



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mission Week:
Buddhism 01

Article:
Enjoying God's Presence
in the Pandemic 03

Pulpit Program 04

Prayer Spotlight :
Mission Week 04

Upcoming Events 04

Buddhism



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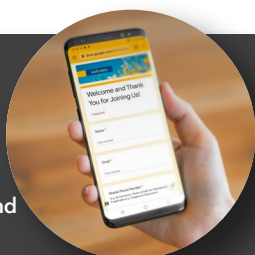
Website:
www.fbc.com.my

Buddhism is a spiritual tradition that focuses on personal spiritual development, and the attainment of a deep insight into the true nature of life. Some people regard it as a religion, and some as a philosophy (or "way of life"). Originating in India 2,500 years ago, it arose as a result of Siddhartha Gautama's quest for Enlightenment. He is actually not regarded as god or

a divine being, but is the Buddha or "the Enlightened one." As a whole, Buddhists represent 8% to 10% of the world's population. Half of the world's Buddhists live in China (around 244.1 million), but they only make up 18% of China's population. The countries with a predominantly Buddhist population are Cambodia (96.90%), Thailand (93.20%), and Myanmar (87.90%).

NEW?

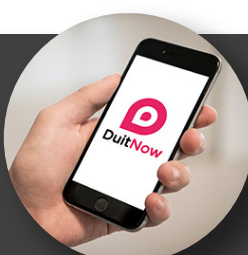
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Buddhists believe that life is both endless and subject to the *tilakhana*, or the states of impermanence, suffering, and uncertainty. They believe in reincarnation - that death is not the end. A person is continually reborn after they die (samsara), and the cycle only ends when one finds Enlightenment, or nirvana. The path to Enlightenment is through the practice and development of morality, meditation, and wisdom. It is achieved and can only be achieved through one's own efforts. Contrary to what the name suggests, the Threefold Way or Noble Eightfold Path are not actually steps to follow, but rather guiding principles that suggest the way to end suffering. Buddhism permeates thinking, philosophy, education, beliefs and worldviews in subtle, but unmistakable ways. It influences and affects all of life's daily practices.

And you may have noticed that Buddhism puts a lot of weight into being morally good. This is linked to *kamma* as their actions in their previous life dictates what they will be reborn as, and which realm they will be reborn into. "Do good and you will receive good. Do evil and you will receive evil." And one way you can practice doing right is through the Five Precepts, and Buddhism has become very popular because of its message of peace, compassion, and goodwill.

This May 26th, Buddhists around the world will be celebrating Wesak Day - the day the Buddha was born, the day the Buddha achieved enlightenment, and the day the Buddha passed away. They celebrate his message of compassion and devotion to the service of humanity. And on that day, Buddhists take extra care to practice the Noble Eightfold Path and Five Precepts - and almost all would avoid eating meat.

But is there a guarantee to salvation in Buddhism? How long does it take before one attains Enlightenment? How would you know when you can be free from desires and suffering? In Theravada Buddhism, only monks have any possibility of attaining nirvana, through rigidly keeping 227 or more laws perfectly. Mahayana Buddhists, recognizing this as being too strict, liberalized teachings to allow for an average person to press towards nirvana, primarily with the help of Bodhisattvas.

One can continuously try and work to rid oneself of selfish desires by meditating, to someday attain Enlightenment and be extinguished. But thanks be to God that because He so loved the world, He

sent His Son to redeem us and all Creation from suffering and pain. What true freedom there is in knowing that God has secured salvation for us! In Christ, eternal life is free to all who repent, trust and obey Him.

Titus 3:5 reads, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." It is not by our own efforts, nor do we have to doubt if we have done enough. The Holy Spirit is Wisdom, transforming us from the inside out, and empowering us to be Christ's ambassadors of peace, compassion, and service to humanity.

Why are we afraid to share such good news? 🗣️

Conversation Catalyst:

- Have you been to a Buddhist temple before? Share about your experience.
- Buddhism has subtly entrenched itself in different religions, cultural traditions, and worldviews. How has Buddhist influence invaded your Christian beliefs?
- Are we as committed or drawn to peace, compassion, and service to the people around us? How do we reflect God's love in our daily practices?

Read more about Buddhism in this article by Dr. Alex G. Smith, published on the OMF US website:
<https://omf.org/us/understanding-the-buddhist-worldview/>

Alex Smith, D.Miss, has served with OMF for 55 years as an author, administrator, lecturer, mentor, mobilizer, presenter and trainer. His pioneer church planting experience in Asia deepened his comprehension of Buddhism. His insights on the topic can be found in his books, such as *A Christian's Pocket Guide to Buddhism*. Dr. Smith now serves as OMF's International Trainer in the Buddhist World. He resides in the U.S. with his wife, Faith. They have three adult sons and four grandchildren.

Sources:

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/buddhist-countries>
<https://omf.org/us/understanding-the-buddhist-worldview/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/buddhism/ata glance/glance.shtml>
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<https://www.un.org/en/observances/vesak-day>

Enjoying God's Presence in the Pandemic



By Grace Yap

Grace is a member of Sisters in Christ LG and serves in FBC's Women's Ministry

Time flies! It has been more than a year of restricted movement, social distancing, and Zoom meetings. Family and friends have been concerned about my welfare because I stay alone. They are intrigued when I tell them I am enjoying God's presence and am joyful and contented!

During the first few weeks of total lockdown in March/ April 2020, I was kept occupied with learning how to use Zoom. This allowed me to help others install Zoom on their devices and fix trial sessions with them. It was initially a steep learning curve for me, but God granted me the wisdom and determination to learn.

I thank God for Zoom and technology that has enabled me to stay connected with my family and friends. God has also given me the opportunity to get to know many different people through virtual meetings. Increasingly, He is convicting me of the need to love and accept everyone because we are all created in His image and loved by Him. In John 13:34-35, Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

When I realized that the pandemic is here to stay and the future is uncertain, I surrendered myself to God. And as I learned to trust Him and believed that He is in control, I experienced a peace that is beyond human understanding and a joy that is indescribable! Looking back, I am in awe of how He has been gently leading and guiding me over the past year. Truly, it is amazing to discover how much our Creator God sees us, hears us, and loves us.

My daily morning prayer walk is something that I treasure. What a joy it is to start the day talking to God! Through this spiritual discipline, God has taught me the power of prayer and intercession, and I am constantly reminded to be a channel of blessing, encouragement, and shalom to others.

During the past year of the pandemic, I had the privilege of participating in the *NECF 40-days Fast & Prayer*. Since then, I have learned to fast and pray

whenever I seek God for wisdom or direction. At first, it was not easy to be quiet for just 5 minutes. But now I enjoy longer sessions of silence in God's presence.

I am thankful that God has given me a deep hunger for His Word. He has also been speaking to me through my daily devotion and Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) lessons. The BSF lessons from the book of Genesis were precisely what I needed in this gloomy and bleak time; I was reminded of God's sovereignty, omniscience, and faithfulness. He is trustworthy and nothing can thwart the good plans He has for us. He is indeed a personal God who wants to have a close and intimate relationship with us.

Each week, I also look forward to discussing the Sunday sermon with the Sisters in Christ Life Group via Zoom on Saturday mornings. Facilitating and participating in Life Group discussions help me meditate on scripture, reflect on the sermon, and ask God what lessons He wants me and the sisters in the group to learn.

I am grateful for opportunities to serve in the Sisters in Christ Life Group, Karis ministry, prayer meetings, and small group Bible studies. Very often I feel inadequate and wrestle with God. But each time, I am reminded that Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

God's presence has sustained us throughout the pandemic. He is Jehovah Shalom and Jehovah Jireh. He is faithful and He has promised not to leave us nor forsake us. May we put our hope and confidence in the Almighty God. May we be encouraged to taste and see that the Lord is good and be blessed by taking refuge in Him.

All glory and praise to the King of kings and the Lord of lords! 🙌

| Pulpit Program

May 2, 2021

The Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-15)



PREACHER
John Lee

May 9, 2021

Struggling with Doubt in Church

(Mark 9:14-29)

PREACHER
Arnold Lim

May 16, 2021

True Spirituality

(Matthew 6:1-8)



PREACHER
Dr Peter Ng

May 23, 2021

Free Topic



PREACHER
Lee Yee Dian

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs
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Sundays



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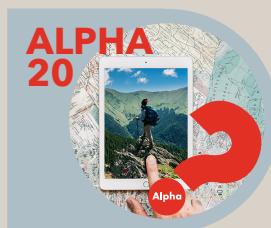
PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Mission Week



1. Praise God for His grace - that we are not saved by our own righteousness but through Christ's finished work on the cross.
2. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the Truth to our Buddhist family and friends and enlighten them on Whom true salvation lies.
3. Pray for opportunities and boldness to share Jesus with our Buddhist family and friends.

| Upcoming Events



Is There More to Life Than This?

22 July to
7 October 2021
Every Thursday
8:00pm

[CLICK HERE](#) to register



The Pastoral Epistles
Study on the Books of
1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus
Every Wednesday
8:30pm

Zoom ID: 830 3462 5458
Password: fbc

[CLICK HERE](#) to view video
lessons.
(Password: fbcgamma)



The Lotus & The Cross
With I'Ching Thomas

8 May (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm

Zoom ID: 955 9652 6733
Password: FBCMission



Daily Prayer Meeting

Every Saturday
to Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting

29 May (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137
Password: pray

[More Information on Upcoming Events](#)