

THE JESUS TEMPLE *News*

In His Temple doth every one speak of His glory. (Ps. 29:9)
December 2005

The Ganges Missionary Trip Leg 2 – Greetings and thank you brethren for the feedback to the 1st edition of the Jesus Temple News. All those who support me financially and through prayers **thank you**. You giving has been a rich source of blessing and protection to me. You'll see how, in this issue and the next issue of the Jesus Temple News.

This issue focuses on the 2nd leg of my journey in the city of **Varanasi (Benares)**, on the river Ganges. This city is in the state of Uttar Pradesh, in North India and is the equivalent of Jerusalem to Hinduism.



Bathe or die! At Varanasi, millions visit every year to do what this man is doing, dip themselves in the Ganges river to get rid of sins. The name of this town comes from Varuna, the god who destroys sin, and 'Assi' (the name for the number 'eighty' in Hindi), signifying the 80 bathing stations called 'ghats', that line the river.



Death row: An aged Hindu priest meditates on the banks of the Ganges river, waiting to die. The Hindu religion believes that dying at Varanasi takes them straight to heaven. Many people come here with parents on the verge of death, so that they can go straight to heaven. This belief has some interesting offshoots-like widow homes to cater to widows whose children have abandoned them at Varanasi to claim their inheritance, or high real estate prices because nobody leaves Varanasi in the fear that they will die somewhere else and not go to heaven.



Death became hers: As I walked the 3 mile course of all the 80 bathing stations at Varanasi, I came upon this horrific sight. The firewood you see in the background is used to cremate dead bodies in public as an offering to the river Ganges. The people in the foreground are the DOMS, people from a specific caste who have the sole authority to cremate dead bodies. The stench of death, plus the public sight of frying human remains are branded in my mind. Many of the acts that happen in the name of Hinduism are not endorsed by their Scriptures.

(I choose not to show many sights I witnessed to protect readers from Hazardous Spiritual Material).



Indian New Orleans: If there is one place where every Oriental cliché is on display, it is Varanasi - naked fakirs, tantric sex, yoga... you name it, you got it. Every Indian guru worth his beard has a presence in Varanasi. That's why this city attracts people from every tongue, tribe and nation, like these men, from the West. You'll be surprised to know that every New Age practice has its roots to rituals linked with Hinduism.



The Jerusalem of Buddhism: One fact that surprised me was a place called Sarnath, 5 miles from downtown Varanasi. This is where Buddha preached his 1st sermon. These Buddhist monks worship the stupa (an obelisk like structure) at Sarnath - contradictory for a religion that is essentially atheistic.



5 star religion: The owner of this Bally footwear has left it outside the Buddhist stupa at Sarnath, in respect of the Buddha. Varanasi, a city that extends to a radius to 10 miles is the source of 2 religions that have 2 billion adherents worldwide. People from all socio-economic strata worship here. So the next time you bump into Richard Gere, at Varanasi, you know why he's here.



The King of the Ganges: My time of fasting and praying while walking the Ganges came to a glorious end when I saw this name of the 1st bathing station. It is inscribed in Hindi "Rajghat", meaning the King's Mountain. I knew this was a divine place for Jesus to rule. I believe that this will be the site for the Jesus Temple to arise in Varanasi. In due time, my Hindu brethren will worship not just in the fervor of the Spirit but in the knowledge of the Truth. (When you give to the Jesus Temple, you help in sharing the gospel to places it is most needed, you help pastors who are working amongst their Hindu brethren with a threat to their lives, and you help in the education and travels of Thomas Ivor. Above all, you get blessed according to Luke 6:38)

YOU ARE INVITED...

The Jesus Temple Project invites you to ask God a simple question, "How can I serve YOU, Jesus?" Maybe the answer is "Say 'Thank you' to your Pastor", or 'Apologize to Mom'. Or even 'take rest'. Or send a \$ to Billy Graham. Or to the Jesus Temple. Whatever it is, follow His Word. And reap the rewards.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND TIME,

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