

## Suggested Interview Questions

### *Saffron Cross*

By J. Dana Trent

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*My dating history had been insularly Christian, save for the non-practicing Muslim law student I dated briefly while at Salem College. What would I accept? Tolerate? I ticked off "Christian" and "Jewish" without hesitation. How did I feel about "Muslim," "Buddhist," "Hindu," "Spiritual, but not religious," "Agnostic," and "Atheist"? The last two were out; it would be difficult to bridge the gap between a Christian minister and someone who wasn't, at the very least, seeking God. The global traditions remained. I looked out the window in search of an answer. "All remaining world religions? Sure." I ticked them off one at a time, while whispering this mantra: "The possibility that I'd get matched with anyone who wasn't a Christian is minute, anyway, right?"*

*--Dana Trent, Saffron Cross*

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- Your book, *Saffron Cross*, is an interfaith love story. As an ordained Christian minister, did you ever imagine that you'd be married to a Hindu monk?
  - Had you shared a friendship with a Hindu before meeting Fred?
  - So how did you and Fred meet?
  - Were your differing religions a hindrance or a help during the "getting to know you" season of dating? Didn't you want to meet someone who shared your committed faith?
  - Do you recommend online dating to others singles? And do you recommend they include people of other faiths in the pool of potential dates? Why or why not?
  - How did you initially view Fred's Hindu faith, including his departure from Christianity? How did he feel about your Christian faith?
  - Once you realized that your relationship might go beyond dating, did you look for other interfaith marriages that might be models? If so, what did you discover?
  - You've been married for three years, so what is your best advice to other interfaith couples?
  - What does shared Sabbath-keeping look like for you and Fred?
  - What kinds of sacrifices have you each made to support one another's deep religious commitments? Have you made more sacrifices than other couples?
  - How does interfaith marriage offer a model for rich and peaceful interfaith relationships in our country and around the world?
  - What do you hope folks will consider or try after reading your story in *Saffron Cross*?
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**Guest:** J. Dana Trent (M.Div.) is an author, instructor and ordained Baptist minister

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