

# GREATEST MISSION CHALLENGE

February 2018

An Amazing Fact: Hinduism, the largest religion in India, is also the third largest in the world—after Christianity and Islam. Because Hinduism is a form of pantheism, Hindus can choose from nearly 330 million gods to worship—each deity woven into a myriad of fables about creatures, planets, and the forces of nature. Countless hybrid human-animal idols can be found everywhere in temples dedicated to everything from elephants to monkeys and even rats!



Dear friend,

How can we reach the people of India for Jesus Christ?

Did you know that one in every five people on earth lives in India? Even though its landmass is only a third as large as the United States, India is projected to soon be the world's most populous nation, surpassing even China! Today, 1.3 billion people live in this mushrooming South Asian civilization.

We have an amazing opportunity today to answer God's call by proclaiming His last-day message to multiplied millions in India who have never heard Bible truth. If we are going to obey the Great Commission and "go into all the world" (Mark 16:15), we must not overlook this place—where only two percent proclaim the name of Jesus.



In 2006, Amazing Facts preached to more than 20,000 people in open air meetings in India.

Making this task even more challenging are recent laws in India that prevent foreign missionaries from conducting public evangelism.

From 1999 to 2006, Amazing Facts held numerous large and successful public evangelistic meetings and planted many churches in India. Thousands were baptized during these programs, but now this kind of public outreach is not permitted.

Despite these obstacles, Amazing Facts has continued to expand its evangelistic efforts in this special country. While opportunities for public preaching have

diminished, prospects for reaching the people of India through media and the Internet have greatly increased!

I have been praying recently, "Lord, what more can we do to reach your precious people in India?" <u>In answer to</u> this prayer, God has done something, well ... *miraculous*!

### **Providential Encounter**

About a year ago, while attending a Christian media conference in Orlando, I met Dr. Satish Kumar, the pastor of the largest and fastest-growing Christian church in the world. His non-denominational Calvary Temple in Hyderabad, India, has 160,000 members and its own international TV ministry.



Imagine my surprise when, while listening to him address a room full of evangelical leaders, I heard him publically state that he is a regular viewer of Amazing Facts! He went on to make several positive comments about our ministry.

After meeting with Dr. Kumar in person, he invited me to speak to his huge congregation and study the Word with his staff of two thousand! While Christian foreigners cannot conduct public meetings in India, foreigners are allowed to preach in existing Christian churches. Please pray for this incredible opportunity to open the Word of Truth with this massive flock!

Consider how your partnership with Amazing Facts is already changing lives and touching people like Dr. Kumar. You are reaching thousands of precious people in India, but there is still much more we can do.

### **Another Media Miracle**

While public preaching is banned in India, there are still several powerful ways we can, and are, reaching multiplied millions in that nation. One method that Amazing Facts is effectively pursuing—with your support—is television.

Because India is a Hindu country, a limited number of Christian TV channels exist and time slots are difficult to obtain. But God providentially worked this out for Amazing Facts long ago.

Back in 1999, we conducted an evangelistic series in Chennai, India. Thousands attended. During that series, we developed a strong friendship with a young Christian man, Ashvin, and his father Nehru, whose family ministry taped our meetings. They were deeply impressed by the messages. You can imagine our joy when we discovered Ashvin and Nehru are the biggest Christian media distributors in India today.

It is astounding that out of 1.3 billion people, Amazing Facts just happened to become friends with these two influential men. Because of this friendship, we have been

broadcasting our programs on Good News Television—one of the few national Christian TV channels. This English-language station is broadcasting Amazing Facts programs on four major satellites and all the major cable networks throughout India. It is an amazing opportunity to share Bible truth with people searching for hope and peace.

# Social Media Explosion

Media analysts say that smartphones have become the new "normal" in India. They can be seen everywhere among all classes. In the wake of this growth, social media has rapidly increased. Not only will the population of India surpass China's in the next few years, but it has already surpassed the United States in the number of social media users.

And the number of people in India who access the Internet has gone through the roof—up 90 percent in the last few years. We can use this Internet power for Christ!

Speaking of "social" media, one of my favorite authors explained, "Social power, sanctified by the Spirit of Christ, must be improved in bringing souls to the Savior" (Ministry of Healing, p. 496). God wants Amazing Facts to use every method possible to evangelize the world. Will you help us?



There are now more Facebook users in India—241 million—than in the United

A Bold Mission

Next month, for the first time in ten years, I will be returning to India with a small team and a special mission. During our two-week trip, we'll ...

- Speak in the largest Christian church in the world
- Expand plans for AFCOE India
- Speak to Bible School students and pastors
- Meet with the largest Christian media distributor about increasing Amazing Facts TV programs in this booming country
- Discuss plans for accelerating the presence of Amazing Facts on the web (a Hindi website) and through social media
- Plan to translate more of our truth-filled materials into Hindi

None of this will be possible, nor Amazing Facts' many other evangelistic outreaches around the world, without your loving support this month!

# No More Idol Worship

Because of your gifts, Amazing Facts is already making a big impact in India. Rajesh was a Hindu who received Amazing Facts materials and became a Sabbath-keeper. Today he has a special interest in Bible prophecy and sharing God's last-day message with others. Amen!

Kamesh belonged to an orthodox Hindu family and had no interest in Christianity. He believed all religions lead people to heaven. But a friend shared Amazing Facts media with Kamesh, and he now believes in Jesus and the Sabbath. But he needs our continued support and prayers because of family pressure to remain a Hindu.

Thank you for helping Rajesh and Kamesh know Jesus!

# **Boosting Media in India**

I'm thrilled to tell you that God has just opened a door for Amazing Facts to expand onto a Hindi-language station to reach the people of India. I hope your heart is moved, like mine, for the hopeless millions who know nothing about the soon coming of Jesus. Your gift this month will help us reach this goal while also continuing our outreach around the world.

Please pray for me and our team going to India next month—and ask God what He would have you do to be a vital part of this mighty work. Your gift of \$50, \$25, \$100, or more will make a profound difference in the lives of these dear people who need to know Jesus and hear His last-day truth.

As my thanks for your generous gift this month, I want to send you a copy of my recent sermon "Is it Easier to Be Saved or Lost?" which I believe is a vital message for our times—so let me know on the enclosed reply if you'd like the DVD or CD. And remember to share your prayer requests on the back of the reply card. We are deeply honored to pray for your needs.

There are literally a billion more people like Rajesh and Kamesh searching for truth in India. Through media, we can connect with them and point them to Christ. Will you join me—through God's power—in changing more lives in India?

Reaching a billion for Christ with you,

Doug Battelon

Pastor Doug Batchelor President, Amazing Facts

P.S. The Internet and social media have skyrocketed in India, and millions in this giant country use them every day. We must use every avenue to reach these seekers. Will you help us touch more lives for Christ in one of the largest countries on earth? Thank you in advance for your precious gift today!

