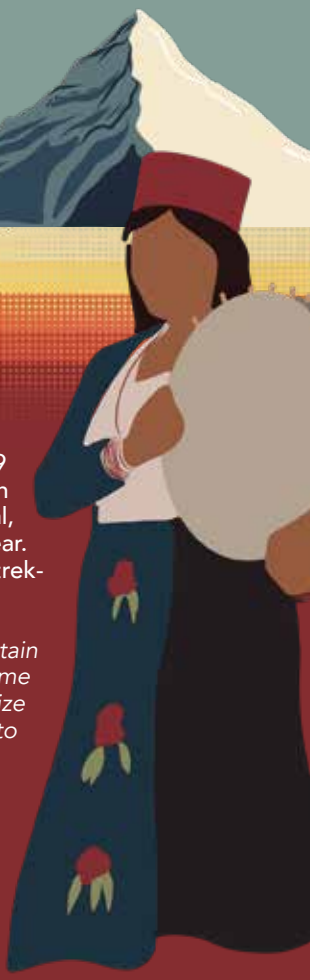
Navigating the Facts – Nepal



One Way

The goal of Hinduism is achieving *moksha*, the release from the cycle of reincarnation and *karma*. Hindus believe that this release allows them to return to their deity, like how a river empties into an ocean. A person can achieve *moksha* by choosing one of three paths. The first path involves performing selfless acts of service to others. The second requires uniting oneself with Brahman (the ultimate god) through meditation and intellectual study of man and the universe. The final path encompasses a person's complete devotion to their chosen Hindu deity. At the end of the worshipper's life, however, there is no assurance that their efforts were enough to achieve *moksha*.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is the only way to eternal life (John 14:6). Salvation is not earned through accomplishing good works nor acquiring a vast knowledge of God, but rather through faith and obedience to the saving work of Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9). Christians are assured of their heavenly home the moment Jesus enters their hearts, giving them freedom and peace as they follow Him.

Way Out

It's essential for believers in Nepal to receive discipleship. The challenge is that most Christians are isolated in rural villages where there is minimal access to Biblical resources that can help them grow in their faith. VOMC's *Equipping the Saints Fund* supports projects in Nepal that help meet the strategic educational needs of believers as they develop in their understanding and application of God's Word.

This month, challenge yourself to read at least one chapter of your Bible each day. After reading the day's chapter, tell somebody a key point that you learned, and then pray accordingly for Nepali Christians.

Recommended Reads:

Hearts of Fire by Voice of the Martyrs. (Teen/Adult)

Something Needs to Change: A Call to Make Your Life Count in a World of Urgent Need by David Platt. (Teen/Adult)

Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay by Alexandra Stewart. (8-12 years old)

Sources:

https://www.britannica.com/place/Nepal
https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/mount-everest/
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https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/country-dossiers/WWL-2024-Nepal-Full-Country-Dossier.pdf
https://www.christianity.com/wiki/cults-and-other-religions/what-should-christians-know-about-hinduism-5-essential-factors.html
https://www.patheos.com/library/hinduism/beliefs/afterlife-and-salvation

Weigh In

1. Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, towers at a staggering 8,849 metres high. As part of the Himalayas, which extend along the northern border of Nepal, it's climbed by thousands of people every year. Climbers face numerous challenges when trekking to the summit.

Thin air in the upper elevation requires mountain climbers to use oxygen tanks. Brainstorm some other challenges climbers may face and theorize how they can safely prepare for the journey to the summit of Mount Everest.

2. Agriculture in Nepal relies on rainwater, since most farmland is not irrigated. Lack of rainfall can cause severe food shortages, especially in the mountains. The roads are severely underdeveloped, making it nearly impossible to supply food from outside sources to starving people in these communities.

Food shortages are a significant issue for those living in the mountainous communities of Nepal. In theory, creating better roads could help improve food accessibility in the country's remote regions. Think about additional ways to prevent food shortages from occurring and create a plan to implement your solution.

3. Children from Hindu families are often instructed by their parents to not associate with Christian children in their classes or communities. Thus, young believers are often bullied and excluded from social activities.

Have you ever been bullied or unjustly excluded from an activity? Remembering your own experiences and emotions, consider how children in Nepal might feel when they are rejected by their peers. How would you respond if you were in their situation? Does your response align with what the Bible teaches?

4. The anti-conversion law in Nepal prevents people from switching religions or persuading others to join a particular faith. For Christians, this means that sharing the Gospel is illegal and could result in large fines or even imprisonment.

Nepal claims to be a secular state, meaning that each citizen is allowed to practise and profess their religion according to their conviction. However, due to the anti-conversion law, Christians are unable to legally practise the Great Commission. Do you think this law contradicts freedom of religion? Why or why not?

Answers:
1. Cow 2. Asia 3. India 4. Temple 5. Everest 6. Wildlife 7. Kathmandu 8. Earthquake