



**For Immediate Release**

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## ***Saffron Cross: The Unlikely Story of How a Christian Minister Married a Hindu Monk***

Nashville, TN—It all began with eHarmony and a lengthy compatibility questionnaire. Dana Trent, a 20-something Christian minister with a Masters of Divinity under her belt was giving online dating a try. So was Fred, a devout Hindu who had been living as a monk just 18 months previously. Somehow the eHarmony algorithms saw what human eyes might have missed: how two young adults of deep faith, but dramatically different faith traditions, could be a perfect match. J. Dana Trent shares the story of their interfaith love story in the pages of ***Saffron Cross: The Unlikely Story of How a Christian Minister Married a Hindu Monk*** (Fresh Air Books, October 2013).

Dana, a graduate of Duke Divinity School, paints a colorful picture of the merging of two faith traditions in one household. And though there have been challenges along the way, Dana and Fred's three-year marriage seems to have hit on a secret to interfaith marital success: shared worship. "The single best decision we made after saying 'I do' was to always worship together. Whether at my Baptist church or in Fred's Hindu temple, we live out our faith as a couple. It's brought us closer together, helped us understand one another in new ways, and given us a wealth of rich, shared memories."

Readers will be captured by the vivid images of interfaith romance: from first dates, filled with talk of God and the Divine, and a (sex-free) honeymoon in India to shared Sabbath-keeping and a blended home altar. ***Saffron Cross*** shares Fred and Dana's story along with rich interfaith insight:

- Like all marriages, interfaith marriage has its challenges. But worshipping together forges a bond not easily broken.
- A life of shared faith with a spouse does not require matching beliefs, just a commitment to honor and explore one another's deep faith.
- Asking questions, listening and learning are how we honor other faiths. The payoff is not just mutual respect, but the potential for resolving the world's deepest conflicts.
- Sometimes we have more in common with those of other faiths than we realize, and we miss out on astoundingly rich relationships if we don't check the "all religions" box for potential friends.

***Saffron Cross*** is being welcomed by Christians and Hindus alike and by those who foster interfaith communication. Susan Katz Miller, author of *Being Both*, has commented, "J. Dana Trent takes an exceptional story and makes it somehow universal. By turns funny, endearing, challenging and illuminating, ***Saffron Cross*** describes the interfaith future of our global village." Rabbi Rami Shapiro, an award winning author, poet, essayist, and educator, also recommends ***Saffron Cross***, "This story points toward a revolution in brand-name religion that may be a hallmark of America's religious landscape in the not-too-distant future."

The Rev. J. Dana Trent is an author, instructor, and ordained Baptist minister. She holds an undergraduate degree in French and history from Salem College and a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School. Dana has worked with nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and hospitals—holding positions at Duke University, UNC Health

Care, and the Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church. Dana is currently an adjunct faculty member at the Art Institute of Raleigh-Durham, where she teaches English, Public Speaking, and Student Success. Dana specializes in writing and spiritual direction surrounding interfaith topics, spiritual practices, and grief. Dana and Fred live in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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***Saffron Cross: The Unlikely Story of How a Christian Minister Married a Hindu Monk***

By J. Dana Trent

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