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S: So thank you So much for this interview, we'll just do kind of an informal chat. Why don't start with... tell us about how did you come to India? Your Family, where are you from? Tell us little but about yourself.

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Okay! I was born in New York and I grew up in family of six kids and my mom and dad, Catholic family, Roman Catholic background. Long roundabout way to get here but I wound up marrying a man after university and who was in the air force. So we had life of moving actually throughout the U.S. and U. K. We had 14 years in UK on and off. He was a fighter pilot.

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So he had two flying tours in UK and one diplomatic tour in London. When he retired from the air force, just over 2 years ago, he got another job, a civilian job with the bank, deutsche bank. Then he worked about a year in London and then they asked him if he wanted to take this job in Mumbai. So here we are. Jeff got here in February last year, so he's coming up about an year and I got here in April, so I think I'm here for about 8-9 months.

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S: So you said you're from Roman Catholic background and so how did you go to Pentecostal.

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Right, okay! So, when I met my husband he was attending a Methodist church, and one of the things that I loved about Jeff was his faith was an active faith, it was alive. He had something that I wanted, something that I didn't have as a catholic. My faith was very much in my head and I actually had no idea what I was doing, I had no idea what it was all about. I went to church every Sunday; I went to Sunday school till i was 18. And I still had no idea what the whole thing was about. So, when I met him, I saw something in him that, that I found very attracting and appealing. Part of me was little bit weird out by it like when I saw his Bible. First of all I never had a bible; the first gift he ever bought me was a bible.

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And His bible was underlined, you know, and he prayed, I kind of prayed but like I said the road prayers. Whenever something was going on in his life, he'd.... he love the lord. He loves Jesus. In fact, one day early in our dating, he was trying to impress me and he said to me you know, I really love you; I love you more than anything except Jesus. And I thought that is so bizarre, because I think he was trying to impress me but I couldn't understand how he could say that. But at the same time I was really intrigued so when we got married I wasn't really strong enough to say, okay I'm gonno leave catholic faith, because it was sort of like a cultural thing as well.

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So when we got married we had a priest and a minister, we had both there and but I didn't feel like i would continue to go the Catholic Church. I wanted to explore what Jeff is doing and for couple of years we attended Methodist church, a couple of local churches. We weren't locked in particular denomination.

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It was... we got more introduced to Pentecostal type of worship and interaction in the UK actually. It was through some different seminars that we had gone to and our church in London was a plan church from holy trinity Brompton. I don't know if you've ever heard of that church but that was the church that started the Alpha course.

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That was the biggest, one of the biggest and alive churches in UK. They very much were pursuing spiritual matters; they were not full on Pentecostal because it was a church of Church of England. But very much was influenced by teachings on John Weinberg and other more charismatic type preacher or for lack of better word teachings. Our church was a plant from that church so our pastor Andy was going after more thing of the Spirit. Andy had attended a conference few years ago by a guy called Randy clerk. Randy was associated with the church organisation in the US called Bethel Church.

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Which is a huge revival is coming out that church in California. They were very much going after the things of the spirit. We've been influenced by their teaching through our pastor Andy in London. SO Jeff and I have been attending as many of those teachings courses as we can, right along with our pastor Andy. Coming here and looking for something like that was a natural progression for us basically.

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We're very used to that and very comfortable with that, we think that's the way it needs to be. Because when Jesus died, he left us the Holy Spirit and we should be going after the things of the spirit. At least that's what I believe.

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S: Could you define Pentecostal church for us? What are the key characteristics of Pentecostal church? I'm not one of these people who're very versed in what makes something evangelical, Pentecostal all those words sometimes confuse me. But my understanding of Pentecostal is the church that invites and led by the Holy Spirit.

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Now, I don't think I'd be completely comfortable with full on Pentecostal church because my understanding although I haven't experienced this, is sometimes the churches that are not very grounded in a word in the bible, can kinds of go off on tangent chasing the manifestations of the spirit. They wanna see, you know, crazy things happen after their services and they are looking for that kind of thing and that doesn't really interest me. Sometimes it can be really scary although I'm not really scared of anything like that anymore. I mean coming from catholic background the first time I've ever saw someone putting their hands up in the church, I couldn't stop staring at that person, and I was thinking what are they doing? I've never seen that before. The first time I heard someone speak in tongues I could not stop staring at that person, trying to figure out what are they doing, what they are saying. I hadn't really experienced that before and that doesn't bother me at all. But i don't want to be necessarily amongst the believers that just want to go for manifestation as supposed to be changed by the spirit. I don't know if that makes sense or not but yeah.

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S: So you have been in US and UK and now you're here in Mumbai. Could you tell us what are similarity and difference you felt in Indian Pentecostal churches vis a vis the European or British or American churches.

Okay! So just to clarify I haven't attended any Pentecostal type in the US. So it's only UK and here. All my experience in the US has been very conservative churches. From catholic to Methodist although there is charismatic branches of the catholic and Methodist church. I wasn't there yet, that was part of my progress. So it's been more UK and in here.

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I think the similarities have been a... style of worship, although you can do any type of worship but it's generally been contemporary type of worship. The worship has been for the extended periods of time, which has been something you get used to. Pst. Shekhar's church which we're attending now, the worship is for 45 minutes and I always think what would my mother think about that, well first of all she would think the whole thing is some sort of bizarre. But many churches I attend to, you might sing one or an opening or two maybe. I know for the first time we worshipped in the church in the UK, I think for the 20 minutes. My husband and I were looking at each other, gosh, how long is this gonno going on? But I understand now that it's through worship that the spirit inhabits our worship basically and puts us worshipping god, it puts us in a right frame. The worship now is lovely and it's nice to have extended periods of worship.

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But I found that similar both here and in UK that worship is longer than what I have experienced in my non-Pentecostal type churches. Having only had the one experience in UK and here in India I can only really comment on that but, here the difference has been that the congregations in general has been much more vocal during the sermons and the worship and that kind of thing. I don't know if that's the cultural thing of India versus UK, where it's much more conservative and it's hard to get people to be enthusiastic. I was listening to a podcast today of Andy, my old pastor. He's been trying to get people more vocal. He said, can I here Amen and you can here in background one or two people going "Amen". Here people are much more enthusiastic of saying praise the lord or you know being vocal about the things they may agree with in the sermon. So that's been bit of a difference.

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And here, and again, only having one church to compare to the services are lot longer. The service is about three hours here, where in the past the longest service I've had was an hour and half long or maybe an hour and forty five minutes. That's the big difference that we've noticed.

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I think, one other small thing is or maybe it's a big thing I don't know. The past experiences have been the services have been a little more liturgical. What I mean by that is there's been...it's a free formed a little bit but it followed a set format more or less. Where here, it's seems a little bit less structured. We do start with worship and then there are certain elements that happen. But can't predict week to week how services are happen and how the service is gonno play out. In other cultures, and I'm talking about US the non-Pentecostals and the UK, there's been a more emphasis on fellowship, you know more time, at the end of service, for people to just fellowship with one another and that might have to do something with the time of the service. You know for 3 hours people are like, okay we need to go and have a lunch, maybe don't hang around this much. But that's been an important element in past churches where people had time to spend, you know in talking and praying actually. That I think is fairly significant difference. In this church the amount of time for prayer and to pray for people to be felt with spirit, for healings. That really doesn't happen during the service time. I know it's important to the pastors, I don't think it doesn't happen because they think, prayer doesn't matter or healing doesn't happen, that isn't the case. But other services have always had time for that. Words of knowledge where people can come and receive prayer for word of knowledge that somebody's back that lords wants heal somebody's back or something like that.

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I think that's been more routine in the churches I have been to in past as compared to this one. And I question that a little bit in my mind; I haven't necessarily said anything like okay, why are we doing this?

but it's a question why there's isn't more prayer ministry time or time to actually have spirit lead and have the spirit do what the spirit wants to do. So that's what probably the big differences.

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S: In Indian church, even in Juhu church we see that percentage of people are new believers, rather than people who have generations. That is the more prominent character of most Indian churches. Would you like to respond to that? Do you have any observation about that?

Yeah! I do. One of the things that i have observed is that, the base level of understanding of what it means to be disciple is low. In other words, I think that reflects the fact that there're lot of people that are new believers, in the past churches I've been to it's been a major part of the goal, for the lack of better word, of the pastors for ongoing teaching and discipleship and I think when people accept Christ particularly from a Hindu background maybe they're accepting that something they think they know what it is but actually lot of learning that has to happen. Because of that gap in lack of learning maybe in different levels of people understands of what it means to be disciple. There's still lot of brokenness within the congregation, there's broken Christians all over the world, i don't wanna say there's more brokenness here than others. But the understanding of what it means to be free in Christ and what we're aiming for that isn't just about salvation or our own personal salvation that we're actually meant to make other disciples to not only share the gospel but also make disciples, which is a life long journey.

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So what I was saying is that, because there are lots of new believers and my observation so far in this church is that unlike the other churches that i have been to, that has encouraged church wide education. Whether it's adult Sunday school or its ongoing teaching, besides the sermon, you can't get lot of basics of Christianity in a once a week sermon. There's a need to be ongoing study of the bible and really learning about what it means to be following Christ. Other churches have had more of a kind of a programme or set way of discipling people. I haven't observed that much of that her, I know it happens in home group level but it's only small group of people that actually attend home groups. So without that discipleship peace, there's big gap in people's understanding of what it means to follow Christ. People get the salvation peace which is awesome. But that's just the first step of really what it means to follow him and be a believer.

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Because we don't wanna just be saved, we wanna learn how to bring heaven down to earth and to be his hands and feet here and to share what we have with other people. Now that's starting to change a little bit with the beginning of the Alpha course and that's one of the ways that church is being disciplined which is really cool. Churches throughout the world are using that as a way to introduce Christ to unbelievers but also to disciple new believers, which is interesting. And I've seen, we finished out first alpha course at the beginning of the December and I noticed that a lot of long-term believer, people that would consider themselves oh I'm a believer for a long time, I don't think I need alpha course. I found it to be really useful because it picked up gap in their understanding and in their faith.

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And I was a product of that growing up catholic I didn't have the full picture, I didn't understand. I didn't really understand the Holy Spirit and I've been going to church my whole life. It's a great to have a way to be able to get everybody up to a baseline of understanding. That understanding, then producing change, you know, the fruit, where lives are literally transformed, where you don't have lot of a fence bickering the church and things like that. I'd probably have to say there's a fair amount of that here and I think it's because again people have accepted Christ and haven't really started to grow in what it means to follow him.

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Jesus said, you gotta pick up the cross and follow me. You gotta forgive and all those basic things have really got to be worked out amongst people and then we get to be light in the world. Otherwise if we're not transformed then we don't look different than anybody else.

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And it's hard to get people to know Jesus when they think, what? Look at your life. Looks like mine, i mean you got the same issues, same misery, same whatever. Then what's the benefit of your god versus my god types of thing, you know. So that I guess is the difference I observed that I'm also seeing change in that. Particularly Pst. Shekhar and the leadership in our church believes that we need to get our believers all up to a certain level of understanding and that's started to happen which is really cool.

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S: So you mentioned alpha course, can you tell us what alpha course is? What kind of activities you've been conducting in Bombay?

Sure! The Alpha course is basic introduction to Christian Faith. It was started in the church I was telling you about in London, Holy Trinity, Brompton. It's been running, gosh, over 25 years now. But it is a course for lack of better word that I believe in anointed by god. It's in 169 countries now. Every Christian denomination is using it from Catholics to Pentecostal, Baptist, church of England you know, because basically the course is preaching about Christ, it's the basics of who he is, why did he come, what does it mean to follow him, how do you communicate with him, how do you read the bible, how do you pray, addresses the evil, address the holy spirit, how do I get filled with holy spirit. So to me it addresses, it puts the foundation of Christian faith in one package.

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In week by week you learn about a new piece and by the end of it all the puzzle pieces are put together. The idea is it's a way for people to come in relaxed in a non-threatening way to explore faith issues. So no one's trying to convert anybody, people come and they hear the gospel, they get to discuss the gospel over, at the same time we're making friends, so you're with same group of people every week and kind of really wrestling with the ideas that you're hearing.

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By the end of 10 weeks people really have a good understanding of what it means to follow Jesus and what the benefits could be to that. And ideally by the end of 10 weeks people have had encountered with the living god because about the 2/3 of the way through is a special teaching day of the Holy Spirit. The third talk of that special teaching day is how can I be filled with spirit? so at the end of that teaching, we actually invite the spirit to come and to touch people and to feel people and people receive the gift of the spirit, they might receive the gifts of tongue or prophesy, they may be healed during that time, where they are often the physical manifestation of spirit, whether it's crying or people just feeling an amazing peace that they hadn't felt before and it's time for people to understand, whoa! This god is real and he loves me.

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It introduces people to the Christ but also to the people to have accepted him get to understand what it means to follow him. And have better understanding and how to communicate with through the talk on prayer and talk on the bible, and what it means to share, one the lessons are how and what should I tell others. So it addresses this command of Jesus.

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He says go and make disciples and we look at that what it mean in practical terms. I've been involved with alpha for at least 15 years. So I started in UK in very small parish church in the English countryside then I moved back to America. I helped it started there in my Methodist church. When I moved back to UK I helped start it in a plant church inhibit. And when I came here I helped to start it in the church I'm currently attending. It's been lovely to see it work and I know PST Shekhar is really excited to have that. That piece of ministry because he's always understood to be an important piece to have people disciplined. It's such a... great laid ministry and it's good for him because he's free to do the things, to leave the church and layer congregation can help one another with this teaching. SO that's been one of the things that i have involved in here.

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And that's been a god timing peace; I have wanted to start this course even a year before I came. And it just so happened because my background, I said to Pst. Shekhar, hey this is one of things I can help with if you need the help. And it was like just ah, okay! Answered to prayer, okay go! So, that is piece of ministry I have been working with.

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One of the other things that I'm passionate about is healing. Currently working with another member of congregation to get some more organized teaching on inner healing and avenues for people to come and be healed and their spirits healed and their souls healed. Which is great and its gonno are kicking off probably in this month. Outside of church, actually in church one of things that I also want to help a little but is organize the way we manage and minister to new people in the church and that's again one of the difference in the Indian church and church in the US and UK. The western church is very intentional about how they go about ministering the new people, making a connection, figuring out where they are in their journey, trying to get them plugged into teaching, fellowship that kind of thing. So that's what I have been able to help with a little bit here, its work in progress.

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That's a way we can be intentional about how do we minister to someone that might have been here just out of curiosity, there still don't know Jesus. But if they visit and they go away and we haven't really connected to them in anyway, how do we minister to them. Not that god can't do what he wants to do, we really kind of wanna partner with him. The last piece of what I have been involved here in India is really more missional and justice and I've passion and heart for women who have been trafficked into the sex trade. Right now I made a connection with a few charities that are working and ministering to the young girls that have been rescued. So I've been meeting with them and trying to work with them. I'm partnering with another charity that started out of the US to deal with this issue. Cause India probably has the highest amount of human slaves today in the world. It's an issue that church should be doing something about.

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I feel passionate about that. So it's a way to put our faith in an action and I just feel so blessed to be able to do that, to minister to that particular situation. So it's been great.

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S: Can you share some stories of people who attended alpha course.

Sure! One of the first stories that come to mind actually is a little boy who attended the alpha course with his mom and dad. They were invited by somebody in the church, they're from catholic background and I think they have four children and all four of them came along. People just generally don't bring their kids

but this family brought their kids and we welcome them. This little bit, I think he's 7 years old and during that Holy Spirit time he'd be visibly touched by the Holy Spirit. He had tears rolling down his face as he was touched with the love god during that time. And his family is now regular in coming to our church. And transformation in that family is already began and it's continuing on as they search for deeper levels of intimacy with the lord. That was amazing to see that. There was another lady committed Christian in our church, that's been coming to our church long time.

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There's always something about her that always seemed sad to me, I think health issues and things like that. I remember the week after we had the Holy Spirit time; she literally looked like she had a face life, like the weight of the world was off of her shoulder. She was smiling and joyful, she continues in that nature and I just can't get over the change in her basically. She puts it down to an encounter with the god, with the Holy Spirit during that time, which is amazing.

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But she felt she should ask for prayer and everybody in her group just lend their hands and prayed, Holy Spirit come and touch her. She said she has never in her life have felt the love that just poured into her. She'd never slept the whole night through and never had a day in her life without a headache, because of all traumas in her life and she said she slept that night like a baby.

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She woke the next day without a headache and she said she knew that it was god. To me, that's the beauty of what can happen on Alpha because it's equipping people and it's giving people an opportunity to meet the living god. So that's another huge victory that we got to experience and see in alpha course.

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I can go on and tell you lots but those are the main one stuck out.

S: Also from the point of view that, this city has people who celebrate all kinds of festivals, sometimes it can be overwhelming, so tell about how have you managed?

I read a book before I came here. It was recommended by a friend of mine in London whose dad is Indian and her mom is English. The book is called the 'Death of The Guru'. She said you may wanna read this because it can give you some insights as to Hindu faith. It was great because, it's a story of a man whose father was Guru and when his father dies he's being groomed to be next guru. He met Christ when he was in his late teens and the transformation that happens in him.

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But it was interesting to see what it meant to be Hindu, what the practices were and it gave me an understanding of sometimes how dark a religion can be. Particularly if you read his experiences, what he experience in meditation and those sorts of things. But it's been great to have that understanding because it gives me way to be able to put a framework behind what I'm seeing. Also to be able to talk to people about that, it gives me a way to communicate with people, who are actively following a Hindu religion. So it's given me insight but it's also been a huge challenge to me because I believe that the...how do I put this?...A lot of people are going after as far as following a Hindu god is leading them down the path that can lead to a lot of unhappiness. At this level and take it to extreme can be seen as evil, really, in a way people read one other or disregard certain classes of people like untouchables and things like that you know.

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I have had lot of experience with that particular group of people with my church in London; we're building a church for a village basically of Dalits and seeing the way they have been treated and mistreated and that kind of thing. Not having the opportunity really to be able to better their situation in life. It's been a challenge to see that and it's been changing to break through the mindset of people that are committed Hindus. I don't know how else to put it. You know to see that everybody has value in god's eyes. So to me it's makes it all the more urgent to be able to share who Jesus is and what his message is with other people. Because I think India will be taken to other level as more people come to understand Jesus and his nature. Everybody gets an opportunity than to achieve what plan that god has for their life basically, you know rather than saying you were born into this particular family or caste and this is all you'll ever gonno be. And I know that caste system has supposedly been demolished or it's not there anymore but it is we all know that you know. And we can see it, we see the way people are treated and that to me is. Its heart wrenching, really its heart wrenching. It's hard to see it, it's hard to see the suffering and there's suffering all over the world of course but to me here you can't get away from it.

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And it's discrepancy between the haves and have not's it's huge. So the message of Christ is urgent that we get it out here. And the more we see people take on that message of Jesus the more India will grow in strength to strength. I feel like it's held back actually from its full potential. Because people here are incredible, but they still living in bondage. Once you take this chain off, gosh what gonno happen here will be amazing.

S: Did you attend any festival because also in Bombay lot of festival happen in public spaces. They occupy lot of public space and then traffics have to divert. So being a believer, even though you're not part of it, it does very much affect your life. What was your experience during this?

You know to be honest, rightly or wrongly I haven't had an interest to go to these festivals because I don't believe in what they're doing. Also as I believer I don't want to participate in things, where's its idol worship or that sort of thing. I really have no interest in that and so, generally my husband and I get out of town; we've gotten out of town. We've tried to politely decline that some of the things that we're invited to. I don't wanna offend anybody, I wanna respect everybody, and of course I do. But for me I feel I need to have boundaries around. What I do and I don't do here.

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There are plenty of cultural things that I can experience about India without actually having to go to the religious festivals. But the one thing that I have noticed in talking with some of my Hindu friends is just like there are cultural Christians there's lots of cultural Christians, particularly Catholics, there's lot of cultural Hindus. That go through the motion of whatever it is, the Diwali or but don't actually have belief in anything. Those are the people also I thing, gosh! to be lovely to be able to share, you know, to share the living god with them because they're thinking this is just rubbish, I have heard the word farce, heard different things, you know, practicing Hindu that have said to me, we don't believe this but this is what we do kind of thing you know.

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So it'd be so great to be able to share what the reality is, my reality is and slowly-slowly that is happening. Again, just to throw and offer, it's a great way say to somebody just come and see. That emptiness you feeling don't need to be that way. But anyway, we find it fascinating and we find it interesting but we kind of, Jeff and I both are seeing it from distance. I find it so much more fulfilling to experience India through the eyes of my Christian Brother and sisters because there's huge cultural difference there anyway.

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With food, with the way people entertain and all sorts of things. We're having a good time experiencing through that, through their eyes. Even something like Christmas, I mean, looking how I do Christmas versus my Indian friends do Christmas. We've been having lot of fun comparing notes. What are you guys usually eat, what you usually do that kind of thing. Seeing a wedding, Christian wedding, you know, we attended one a few weeks back actually. That's been great and it was different, there were some similarities but it was different.

S: how?

Well, we, my husband and I were shocked, okay! It wasn't just, well okay! At how few people came to the religious part of the wedding? We kept thinking like, are we in the right place? Because there was nobody there, I mean the wedding was supposed to start at 4:30 and we got there at 4:20 and there was pretty much nobody there and eventually the wedding started at 5 o' clock. But actually marriage service, religious... now you're getting married, I think there were 50 people. And there a massive set up, obviously they were expecting hundreds and they all came later, it's different in the states. Like for us the main thing is seeing the bride and groom get married and say their vows to each other and you know the ceremony of the wedding is the highlight. Of course you celebrate after, the party but I was... we were astounded how few people witness that but then people came along for the party later. To me it seemed backwards, upside down, I mean everybody likes to party, of course they do but you know the wedding is about the wedding.

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The actual service I thought. So that was different. What we have experienced in India is food always seems to come last. We've been to dinner parties where food gets served at the 11 o' clock, and then everybody goes home. Where for us the food is served much earlier and then the people stay and they visit, and have coffee and drinks after, whatever. At wedding, everything happened, then people ate and then they left. So the dance and all that happened first and it's reversed again, people would arrive and have something to eat and then there's cut the cake and the dance all that happens later. So it was just completely reversed.

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Lot of the elements was there but just the different timings. One of the things we noticed it tends to be more emphasis on the family being involved in the family in the party, the speeches and toasts, that kind of thing. There might be slideshow of showing, you know the bride and groom when they were little, I don't know things like that, and it tends to be more interactive affair.

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But that was cool, it was really cool. We had additional blessing, Jeff and I actually had the blessing of mentoring this young couple. So we did marriage preparation training for them, which was fun. We had done that, I don't know, probably 10 other couples, over the last few years. Young couples get married. The idea of preparing this couple for what they were going to this commitment they were making to one another was such a joy and privilege to do that. Marriage preparation is very much, a much big a deal in the western church than it is here. Which is unfortunate, because it is really helpful, to prepare young people for this commitment what they're signing up for. It's helpful for anybody but I mean particularly for Christians. What does that mean, what are these vows mean and how do we invest in your marriage, how do you make it a partnership where two become one.

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Just leaving it to chance is to me, inviting a potential break up of a marriage, although you don't see it much here in India, because it's a cultural thing. Although I think that's changing or you have a marriage

where people stay together but it's not that good. It's not what god intended us to be, which is this amazing journey of love that continuous to grow.

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I haven't seen much of that in the church to be honest. I have been surprised about that, I've surprised to see not to see really thriving marriages. Now don't get me wrong we've got huge problems in the west with marriage as well. Because you got that cultural pull where one in two marriages break up. But church should be different, it should be different. It should be the model of how to do marriage.

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So that's something that we can definitely, we can lead the way here, in India. I think Indians are fantastic in it, the commitment to that. But then taking it to that level where, we just got this joyful partnership where it just gets better with time, that's what we're aiming for. I think its Christians, we should be different. We should be, when people look at us and go, wow! How'd you do that? Jeff and I have been married 27 years and we've often heard from people, gosh you guys still seem to really enjoy each other's company, we still have a great time, we do. We love teaching people secret. And part of secret is having god involved.

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S: So you said that you experience the India through the eyes of brothers from the church. What is that India through the eyes of brothers of church? I'm asking this question because in church you have interacted with lot of people from Hindu background that have become believers and I think that kind of changes your whole perceptions at looking at the same city, at the same space and suddenly there's a gear shift.

So, yeah, I mean we've learned a lot about Hindu culture through Christian friends, because lots of them have come through that background. And it's been great to see that. It's been fascinating to talk about the changes in their life through meeting Jesus. The challenges for them too, I've been in awe of so many of our church members still had to endure real challenges. From their families when they became Christians. It's huge, I understand that small tiny amount because my family was not happy me not being following catholic faith but I think it's much-much more difficult to go from Hindu background to Christian background. Because again the similar things to me were Christians not wanting to participate in family rituals, the pooja causing a lot of strife in the families and hardships and hurt feelings and all those things. I have been humble to see what believers had to go through.

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But at the same time I'm so encouraged to, by their strength and how much strength they get from the lord, how much joy they have in their life, despite the persecution being ostracized, and all sorts of things. So it's been easy and we've been able to witness that. Because we didn't have to witness that in west. It's a huge challenge here. I really appreciate that and yet we read about that in the bible always. But now I'm seeing it and experiencing it by first hand. Like people that I know as opposed to hearing about Oh somebody is getting persecuted somewhere in the world. But these are the people I've met. It's been so interesting to hear their stories and their testimonies.

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I'd love to sit down with every person and hear their journey because they're all fascinating. How they came to meet Christ and what they had to endure.

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S: yeah, that's the... that's where it becomes tricky actually.

Yeah! I think in some ways that's harder to do in a way and it gets confusing and it's really easy way for enemy to come in. It can cause confusion and can take people to these dead ends roads, because they're compromising. I think that's where this scripture where Jesus says, you know, have come divide families, first when you read that you think, Gosh! That seems harsh but what he's talking about is it's not easy to follow me. There're sometimes, you gonno be following me and your mom and dad aren't. That going to cause break and he warns of that. But it doesn't make any easy that he predicted it and warns of it. But good news is he's there with us and giving us strength and wisdom and all that to be able to navigate it.

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And I know I have to have the Holy Spirit's guidance in navigating my interactions with unbelievers here. Because I don't know what to say sometimes, I don't want to offend, certainly don't, I wanna love people as Jesus loved. But yet at the same time how do I try slowly to be able to introduce him to other people and I think every person is different I suppose. Every interaction, I have a young couple, yeah a couple in their 30s that I have been praying for and slowly trying to introduce them to lord but it's meant long nights over bottle of wine until 3 o' clock in the morning. That's not something Jeff and I do. Not drinking wine, we do drink wine but you know 3 O' clock in the morning on a work night, that's not something we do. But it was an opportunity to get to speak to them and listen to them. And I think that's the precious conversation and opportunities to be able to do that. So, we just open ourselves to those chances.

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S: So it's been 8 months, any last reflections stories you'd like to share with us of your experience of these 8 months. Oh sorry, there's one last question, hoe did you land up in Juhu question?

Oh yeah, that's a great question. Well, we had a couple... first of all we prayed and asked the lord to show us where he wanted us to be. Because I do believe he puts people where he has needs. But we had to do out bit by going out and looking. So, we because of connections in London we had a few leads. Actually pastor Shekhar's name have come floated over at some point. He wasn't the first church we visited, we visited three main churches I guess I had to say, well we went to 4, down in south Bombay, not that we ever thought we would go there but again a friend of a friend that was their church and that's where we went to in our first Sunday.

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Very traditional, CNI, is that what's it's called. It's lovely but traditional church, which felt comfortable given my background but you know that's not my preference for worship service now. But the, we were looking for where god wanted us to be, number 1, and number 2 we felt that we were going to be used. All the experience we had gained, we were gonno, and we led the church to be able to use that. So through a connection of a friend in London we were recommended a few churches and we tried them all out. And we actually enjoyed all of them, but we didn't feel like the other one's where we were meant to be. One of them was very small plant church and we had just come from London, where we started from small plant church 40 of us. By the time we left, we helped church to build about 300.

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I felt like this isn't the right words but to do that again felt like it was repeat. I just sensed god had something slightly bigger he wanted us to do. Pst Shekhar has a big vision. His heart is to see the evangelization of Mumbai and India. We came from the church where their vision was evangelization of London and UK and the world. That's the vision that resonates with us. SO that was great, we loved that. We felt to be part of something with big vision versus I just wanna go to church and get fed myself. I didn't want church where it was about me, I wanted to be part of something bigger. So that's how I would up at this particular church, took a little while to get used to it, you know, a 3 hour service was a

little bit of shock initially. I told to Jeff, we need to start packing snacks and water, I don't know all sort change of clothes, who knows, I don't know when I'm gonno get out of church but... now it feels normal to us, that's amazing how you get used to it.

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So, I guess we were talking about last minutes reflections. A couple of things, I'd say no. 1 I'm always so blown and humbled actually to be a part of bigger church, to be standing in a church in Mumbai and worshipping the same god that people are worshipping in London and US. I know that sounds simple but to be united as brothers and sisters halfway across the world, to me is huge and humbling and I love that actually. Our church in London, because London is such an international city, literally had people from all over the world. There are few English but mainly it was Indians, Nigerians, Koreans, Australians and Canadians it was just most amazing thing, to be able to look around during worshipping and think wow, I bet this is how heaven is gonno be like. To see the world there and I feel little like that here and it's so cool. And I love being able to take our experience from the US and the UK and to add to what's happening here but also to be bless by what's happening here. So it's definitely a give and take. I mentioned that I'm inspired by people's level of faith here, particularly to be divided, sometimes between brother and sister and mother and father because they chose to follow Christ, Husband and wife, I see that a lot, where wife comes to believe and husband is unbeliever.

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So the stakes are higher here and some very humbled and challenged by that, which is cool. Also to be in a non-Christian country for the first time, it's huge. We're only 2-3% of population of Christians. 80% Hindus and I think it's about 13% Muslim, never been like that before. I think because of not having experienced that, I feel it day in and day out. Out on the street I fell it, I feel the spiritual heaviness here. It makes it difficult to be honest, it does make it difficult. But it keeps me on my knees; it keeps me very close to lord. Jeff and I found that's been the unexpected benefit, it's that our faith has become stronger by being here. It had to be, to be able to survive, I don't wanna say survive cause that sounds dramatic, but survive in a way. To be able to not be eaten up with not with just cultural difference which is hard. It is really hard. Part of it is culture; part of it is nature of this city, noise, business....ummm... yeah just that whole way we live here. Not being able to be outside as much as I like. I'm an outside person; on weekends we wanna be on our bikes, we wanna be hiking. We can't do that here. So I miss that. Being close to the lord helps with that peace, but with cultural peace as well it does. Where having to deal with so much poverty, constantly. I don't know how to cope with it, I don't know. And I still find it shocking after 8 months, I find when I'm in the car and you know a little child is banging on my window, you know as a Christian I just find that so challenging. What to do? What do you do? How do you give, how do you bless. In fact I was just thinking about it last thing, about this very thing we're talking about healing.

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I thought I heard the lord say to me, you could pray for these people. I did do that once actually I went down to the corner there's a guy who is very deformed leg, you know one of the guys on that carts, because they can't, their legs don't work. They go on these scooter things. They beg at the traffic light, I have got to know this one guy, Kalidas is his name, and he doesn't speak English, I knew enough to ask him his name. He's such sweetheart, so anyway, I always wave to him and I don't generally give beggars money but I give him money, not much but anyway. I was challenged one day to go pray for him. And I still can't believe that I actually (Compelled?) at his legs to be straighten out but then didn't, it was kind of funny actually to see all the people passing by and watching be down at the corner watching me with this guy. I don't whether they knew what the heck i was doing. Then I actually had a queue, more people came. Some lady had cataract, so I prayed for her then husband, I don't know what he had. But he

wanted me to put my hand and he wanted me to pray for him too. So anyway, I did do that but i kept thinking, I could be doing more of that.

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There are so many people that we could be doing that for and for us Christians, gosh we're supposed to be his hands and feet. We need to be getting out there and doing that stuff. So that's a huge challenge. So it keeps me on my knees cause lord you gotta shoe me how do I deal with everything that I'm seeing here. How do I help, it's so difficult to see dirty hungry child like that and yet I know there's lot of down side to giving money to these kids that might be exploited by gangs. So, it's... I rely on lord for every step to show me. I wish he could speak audibly more, I know he could but he doesn't to me because sometimes I just think Lord I don't hear you and I have no idea what to do right now. But in the west things are just easy; you can go on autopilot and you not really walking in step with the lord. Here, I have to. It's a survival thing.

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Plus I wanna be obedient and I wanna be a blessing and I want to bring light into place that is challenged. So it's been fun. One of the thing I noticed, this is small little thing, but I feel, I go out every day with my dog Tobey. I walk in the neighbourhood and everybody knows me, I mean like I stick out with a sour thumb and with this dog, you know the tow of us. And we speak to everybody, well I do he might bark at somebody...ummm... but I've noticed the atmosphere in the neighbourhood is changed. I was thinking about that today because I speak to all the security guards and all the street cleaners. I know several of them by name. I mean the language is a barrier. So when I say speak you know, it's a stretch. I do have a Hindi tutor; I'm trying to learn Hindi but, just being able to acknowledge everybody that works in this neighbourhood. And I have noticed lot of the times while walking down the streets, the security guys will actually come out so I can waive to them and say hello! They might be doing something and then they come over and I just noticed there's lightness more on the roads. People seems to be generally friendlier which I didn't earlier and I'm hoping the spirit that moving through me and in me is having an impact on people's lives that they are sensing something different that is happening here. As my Hindi gets better I'll be hoping I'll be able to have better conversation with them. But that's why I'm learning Hindi to be honest. Because I feel, to be able to speak to people about what I know and who I know and about his love for them, who knows I just got to trust and know that seeds are being planted and maybe somebody else will come along and water them.

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S: That's a quite nice thought. Thank you so much for the interview

You're welcome, I hope I was helpful.

S: Yeah, yeah, it was quite interesting to hear your side of the story.