

# DWARKA.INDIA

Virginia Orton April 2010



View of the city of Dwarka from the lighthouse at sunrise.

Dwarka is an enchanting city on the North West coast of Gujarat, India. It is one of the four holy pilgrimage sights in India and a training center for Hindu priests. In the Sanscrit language, Dwarka means door/gate to moksha/liberation. It is a Holy city, one in which pilgrims come to wash their sins away and worship the deity of Hari Krishna. It is the city of his ancient mythological kingdom. Today there is no known Christian presence in this area.

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## A new day is dawning

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It is believed that Dwarka in it's long history has been submerged by water 6 times. However, God is now bringing a season of mercy. The Lord spoke from Isaiah 49:15-16 *"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me."* This was confirmed through the Lord showing me a rainbow over the city on my last visit. A new day is dawning and an outpouring of His spirit is imminent! Dwarka is a city of worship, the very atmosphere is charged with it. This is it's redemptive purpose.

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## Vision

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### **A house of prayer and worship - the birthplace.**

This is foundational for breakthrough and release of power. It will be a catalyst for new ministries to be birthed as we seek his face (eg. church planting with tribal groups, training centers for believers). God will set people apart for the work (Acts 13:1-4).

Krishna (the main deity of Dwarka) is a Christ-figure, and his spiritual influence has flowed out to the western world through the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)- a worldwide confederation with over 400 centers. The house of prayer, potentially, will have a larger influence, impacting the power of this movement as we exalt Christ.

### **Ashram - culturally relevant expression of Christ.**

Coming from a foundation of prayer and worship in the city, I see an Ashram (a spiritual hermitage) established functioning in the Hindu tradition of meditation, yoga, and worship (Christ centered). It will be a place of spiritual instruction for local and pilgrim hindu-believers. It will also act as an evangelistic tool, being open to all to come and experience worship of the one true God in a way that is relevant in the Hindu culture (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Dwarka is an untouched area, unpolluted by western cultural Christianity. I believe that contextual relevance is of utmost importance, presenting Hindus true spirituality in a way that sees their culture redeemed. Whilst the prayer house will function free of any cultural form, the out-flowing of ministries are to be culturally sensitive, exemplifying Christ.

My heart is to see others raised up to carry the vision higher and see its reach go further. I believe my purpose is to lay foundations. To wage warfare and flood this city with worship, seeing the release of Gods supernatural power and revelation.

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### My role

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- ◆ Establishing the house of prayer and worship, recruiting and leading a team.
- ◆ Involvement in seeing an Ashram birthed and a team in place for it.
- ◆ Commitment and obedience in seeing spiritual breakthrough in this city for an initial period of 2-3 years.

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### Previous experience

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- ◆YWAM Discipleship Training School Holmsted Manor England ( Outreach to Athens) 2007
- ◆YWAM Volunteer Amsterdam Red Light District 2007
- ◆YWAM Staff member Holmsted Manor England (Lead outreach to India) 2008-2009
- ◆Preparatory 2 month trip to India. 2010

*Will train and serve in India (2011) with other YWAM workers, and will be part of a larger YWAM network in going to Dwarka.*

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### The way forward

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**April- Dec 2010** Equipping and preparation through study of the word, research, and recruiting.

**Early 2011** Move to Rajkot, India (capitol of the Saurashtra district which Dwarka is in); learn language/culture, work along side *friends* who reach a tribal group, spending time in Dwarka ‘spying out the land’ in preparation.

**2012** Based in Dwarka pioneering house of prayer.

*“...the end pursuit of gift and ministry is to come to know Him, to be joined in like spirit unto others in the Family of God who are seeking to come to the "fullness" of Him... so that together you might be able to comprehend, to apprehend, to receive fully... the living Christ, in the full expression of His Being.” George H. Warnock.*

Left: Virginia Orton,  
Dwarka Jan 2010

Right: The River  
Gomti meeting the  
Arabian Ocean in  
Dwarka. The place  
were pilgrims come  
to bath and believe  
their sins are  
washed away.

