

Renewing the Call to Reach the Hindu World

The Institute of Hindu Studies launches a collaborative effort to foster a witness for Christ among Hindus.

The Institute of Hindu Studies (IHS) at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena served as the host for a *Rethinking Forum* for ministry to Hindus held July 20-21, 2001.

Those with a heart for the Hindu world are challenged by the stark reality that 90 percent of Indian population are in castes and communities where Christian missions are not yet planning to work. With a strong conviction that there is a need to alter our approach to caste Hindus, the fifteen invited participants laid out a rough framework for networking more effectively both among themselves and the mission community at large.

The IHS, in conjunction with the Forum, will work to facilitate the birthing of Christ-centered movements within Hindu cultures and communities. With representatives experienced in ministry within the Hindu religio-cultural bloc throughout South Asia, the group was unified in the strategic desire to see these Christ-centered worship communities form outside the walls of the existing church.

"The rethinking tradition is over a century old and calls for the adapting of Biblical faith to Hindu cultures," says H. L. Richard, author and participant at the Forum. The IHS is making an effort to affirm its place in that tradition, embarking on projects for those concerned with the establishment of a contextual Biblical witness to Hindus.

Future fruit from the forum will likely include seminars in churches and schools, training of cross-cultural teams and the creation of both a journal and a web page.

A follow-up conference is tentatively slated for September of 2002.

As a resource base, strategy center and a facilitator of knowledge the IHS seeks to serve the mission agency community, local churches and their affiliated denominations and individuals by providing reliable information on India, Hinduism and the Indian Diaspora. To receive more information on the ministries of the IHS please contact us!

1605 Elizabeth Street, Pasadena, CA 91104-2721 • 626.398.2314 • ihs@uscwm.org

This article first appeared in Mission Frontiers in August 2001 and is reprinted with permission.