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REPORTS & NEWS

Society for Hindu-Christian Studies News

2003 Annual General Meeting

Friday, November 21, 2003

Time and place TBA, see AAR Program

The Society for Hindu-Christian Studies will present an award to the best book in Hindu-Christian studies published between 2000-2002. To celebrate this work, the Society will also sponsor a panel discussion of the book to which the author will be invited to respond.

To have been considered the book must have been published in 2000, 2001, or 2002 and be a distinguished contribution to the field of Hindu-Christian studies. Such a work may be (1) a comparative study of a theme(s) in Hindu and Christian traditions or of two (or more) thinkers from those traditions; (2) a work which traces some aspect of the cultural, historical, political, social, or theological interaction between Hindus and Christians (e.g., in early South Asian history, in the colonial period, in a contemporary setting, in a missionary context, in the diaspora, etc.); and/or (3) a study in which an author, belonging (religiously and/or culturally) to either the Hindu or the Christian tradition, reflexively undertakes a study of a concept, image, ritual, author, text, etc., from the other tradition, and thus bring it into dialogue with his or her own.

Previous winners are: 1994-1996: **Francis X. Clooney**, Boston College, *Seeing Through Texts: Doing Theology Among the Srivaisnavas of South India*. (Albany, NY: SUNY Press 1996); 1997-1999: **Julius Lipner**, University of Cambridge, *Brahmobandhab Upadhyay: The Life and Thought of a Revolutionary*

(Oxford, England Oxford University Press 1999).

Saturday, November 22, 2003

Time and place TBA, see AAR Program
Panel Discussion: "Can Women Become Priests?"

Scholars speaking on the issue as it pertains to Christianity include: **Susan Ross**, Loyola University of Chicago, and **Maura Ryan**, University of Notre Dame.

Scholars speaking on the issue as it pertains to Hinduism include: **Vasudha Narayana**, University of Florida, **Laurie Patton**, Emory University.

Respondent: **Leslie Orr**, Concordia University.

2002 Annual General Meeting

The 2002 Annual General Meeting of the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies was held at the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature 2002 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Friday, November 22, 2002

6:30 p.m.

Trip to the Toronto Temple of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Dutch-Treat Dinner at the Temple restaurant

8:00-9:00 p.m.

A panel discussion took place. Theme: "Negotiating Multiple Religious, Ethnic, and

Political Identities in the Contemporary ISKCON Membership." Panelists included scholars and members of ISKCON.

Saturday, November 23, 2002

7:00-8:45 a.m.

Hindu-Christian Society Board Meeting took place.

9:00-11:00 a.m.

A panel discussion occurred. The theme was "Hindu and Christian Worship: Parallels, Differences, Appropriations." This panel explored the phenomenon and implications of Hindu worship settings which have been influenced by Christian liturgical practices, and Christian worship

settings which have been influenced by Hindu liturgical practices. The Chair was **Joseph Prabhu**, California State University. Panelists were **Pravrajika Saradeshprana**, Vedanta Society of Southern California, **Joseph Prabhu**, California State University, **Graham Schweig**, Christopher Newport University, and **Tinu Ruparell**, Liverpool Hope University College. Discussant was **Pratap Kumar**, University of Durban.

11.00-11.30 a.m.

The HCS Business Meeting took place. **Selva J. Raj**, Albion College, Presided.