God – there is nothing more to be done. I can say that I therefore have already reached the goal of approaching God.



This assurance is not based on any kind of human merit nor my feelings, but is produced by the promises of the Bible: "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

Jesus says: "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28) "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). This means that the above-mentioned judgment in hell will not await me.

Note that the Bible verse John 3:16 does not say "might have" or "maybe have", but plainly "have". My soul will never be troubled again. This is what Jesus meant when He promised:

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

The following therefore is possible for everyone, also for you.

I DON'T HAVE TO STRUGGLE ANYMORE. EVERYTHING WAS DONE BY JESUS. I AM FREE. THIS RELIEVES ME AND GIVES ME PEACE IN MY HEART. "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."

THE GREATEST POSSESSION

My friend, you can have everlasting life. This does not refer to a physical life on earth that never ceases to exist, but rather to spiritual gifts God gives to us when we believe in Jesus Christ. It's important to understand that the goal of belief in Him is not earthly welfare, but a wonderful afterlife in Heaven where the relationship with Him can be enjoyed for millions and billions of years.

"AND THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE, THAT THEY MAY KNOW YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE SENT." JOHN 17:3

Pradesh Shresta, a former Hindu, tells of all the various things that believing in Jesus Christ has brought forth for her:

From that day on, I have known what it is to be a child of God, what it is to be a sinner saved by grace and mercy. Grace, because though I deserve nothing, I have all things: forgiveness of sins, adoption into God's family, fellowship with God, everlasting life, inheritance in Heaven that will never fade away and much more! Mercy, because though I deserve everlasting punishment, I know He has saved me from the coming judgement wrath of God because when Jesus Christ died on the cross, He actually bore the wrath of God in my stead and for the whole world. Dear reader, I have found not a religion but a real and blessed relationship with God. May you, too, consider the Person of Jesus Christ apart from whom there is no other way to get right with God.

On the following pages, I would like to emphasize some of the presents Pradesh mentioned.

THE GIFTS, GIFTS, GIFTS

I. A WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



The gifts Jesus gives to everyone who believes in Him!

This is indeed marvelous grace: God does not just recover the destroyed relationship with human beings, He establishes a completely new one that is deeper and more wonderful than the one in the very beginning. The Bible explains our new relationship:

"HE HAS PREDESTINED US TO ADOP-TION AS SONS BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL." EPHESIANS 1:5

"BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD!" | JOHN 3:1


This relationship expresses a very intimate love: Even more than a human father who loves and looks after his children, my God and Father in heaven constantly cares for me. Christians can already enjoy this relationship here on earth as their Heavenly Father provides them with everything they need.

Pradesh Shresta says this about her feelings inside when, after believing in Jesus Christ, she prayed to her Father in Heaven: "LYING ON THE BED, I FOUND MYSELF TALKING TO MY NEWFOUND HEAVENLY FATHER. IT WAS MOST NATURAL TO DO SO. I KNEW HE HEARD ME."



"AND MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEED ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS." PHILIPPIANS 4:19

2. HOUSE OF THE FATHER



The Bible promises that those who believe in this God will go to heaven after their death – a paradise-like place where they will enjoy their communion and relationship with Him. I will keep my identity there which means that I am enabled to actively appreciate this wonderful atmosphere, apart from all of the suffering and troubles we go through on earth. Therefore, my soul does not vanish as it merges into a power. Notice how this place is described in the Bible:

- Jesus Christ says: "In My Father's house are many MANSIONS. I go to prepare A PLACE FOR YOU. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2, 3).
- Thus, the goal is: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so SHALL WE EVER BE WITH THE LORD" (1 Thess 4:17).
- "[In heaven,] God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be NO MORE DEATH, NOR SORROW, NOR CRYING. There shall be **NO MORE PAIN**, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

By the way: This prospect will come true for me within a fraction of a second after my death. No rebirth and living again, but immediately going up to this marvellous place!



Madasamy Thirumalai, a former Hindu and Professor for world religions, explained why, in his sight of view, the hope of Hindus is desperate:

He says that they try to break out of the cycle of rebirth (samsara) in order to receive moksha, the liberation from it, which is merging into the universal Brahman. Mr Thirumalai then explains: "Unfortunately, such liberation looks impossible because everyone commits some sin. Since there is no forgiveness provided, and since karma operates inexorably, anyone who commits sin is liable to suffer the consequences of his actions in the next life. Even the smallest of all sins or errors would ensure that you have a rebirth and suffer the consequence of it. Thus there is no way any person can really get the much-desired liberation. There is only a continuity of struggle.

Hindu literature is full of the hope that what could not be achieved or is missed in this life may perhaps be attained in the next."

MY FRIEND, I WANT TO PRESENT MY HOPE TO YOU:

Even though I have committed many sins, they are all forgiven. This ensures that, after my death, I won't have to suffer from them, but that I will go to Heaven immediately – into the House of the Father, who has saved me through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is what I would call "justified hope". And you can also receive this hope.

JUSTIFIED HOPE

3. COMPLETE FORGIVENESS OF SINS



Bakht Singh, a former Indian Hindu, once said: "I ALWAYS GOT SOMEONE'S ATTENTION WHEN I SPOKE ABOUT FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND INNER PEACE AND CALMNESS IN A HEART."

Due to their sinfulness, all humans would have to suffer for their bad deeds. Actually no chance to escape God's just judgement because the problem of sin would remain unresolved. But, my friend, I personally do not have to fear this desperate situation. Do you know why?

Since God knows we will never make it, He offers to forgive our sins: "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). And why? Because Jesus Christ endured the consequences of our deeds and therefore suffered for the "karma" of human beings ("But he was wounded for our transgressions" – Isaiah 53:5). Thus, I can say: "I do not have to suffer for my sins anymore because Jesus already did."

I want to show you what God has done with my sins:

- ✓ "As far AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12)
- ✓ "You will cast all our sins INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA." (Micah 7:19)
- ✓ "For You have cast all my sins **BEHIND YOUR BACK**." (Isaiah 38:17)
- ✓ "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will **REMEMBER NO MORE**." (Hebrews 10:17)

Simon Gounder also gives an interesting testimony concerning forgiveness. "I HAD DONE MANY THINGS THAT WERE NOT RIGHT," he admitted. "I HEARD HOW JESUS CAN FORGIVE SINS AND CHANGE LIVES." Then he believed in Jesus.

IN SHORT:

Because I believe in Jesus Christ, my sins are gone forever! I can tell you that only this brings peace to my heart!



WHY IS THE FORGIVENESS GOD PROMISES SO WONDERFUL?

Maybe you were raised with the following teaching:

If the bad deeds in your life outweighed the good ones, you would have a bad karma. This however means that you - inevitably - would have to suffer for it. No chance to escape. Now, don't our lives prove that the karma of every person would look like the scale on the right side? Hence: no way out of this dilemma. If you now consider the forgiveness God offers, you will see that all the bad deeds are gone. There won't be any scales weighing good or bad deeds.

AND WHY? BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST HAS ALREADY SUFFERED FOR THOSE BAD DEEDS.

"FOR CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED ONCE FOR SINS, THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST." | PETER 3:18 "CHRIST HIMSELF BORE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE CROSS" I PETER 2:24

GOOD DEEDS

Since I believe in Jesus Christ, my sins are forgiven and completely wiped off. Because of Christ's suffering for them, I will not have to suffer for them. Marvelous forgiveness!



BAD DEEDS

4. GOD'S FAVOR

(70)



I am glad to know that my favor with God does not depend on my own works. I don't have to worship Him so that He might fulfill my wishes, expel bad fortune, answer my prayers or protect me. I do not have to try to gain His favor which means there is no need for me to keep rituals and rules, live ascetically, bring sacrifices or even hurt myself. I am not obliged to do something in order to earn God's goodwill and favor. Because of Jesus Christ, they do not depend on me or my life, but on ...

- the **PERFECTION OF HIS SON**, the Lord Jesus: "God made us accepted in the Beloved (Jesus Christ)" (Ephesians 1:6); "We come to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25).
- HIS LOVE towards us: "The LORD did not set His love on you nor chose you because you were more in number than any 2. other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you" (Deuteronomy 7:7, 8).

"I TOTALLY ACCEPT YOU THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!" When God looks at me, He sees His perfect son, the Lord Jesus. This does not mean at all that I am a perfect human being, but rather that I am accepted by God because of the death of Jesus Christ for me.

As a consequence, I don't have to obey rules, carry out rituals or bring sacrifices before I pray to God. I don't need to ask various gods until I find the one that would listen to me. There is one God I can approach - and He is enough for my needs!

5. WONDERFUL PROMISES FOR THE EARTHLY LIFE



Even though it is true that the main focus of belief in Jesus is on the hereafter, which is eternity in the House of the Father, the Bible is full of promises for the remaining years on earth before entering Heaven. Here are some examples: He promises...

- ✓ TO LISTEN TO MY PRAYERS AT ANY TIME: "But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer." (Ps 66:19)
- ✓ TO NEVER FORSAKE ME: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)
- TO HAVE EMPATHY FOR ME IN MY TROUBLES: "When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep." (Luke 7:13)
- TO NEET MY DAILY NEEDS: "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things." (Matthew 6:31, 32)

- ✓ TO ALWAYS FORGIVE ME IF I COMMIT A SIN AGAIN: "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous." (1 John 2:1)
- TO PROVIDE THE STRENGTH NEEDED EVERY DAY: "It is God who arms me with strength." (Psalm 18:33)
- / TO REMAIN FAITHFUL EVEN IF PEOPLE HAVE LEFT ME: "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me." (Psalm 27:10)
- TO TAKE AWAY OUR SUPERSTITIOUS FEAR (for example: of evil spirits, witchcraft, sorcery): "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart betroubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

WELL THEN - TIME TO MAKE A CHOICE

God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4) – including you! I wrote this pamphlet because I want to tell you that this wonderful offer of Jesus Christ is still valid today.

I learned that some Hindus are so amazed by Jesus that they do worship him – but only as one more god amongst others. With a motive of friendship and love for you, I now want to emphasize what God says about this in the Bible. He says:

- "NOW SEE THAT I, EVEN I, AM HE, AND THERE IS NO GOD BESIDES ME." (DEUTERONOMY 23:39)
- . "BEFORE ME THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED, NOR SHALL THERE BE AFTER ME." (ISAIAH 43:10)
- "I AM THE FIRST AND I AM THE LAST; BESIDES ME THERE IS NO GOD." (ISAIAH 44:6)

This unique God is the only savior and the only one seeking human beings – and He says:

"YOU CANNOT PUT ME NEXT TO ALL THE STATUES AND IDOLS YOU WORSHIP. I AM THE ONLY ONE!"

To understand this, we have to recognize that it is impossible to see this God with our eyes. He is the creator and therefore greater than His creation, like animals, plants and human beings. He is invisible and therefore cannot be shown in a statue.



Indeed, Jesus Christ as God has a claim of exclusivity and absoluteness. He demands that human beings worship only Him since He is the only true God!

This God is the only one who loves human beings and died on the cross for them, who can make things right between Him and them and who cares for them, regardless of their deeds. He promises to take care of them if they believe in Him – this includes, by way of example, that they can always pray to Him without having to offer a sacrifice. What reason would we have to reject Him? Why would we even need any other god?

It is important to take God by His word, "Besides Me there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6). If a person recognizes this, he/she could not place Jesus Christ next to other gods and keep worshipping them.

I want to tell you about some people who lived in two cities in Greece and Turkey almost 2,000 years ago. When they heard the message of Jesus Christ, they were faced with a decision. Please read how they decided:

"YOU TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD" (I THESSALONIANS 1:9).

"ALSO, MANY OF THOSE WHO HAD PRACTICED MAGIC BROUGHT THEIR BOOKS TOGETHER AND BURNED THEM IN THE SIGHT OF ALL." (ACTS 19:19)

THIS MIGHT SEEM SCANDALOUS AND BLASPHEMOUS, BUT THEY GLADLY TOOK THIS TO THEIR HEARTS: "I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME." (GALATIANS 2:20)

They realized that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the only One they needed! And so should you. I hope you realize that you don't need the millions of gods you may worship, but only Jesus Christ! He is sufficient and enough for your earthly and eternal needs!

BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU REFUSE?

Now, that you have heard the gospel (which means "Good News"), you know everything you need to know in order to be saved from your sins. But what happens if you refuse? God lovingly offers salvation and reconciliation to you because His Son, Jesus Christ, already endured His wrath. But His warning is clear and solemn that if you refuse Jesus, His wrath will remain on you. Jesus can endure God's anger on your behalf – as a substitute so to speak –, but only if you accept Him as your savior. If not, you will have to experience God's wrath yourself.

The possibility to repent and to receive Jesus as Savior ends at your death or at His coming, when He will finally judge this whole earth and send those who have rejected Him to hell, the place of weeping, desperate remorse and torment, far apart from God, from which there is no escape: the lake of fire. God requires payment for the wages of sin – either you put your trust in Jesus as your substitute, or you'll have to pay the penalty yourself in hell forever. Every one who does not repent will remain in a state of separation from God now and for eternity, and will endure His judgment for their sins.

"HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE IF WE NEGLECT SO GREATS SALVATION?" HEBREWS 2:3

"TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR GOD'S VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS." HEBREWS 4:7

Therefore, my friend, I want to plead that you do not refuse Jesus Christ. I would like to encourage you to take this step of faith and receive Him as your Savior! That is indeed the best decision you will ever make - I already did it myself and I have never has regrets about it!

"WHAT HINDERS YOU?"

Now it's decision time for you. The Bible states that God's patience with us is great, but also that it will eventually come to an end: either when we die or when He comes to this earth to take all believers into Heaven (the Bible does not provide the date of that event, however). For that reason, it is necessary to make a choice – preferably today! I would like to ask you: "What hinders you?"

(26 J. J.) US

What is your answer to the loving offer of Jesus Christ who cleared the path to God: "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5)?

I hope and pray that you'll believe in the Lord Jesus who died for you to save you as well as grant you a wonderful future in heaven.

WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

THREE TESTIMONIES OF PEOPLE WHO TURNED TO JESUS CHRIST

My friend, at the end I want to present three testimonies of former Hindus who have been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. Read them and then ask yourself if they made the right decision!

First, **PUSHPAN** remembers:

"To me, our deities were accessories. I had to make an enormous effort to put them in a positive mood. And if I were honest, they didn't cause much more than fear in me. I never felt anything like assurance of their affection. And then I met Christians, who seemed to make no effort at all. They showed no fear of life. And yet, these very Christians seemed to move mountains with their prayer. When one day they prayed for my terminally ill brother and he got up from his bed after the prayer, I knew: if there was anyone in contact with the gods, it was these Christians. That is why I was looking for their community." Then he found Jesus.

THEY SHOWED NO FEAR OF LIFE

Again, the former Hindu DR. MAHENDRA SINGHAL testifies:

"Growing up in an orthodox Hindu home is to enjoy limited freedoms – spiritually speaking. I was raised in a Hindu home with well-preserved traditions, well developed customs, and well-formulated expectations.

I distinctly remember being told, over and over again, that all our unhappiness was because of our karma coupled with the wrath of the gods against our family. I could not understand what we had done to deserve problems in our lives and what could be done to change our situation, and my father would not allow me to speak of it.



We went through the usual visits to the temples of various gods on set days in the year. I remember walking a long way to reach a particular temple of Shiva, one of the three primary Hindu gods. The idol of Shiva was frightening to behold. He was shown sitting on top of the world, holding human skulls in his hands, with water running from his hair and his eyes staring at you with a dreadful message: Worship me or you will be destroyed. The idol, decked with flowers, was always smeared with oil and red color. The total effect was to create a feeling of foreboding and fear. You came away from the temple fearing what the future might hold and wishing, without any substantive hope, that all would be well and that Shiva would be content with you. I was never comfortable in the temple.

There was another god who was worshipped once a year in our home. This was Ganesha. This god is supposed to be extremely beneficent. We used to buy a new clay model of the god each year and worship him.

THE TOTAL EFFECT WAS TO CREATE A FEELING OF FOREBODING AND FEAR. It was on one of Ganesha's celebrations that I became very disturbed about our gods and our obeisance to them. I distinctly recall the occasion. Sweets had been offered to Ganesha. We had been asked to close our eyes and pray for his blessings upon the home. I do not know why but I could not close my eyes. I was horrified to see a small mouse descend upon the offerings which had been placed before the god and Ganesha was unable to control this tiny creature. "If he cannot protect himself," I said to myself, "how can he protect this house?" I lost faith in that god on that day; and I believe that my journey to discover the true God began at that event.

Two events occurred in rapid succession soon after that experience. Firstly, my father insisted on me receiving training in the Hindu scriptures. Secondly, an ad in the local newspaper about a Bible correspondence course led me to begin a study of the Bible. The Vedas and the other books were interesting, but they were decidedly speculative. There were no definite answers.

A GOD PLEADING FOR ME WAS A MIND-BOGGLING MYSTERY.

The Bible, on the other hand, pointed to definite answers. God loves people. God made His love known to people, through His own initiative, when He sent Jesus Christ to the world. A God pleading for me was a mind-boggling mystery. Later, I was hired to teach in a Christian boarding school in Mussoorie, India. Proper language was taught, encouraged, and developed. The principal, an Aus-

tralian missionary, was, as he later told me, led to offer me a position in spite of the fact that I was not a Christian. He responded to the leading of the Lord not only in hiring me to teach in that school, but also in witnessing to me - in words, in his separated living, and in his priorities.

One of the staff at the school mentioned the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross to me. "He died," he stated, "for man to be free from his bondage to sin and to enjoy a victorious life forever."

That sounded wonderfully peaceful and achievable, but I dismissed the witness, because, in my opinion, it was too simple. There has to be much more to life than just simple faith in Christ's death on the cross.

I had been led to believe in searching for answers, and I had been taught that such a search could take many, many lives. Sages had attempted to discover the truth and the reality of Brahman for centuries, but without any success. I was under the conviction that real truth is found within oneself. Deliverance is impossible unless one renounces the allurements of this world. I had been trained to believe that God is unknowable, and therefore, beyond the reach of man. And here was Jesus Christ, hanging on the cross, bleeding to death at the hands of Roman soldiers, declaring his forgiveness for their crass brutalities - God searching for man and not man looking for God within himself.

HE DIED FOR MAN TO BE FREE FROM HIS BONDAGE TO SIN AND TO ENJOY A VICTORIOUS LIFE FOREVER.

There was another dimension to my dilemma. My acceptance of Jesus Christ would make my parents lose their social respect and position in the whole community. My brothers and sister would suffer disgrace. That, too, was unthinkable. I did not really feel free to make my own decisions. I then met Ian Thomas who took the time to listen to my hesitations, my arguments, and my analysis. He, with great sensitivity and keen insight, explained the claims of Jesus Christ on my life. "Jesus Christ," he explained, "will enable you to solve your dilemmas after you accept Him. He will be on your side." I knew what I had to do. There was no denying the fact that Christ had been calling me to accept Him as my personal Savior and to follow Him – irrespective of the cost. The call was extremely personal and urgent. I mused about the possibilities for a few more days. However, I could not get rid of pressures which continued to increase. I could sense that a decision had to be made.

THE CALL WAS EXTREMELY PERSONAL AND URGENT.

I turned to Jesus Christ on July 16, 1963 at 2:00 a.m. in my bedroom – all by myself. He became my Savior. Praise His wonderful name!

My own family disowned me. My friends shunned me. They began to avoid me as if I had contracted some dreadful, contagious disease. With all the pains and burdens, with all the loneliness, and with all the struggles, I am nonetheless determined to follow the Lord. He is my answer, my salvation, my friend. As Thomas assured me, He has never failed me; He has always been there – to help, to direct. I am not following an idea, a creed, or a philosophy; I am not searching for an inner revelation; I am not working for a final deliverance. No, I am following Jesus Christ, who is the final revelation, the total deliverance."

"My name is Sarah and I grew up in a Christian home. My parents converted from Hinduism, but because of my relatives I had and still have many points of contact with Hinduism. In my earlier teenage years, I tried and learned much about Hinduism. My relatives wanted me to convert from Christianity to Hinduism, and I honestly liked the idea of the freedom the Hindus have in doing what you want. I saw the gods and liked the colors, and just seeing gods with my own eyes helped me believe in them. I thought: "One god of the many will support you. You just need to ask the 'right one." I went to the Hindu temples and read many books. I also learned some songs. My uncle is a priest and we are from a high caste.



I got many privileges, but at that time I realized that this is an unfair system that hurts people. I was not allowed to talk to people from another caste and marrying someone of a lower one was unimaginable. My relatives searched for a spouse for me. Religion was not important. They told me that every god is good. But because of the caste system, it was hard to find a husband. Many men didn't like my appearance, my education level was not high enough or they were from a different village. I wished to marry, and my parents also tried, but could not find a match.

At that time, I met a man and wanted to marry him, but my parents didn't let me. He was from a lower caste and his village had a bad reputation. I asked myself if this system really is the right one. I was hurt and prayed so much to these gods. No one heard me. The priests told me that I need to gain the favor of one god. It could be gained by walking over fire or other rituals the priest would tell me to do. To hurt myself, was at that point acceptable for me. At least, my wish would come true, I thought. MY LIFE WAS IN A DEEP BLACK HOLE. Crying all the time about the situation I remembered the words of Jesus: "I am the good shepherd". I read the Bible again and realized how unwise I had been leaving Christianity. There, it was not "Do", but rather "Done". This is what Jesus Christ has said on the cross. We don't have to do things anymore because Jesus has done everything. God does not give me everything I ask for because he wants to help me and save me from the wretched world and its sorrow. He always cares for me. Christianity is not a system of better people and untouchables. There is no difference in race and skin tone. All are lost and sinners and need to get saved by the grace of God.

And after being saved, we should not boast in ourselves. I am saved because of the love of God and am called to help and love others just as God does.

Jesus also said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He is the only way and I only need to pray to him. I don't need to hurt myself in rituals. And if he does not hear my prayer, then the reason is that he has something better for me. The pain of the love failure was gone, and I became happy again. I am so thankful: God has forgiven me everything and I do not have to do anything. I hope everyone would realize that."

My friend, I hope you are touched by the love of God and His Son Jesus Christ who came down to this earth to die for you. Not only to deliver you from sin and hell, but also to grant you all the wonderful presents – and much more that I have not yet discovered myself!

THERE, IT WAS NOT "DO", BUT RATHER "DONE"!

What is your decision?

"JESUS SAID: AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE. [...] THEREFORE IF THE SON [JESUS] MAKES YOU FREE, YOU SHALL BE FREE INDEED." (JOHN 8:32, 36)

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU GET SAVED?

Having received the Lord Jesus as your Savior, your wonderful life together with God has just begun. I recommend you to go the next steps in faith:

- ✓ Read the Bible regularly since it's God main means to communicate with us.
- ✓ Pray to God that's how you communicate with Him.
- Get baptized as a sign to your surroundings that you belong to Jesus Christ now.
- / Find a Christian meeting that submits to the full authority of the Bible as the Word of God
- / Have fellowship with other believers.
- / Live for Christ!

CONTACT

Do you have any questions or would like to talk about what you have read? Please feel free to contact me at any time. If geographically possible, we can also get together for tea or coffee.

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Also visit my website WWW.approachinggod.com to find out more about the gospel!

