



Disciples for the Harvest 2026 Summer Newsletter



**Continue to pray
for our
India Coordinator!**

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According to the 2025 Open Doors World Watch List, more than 388,000,000 Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. India is the twelfth most persecuted nation in the world for Christians (with 50,000,000 Christians). Most of the violence against Christians is often driven by Hindutva activists, the belief that all Indians must be Hindu. Converts from Hinduism to Christianity may encounter pressure from their family, the community, or radicals to return to Hinduism, as at least twelve Indian states have anti-conversion legislation. Extremists have been known to target members of house churches, and Christians frequently face the fear of physical violence or murder. In light of the growing persecution, pray for believers to have brave and unwavering faith.

Report Just in on July 5th

David's coordinator recently texted him: "Greetings. Words cannot fully describe the cruelty of these extremist groups toward Christians. Our daughter lives in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. While she and others were worshipping, a group of Hindu gun-das disrupted the service. By God's grace, she and her husband escaped, but they are now very fearful. Ministry and even attending worship services have become risky. Please pray especially for my daughter, Sumi, and our son-in-law."

This feels deeply personal to me, David. We have long considered Sumi like a niece. In 2003, we began helping pay for her education, and during my 2010 trip to India, I attended her baptism. We often hear about persecution around the world, but this situation has truly hit home for the Derby family.

May Report of DFH Activities

In late May our DFH team held five discipleship trainings near the Bhutan border at the start of the rainy season. Each church was about 35 kilometers apart.

The first training took place on Friday, May 22, at a welcoming church with 35 attendees, despite some persecution in the area.

Heavy rain flooded the river that night and damaged a wooden bridge, forcing us to take a long detour to the next village. The pastor welcomed us warmly, and 45 people attended, including church committee members and the assistant pastor.

The next morning, we reached the third church, where more than 120 people gathered. The attendees spoke Rabha and understood Bangla, the state trade language.

The fourth day, the meeting organizer hosted a Pastors/Leaders meeting at his church with 20 attendees, including some who had joined before and several enthusiastic newcomers.

The final meeting was at an A. G. church with 25 participants, including four Bible college students.

Across the trainings, attendees were eager to learn God's Word and the principles of Christian living. I taught about God's nature, holiness, repentance, forgiveness, grace, our identity in Christ, and the need to turn from old sinful habits to godly

habits. Participants listened attentively, reflected on their lives, and responded with thoughtful answers and prayer. We thank God for opening hearts and giving us these opportunities to teach and encourage His people.



Report of June DFH Activities

In June our DFH team held three meetings in the Sundarban Bengali speaking area.

On the 7th, I met with 18 people at a Baptist pastor's home and taught foundational truths about God, His holiness, humanity's fall, and the danger of sinful habits. The group listened prayerfully, acknowledged their weaknesses, and recognized how their former ways had displeased God. Praise God that they received the training and can now share these truths with their families.

On the 10th, I conducted a training at an A. G. church for 22 attendees after the senior pastor invited me to share God's Word. I taught about God, His Word, believers' identity in Christ, and the call to holiness in overcoming sinful habits. After an hour of reflection and discussion, the believers understood the importance of holy living to please God. The pastor valued the session and invited me to return to teach more biblical truths.

A Baptist church secretary invited me to lead a session on personal holiness and Bible-based conduct for believers who desire to become true disciples of Christ. On the 12th, I taught more than 60 fishermen and agricultural laborers about habitual sins, including lying, impatience, selfishness, and dominating others. The participants reflected deeply on their lives, and even the young pastor was moved by the message. Later, he shared his own struggles and said the training helped him find answers. Praise God for this fruitful time.

DFH India Concerns and Prayer Points

- Pray for religious minorities facing persecution across India, including churches being attacked and believers being forced from their homes.
- Pray for sufficient supplies to continue the minis-

try and meet family needs.

- Pray for unity among Christians of all denominations so the Body of Christ may stand together in these difficult times.
- **Pray for Christians and Muslims facing increasing persecution, fear, violence, and discrimination linked to anti-conversion laws and Hindutva ideology.**
- Pray that Hindu nationalists will accept Christians as fellow Indians and allow people of all faiths to flourish and ask God to protect and grow His church throughout India.
- Pray for continued health and needed medical care.
- Pray for sufficient funds to support ministry activities and help those in need, as well as protection while traveling in risky areas.
- For wisdom and discernment in decision making. Pray for strength and endurance to overcome challenges. Pray that doors be opened to minister to some of the mainline churches.
- Praise God for answering prayer and helping us complete our ministry trip this month safely in a risky area.

DFH USA Concerns and Prayer Points

- Pray for David's continued health. Though he sometimes experiences brain fog and unsteady legs, his doctors say he is doing well overall.
- Pray for our Indian missionaries and missionaries worldwide as they reach people groups in countries facing anti-Christian persecution.
- Praise God that since 2008, DFH has trained more than 40,000 Indian Christians in biblical principles, team building, Christian character, leadership, discipleship, and conflict resolution through the "Overcoming Our Sinful Bad Habits" training. Many now use these lessons in their personal lives, & teaching and preaching ministries.
- Praise God for Colleen's quilting ministry, which supports Disciples for the Harvest. In 2025, her quilting raised more than our donations, and we continue to need additional support.

*David and Colleen
and Our India Coordinator*

