



15 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE BUDDHIST WORLD

JAN 28-FEB 11, 2021



www.pray15days.org

Welcome to 15 Days of Prayer for the Buddhist World

Once again, believers around the world are picking up this guide to pray in faith for Buddhist people. We are trusting in the Holy Spirit to do the work of the Kingdom of God in the lives of Buddhists around the world.

In most nations where there is a Buddhist majority, there is, at best, a very small Christian presence. However, Jesus said in Matthew 17:20 that, "... if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move." As you pray through this guide, you are adding your seed of faith to that of Christian workers and local fellowships around the world who are bringing the light of Christ to their Buddhist neighbours.

You can pray through this guide at any time during the year, but we encourage as many as possible to use it from January 28-February 11, 2021, which is just before the start of the Chinese New Year on February 12. Chinese New Year is recognized and celebrated in many Buddhist cultures.

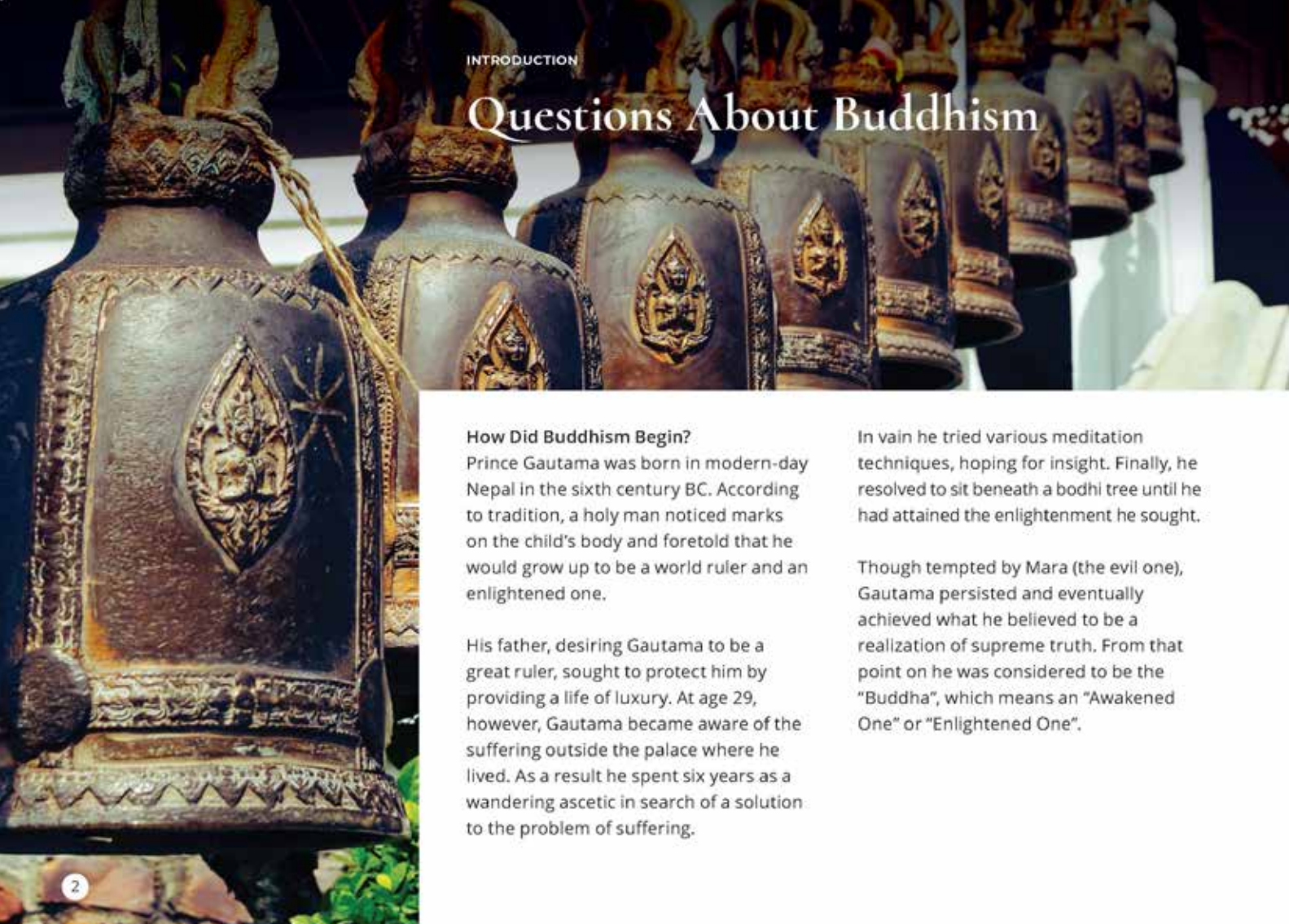
Buddhism is a complex and diverse system of beliefs, practices, and cultures. This guide does not attempt to provide a complete explanation of its varied expressions. The aim of this guide is to give you a glimpse into the lives of Buddhist people in different contexts around the world, to inspire you to pray for them and receive more of God's heart for them.



*"Walking with
God down the
avenue of prayer we
acquire something
of His likeness, and
unconsciously we
become witnesses to
others of His beauty
and His grace."*

- E.M. BOUNDS

Questions About Buddhism



How Did Buddhism Begin?

Prince Gautama was born in modern-day Nepal in the sixth century BC. According to tradition, a holy man noticed marks on the child's body and foretold that he would grow up to be a world ruler and an enlightened one.

His father, desiring Gautama to be a great ruler, sought to protect him by providing a life of luxury. At age 29, however, Gautama became aware of the suffering outside the palace where he lived. As a result he spent six years as a wandering ascetic in search of a solution to the problem of suffering.

In vain he tried various meditation techniques, hoping for insight. Finally, he resolved to sit beneath a bodhi tree until he had attained the enlightenment he sought.

Though tempted by Mara (the evil one), Gautama persisted and eventually achieved what he believed to be a realization of supreme truth. From that point on he was considered to be the "Buddha", which means an "Awakened One" or "Enlightened One".

What are the teachings of Buddha?

What are the teachings of Buddha?

The Buddha found his original companions in the search for enlightenment and preached his first sermon to them, where he outlined the "Four Noble Truths":

1. *Life is full of suffering and dissatisfaction.*
2. *Suffering arises from ignorance and desire.*
3. *Suffering can only cease by ending ignorance and desire.*
4. *The way to end ignorance and desire is through the "Middle Way" or "Noble Eightfold Path".*

Suffering, according to the Buddha, comes from our desire for things that are not permanent. This desire keeps us caught in an ongoing process of death and rebirth where everything, even one's very self, is an illusion. The only way to get out of the endless cycle of rebirths is to walk the "Noble Eightfold Path", avoiding extremes and living with right understanding, right thought, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and finally right concentration.

The end of the path is not eternal communion with God, but rather—like the flame of a candle being extinguished—a state where craving is ended. This comes about through self-effort, and there is no belief in a supreme creator God as spoken of in the Bible.

What Kinds of Buddhism Exist?

There are three major streams of Buddhism: Theravada, Mahayana and Tibetan.

Theravada Buddhism (which means “the way of the elders”) emerged from Sri Lanka, where the Buddha’s sermons and teachings were first written down as three great canons of Scripture known as the Tripitaka. It focuses on the attainment of enlightenment through personal meditation and good deeds. Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos follow in this tradition.

Mahayana Buddhism emerged in later texts attributed to Buddha, which taught that bodhisattvas, or enlightened beings, choose to delay entering nirvana (the ultimate spiritual goal of liberation) to deliver other living beings from their karmic suffering (based on a person’s past actions). This stream of Buddhism spread north from India along the silk route and was adopted in China, Japan, Vietnam, and the Korean peninsula.

Tibetan Buddhism (also sometimes known as Vajrayana) developed in the 6th century and incorporated traditional Tibetan and Nepali animistic and

shamanistic traditions with Buddhist spiritual beliefs. These focused on attaining enlightenment from tantric practices such as visualisation of bodhisattvas and sacred symbols and chanting mantras to release power. The Dalai Lama is head of this tradition and the monks are known as lamas.

In recent years, Westerners have adopted various forms of Buddhism that focus primarily on a quest for inner peace, sometimes following traditional Buddhist teachers or following a form that mixes Asian traditions with Western notions of Buddhism.

Praying for Buddhist People

Scripture is often interpreted by Christians through a Christian lens that is heavily influenced by western culture. But the Good News is intended to be good news for all, and Christian workers in Buddhist communities understand the importance of communicating the message of Jesus in ways that are relevant and meaningful.

As you pray through this guide, keep in mind some of the ways Buddhist cultures understand spirituality.

Buddhists do not believe in a creator God but do believe in various spirits and gods. They do venerate bodhisattvas or spiritual teachers who are worthy of respect.

Folk Buddhists believe there are good and evil spirits, including spirits of dead ancestors, but all these spiritual beings are caught up in the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.

Buddhism is not about belief alone but about doing. Achieving merit through almsgiving to monks and donations to temples is an important, traditional Buddhist practice.

Buddhists are not seeking eternal life – they already believe they exist in an endless cycle of death and rebirth. They desire liberation from endless life and suffering.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Many Buddhists are more likely to be impacted by the stories of Jesus' supernatural power and His free offer of salvation. Pray for miraculous healings and the revelation of grace. **(JOHN 1:14)**

Pray that Christians would listen to the Buddhist people around them. Pray that they will learn from them and from the Holy Spirit how to love those around them, even when faced with rejection or persecution. **(JOHN 14:15–21)**

Pray that God will help you to know how to pray for Christians who live among Buddhists, so they know how to share the Good News. **(1 COR 1:18–25)**

Buddhism among Han Chinese

At her home in Luoyang, China, Mya lights incense almost every day - every time she prays, performs a ritual, or meditates. The incense is made of sandalwood, releasing a fragrance and small line of smoke that helps her to concentrate. She asks the bodhisattva to help her with her daily problems and achieve success.

Mahayana Buddhism travelled to China 2000 years ago from India along the Silk Route. It was adopted by many and incorporated into the traditional Chinese beliefs in Confucian teaching and Daoism religion. This mixture of religious belief became part of the culture of the society. When the Communist Party assumed power in 1949 all religion was regarded as outdated and unscientific. During the

Chinese Cultural Revolution (1966-76), Buddhism was targeted along with all other religions and efforts made to erase it from the country. However, in recent years, along with Christianity, Buddhism has seen something of a revival with estimates of up to 245 million Chinese Buddhists following several schools of Buddhism. The veneration of Maitreya, the bodhisattva of compassion, is common as are various schools of meditation. Nevertheless, most Han Chinese would say they are not religious. Although most Chinese seek success and wealth many come to realize that this does not bring peace and satisfaction.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Religion is heavily regulated in China, making it difficult for the growing Christian population to share their faith. Pray for opportunities for Chinese Christians to share their testimonies with Buddhist friends and neighbours.

REVELATION 5:8-9 describes the prayers of the people of God as incense. Pray for the Buddhist people of China to sing a new song at the throne of God, as prophesied in this scripture.

Pray for Chinese Buddhists looking to meet their spiritual needs, that they will find all they need in Christ. **(COLOSSIANS 2:8)**

The Loba from Nepal

Chimmi is from the Loba tribe. He was born in a remote village in Mustang, Nepal, a northern region that borders Tibet. Raised in a Buddhist family, Chimmi attended school near his home, and then studied further in a nearby city.

Chimmi believed in karma, the idea that good actions are rewarded, and bad actions diminish the good rewards. Chimmi tried to be a good person and earn good merit but he found it difficult. In frustration, he gave up on karma and pursued some illegal activities. He ended up in prison for his actions. Chimmi's family was ashamed and abandoned him. Chimmi asked himself, "Why did this happen? Is it because of bad karma that I am in this situation? Where is my good merit?" He felt hopeless.

In prison, Chimmi met two brothers who had become Christians. They visited Chimmi and gave him a booklet about the life of Jesus which Chimmi read over and over. He began to see his life differently and understand that Jesus loved him and suffered for all of mankind.

Chimmi asked the brothers for a Bible. Soon after, he was pardoned and released from prison. He returned to his family to share his new faith with other Loba and they too have become believers. Chimmi has continued to share his faith and many others in his community have come to believe in Jesus too.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray for the Loba people and other Buddhist people who have few opportunities to hear the gospel. **(ACTS 1:8)**

Pray for the few Loba Christians and those who disciple them. **(ROMANS 10:15)**

Pray for Buddhists to experience salvation by grace as described in **EPHESIANS 2:8-9**.

Buddhists in Bhutan



Growing up, Pema absorbed her understanding of Tibetan Buddhism through the culture around her. In the Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan, only the lamas (spiritual leaders) learned the deeper things of Buddhism and were responsible to guard the worldview of society in Bhutan. In school, where the students learned Dzongkha, the official language of Bhutan, they also memorized and recited morning and evening prayers.

The school prayers were to the god of wisdom, for special people, and for good rebirth. Pema learned that the act of praying – memorised prayers or spinning

prayer wheels – was helpful for a person's karma. Good karma needed to be earned for a better rebirth. Her focus in praying, however, was the here and now – her troubled family. She was frustrated that she did not see any change in them or herself and did not feel much hope. But what to do? She kept doing what she had always done.

Pema found Christ when she grew older and in Him, she found her answers, forgiveness, and healing through prayer, led by the Holy Spirit and the Word. She wants to be one who teaches the message of Christ.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Many young people in Bhutan, particularly in urban areas, follow Buddhist traditions without real belief. Pray that they will be thirsty for Living Water. **(JOHN 4:13-14)**

Pray for Christians in Bhutan to be genuine examples of Christ, showing the love of Christ in everything they do, as salt and light. **(MATTHEW 5:13-16)**

Covid-19 has had severe implications for the people of Bhutan, where tourism is a vital industry. Fear and worry have increased, with pressure to perform more religious rituals to ease the hardship. Pray for them to know the peace described in **JOHN 14:27**.

Ladakhi People of India

In late October, the northern hemisphere is beginning to experience chilly weather. People often think of this as a time to reap the harvest from previous months. But for the people of Ladakh in Kashmir, northwest India, many are already cut off from the outside world due to heavy snow which lasts over half the year.

Ladakh's growing season only lasts a couple of months, but somehow, they have traditionally managed to survive as small-scale farmers. Water is in short supply in this high elevation desert, and the land can only sustain a few livestock. Ladakhi farms are irrigated by channels that funnel water from the melted snow from nearby mountains.

Ladakh is often referred to as "Little Tibet" because of the influence of neighboring Tibet. The population is divided evenly between Tibetan Buddhists in the east and Kashmiri Muslims in the west which can bring them into conflict because of their religious differences.

Over the past three decades many things have changed in Ladakh because of modernization. The Ladakh Department of Agriculture was able to persuade farmers to use chemical fertilizers and to replace their traditional communal labor systems for better production. But in matters of religion, traditional Buddhist practices are still followed and passed on to new generations.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray for the Ladakhi people to look to Jesus, the Lord of the Harvest, for salvation. **(ACTS 4:12)**

Pray for more workers to serve among the Ladakhi people and for those who are working hard to share the love of Christ with them. **(JOHN 4:35-37)**

Pray for developments in agriculture and education to help improve the quality of life for the people of "Little Tibet." **(PSALM 43:3)**

The Tai Lue People

The Tai Lue people are an ethnic group living in China, Laos, Thailand, Burma, and Vietnam who speak a Tai language. In China, they are officially recognized as part of the Dai ethnic group who live in the southern province of Yunnan, China. The Tai Lue people spread south from China to the surrounding nations of Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia where they adopted Theravada Buddhism. The Theravada tradition of Buddhism developed in Sri Lanka and was brought to Southeast Asia by monks where it was flourishing by the 12th century. It emphasizes spiritual transformation through one's own efforts, particularly through meditation, and ideally through life as a monk. However, there are many festivals that are enjoyed by the whole community.

A popular festival is Songkran which marks the new year on the Buddhist calendar and is celebrated in April. As part of the festival, people splash water over each other, symbolizing the cleansing of sin from the previous year and a fresh start for the new year.

The Tai Lue people in the villages can recall the stories told by their grandparents of people who came riding in on elephants long ago in the 1800s; they traveled from village to village sharing stories about Jesus. Some of their stories were even translated into the local languages, but most of the people have continued to follow Theravada Buddhism.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Ask the Holy Spirit to use the awareness of sin in their lives and their need to be forgiven to bring the Tai Lue to salvation. **(ACTS 2:38)**

Pray for Christian workers and believers who were formerly Theravada Buddhists to be fruitful disciple makers. **(MATTHEW 28:19)**

Pray blessings on the Tai Lue people. Be inspired by **EPHESIANS 1:17-19**

Buddhism in Cambodia

Sothia pushed his bike to make it go faster. He wanted to arrive in time for the special classes at the big high school in town. His mother had lit an incense stick to pray for his success in school and he wanted to make her proud of him by studying hard and passing the exams.

Sothia did pass his exams but paying for college would be a challenge for his parents, who had divorced. He wondered how he could afford to live in the big city, and then he learned of a free dormitory run by a Christian organization. It was an answer to his problem.

The friendships with other village students at the dormitory helped Sothia to quickly adjust to college. The dormitory staff were also supportive, and sometimes Sothia would listen to the Bible studies that they hosted. After a few months, he came to believe in Jesus.

Sothia's family took some time to accept his new faith, but they did not reject him. He continued to go to the village for holidays and family events like Pchum Ben (Ancestors' Day) which is a 15-day long Cambodian religious festival. It is considered unique to Cambodia, and is a time when Cambodians pay their respects to deceased relatives. All Cambodians are expected to participate in Pchum Ben and this can be a difficult time for Christians like Sothia as they work out how to participate in family life and keep their Christian witness.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray the blessings of **PSALM 128** on the people of Cambodia.

Young people in college or other training programs are more exposed to new ideas. Pray for them to find the message of Jesus online, or among new relationships. **(ACTS 17:32)**

Pray for Cambodian Christians to be a good example of honouring their parents and providing for their families, and to earn the respect of others as described in

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12.

Buddhism in Korea



Hwan recalls a school trip to a Buddhist temple. “We went to see what life is like as a monk. They had us sit on the floor with our legs crossed and meditate for 40 minutes. My legs cramped up and I couldn’t concentrate.” The trip was meant to inspire the students to consider joining the monastery, but Hwan, like most of his peers, had no interest in it.

Buddhism came to Korea in about 372 BC and absorbed some of the earlier Shamanistic beliefs of the region, even incorporating shrines to popular spirits. Today, Buddhists make up about 23% of the population in the South with an

estimated 2% of the population in North Korea.

In 1907 a Protestant revival occurred in and around the city of Pyongyang, what is today the capital city of North Korea with many people becoming Christians. Prior to the Korean War (1950–1953), two-thirds of Korean Christians lived in the North, but most fled to the South. It is not known exactly how many Christians remain in North Korea today. There has been some Protestant antagonism toward Buddhism in the 1990s, which has caused difficulties in witnessing to them.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray for Christians in Korea to be an effective witness of the gospel to Buddhists, making a defense for their faith with gentleness and respect, as directed in **1 PETER 3:15**.

Pray for Buddhists in Korea to have open hearts and minds to seek the Lord Jesus. **(DEUTERONOMY 4:28-29)**

Koreans in the United States are far more likely to be Christian, with 71% of Korean Americans identifying as Christian. Pray that they will support and join missionary efforts to Buddhists in Korea. **(ISAIAH 52:7)**

Images of the Buddha

Sunju helped her mother prepare a daily food offering for the Buddha image they kept in a special place at home in Korea. Sunju would wonder, "Why does the Buddha have such a small smile?" But she kept her questions to herself, knowing she needed to show respect to her elders and the Buddha.

Images of Siddhartha Gautama – the Buddha – have been made for centuries. The image is not so much a physical representation as a symbol, and the expression, pose and hand gestures of the image all have different meanings. A Buddha sitting with his right hand raised and facing outward symbolizes protection and overcoming fear. If the Buddha has both hands face up in his lap with his legs crossed, it is a meditation Buddha, representing calm and peace.

Sunju may have preferred to have an image of the laughing Buddha – who is not actually a Buddha at all, but a Chinese monk who was admired for his teaching and generosity. He represents happiness and prosperity and usually has a fat belly, waiting to be rubbed for good luck.



HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Symbols are important in all faiths. Jesus spoke of himself as the Light of the World. Pray that Buddhists will know that light. **(JOHN 8:12)**

Pray for Buddhists to find the righteousness, peace and joy that comes from His Kingdom. **(ROMANS 14:17)**

Be inspired to pray for Buddhists from **PSALM 115**.

Buddhism in Japan



Yua grew up in Japan surrounded by traditional religious practices. Every Saturday, Yua and her friends went to the Buddhist temple for Japanese calligraphy classes which took place after chanting and meditating. They also went regularly to the Shinto shrine to learn martial arts. First, they would clean the shrine, chant, and meditate before practicing the martial arts called “Kendo” as taught by a Shinto priest.

Buddhism first came into Japan in AD700-800 through scholars who introduced writing systems from China. At first, it was a belief for rich and educated people. As Buddhism

spread in Japan, it merged with the existing spiritual traditions of Shintoism, which is often described as an animistic religion with a focus on many spirits who inhabit the natural world. Buddhism and Shintoism were practiced together, with little distinction between them until the late 1800s. At that time, the Japanese empire was restored, and Shintoism became the state religion. After World War 2 this changed, but the majority of Japanese continue to practice both Shinto and Buddhist rituals, with Shinto traditions used for weddings and blessings, and Buddhist rituals for death.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

The Japanese have adapted their beliefs to include many spirits. Pray for them to have the revelation of Jesus, who came to show us the Father. **(MATTHEW 11:27)**

Only 1% of Japanese people are Christians. Pray for more workers to share the gospel here. **(MATTHEW 9:37-38)**

Read **PSALM 104** and be inspired to pray from it for the Buddhist people of Japan.

Buddhists in Thailand



Nung tugged at her mother's sleeve. "Ma, why are the monks here?" she asked. Her mom answered, "Your little brother has been sick for two weeks and the doctors don't know why. We have asked the monks to chant for him to bring him healing." The monks set up in the boy's room to chant while Nung's parents prepared gifts to give them after the ceremony.

At the end of the chanting session, one of the monks took special string and tied it around the little boy's wrists. He warned his parents, "Don't break or cut the strings, or let him break them. They will keep his spirit safe in his body while he recovers from his illness. The boy's parents then

formally offered the gifts to the monks in thanks for their services.

Nung's brother recovered slowly. She was very happy when he could finally run and play with her as usual. Until primary schools were provided by the state, the only place for boys like Nung's brother to receive early education was at the village temple. It is still common for many boys to become ordained and serve as a Buddhist monk for a few years before returning to secular life.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray for boldness for Thai Christians to pray for Buddhist friends or family members when they are sick. Ask God to heal in response to these prayers. **(LUKE 9:6)**

Pray for ongoing efforts in Thailand to improve access to healthcare and education in rural areas. **(2 CORINTHIANS 9:8-10)**

Pray for young men serving as Buddhist monks in Thailand to find Christ on their journey. **(MATTHEW 7:8)**

Sinhalese Buddhists in Malaysia

An and his family were building a special sandcastle to celebrate the new year. Each grain of sand in the castle represented a wrongdoing and would be washed away when the tide came in, enabling their family to start the new year well. An worked to make the castle higher!

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the night of the first full moon in April, Buddhist groups such as the Sinhalese celebrate the Theravada New Year. This marks the beginning of the lunisolar calendar, a system that marks both the phases of the moon and the solar calendar. This calendar was commonly used in many east Asian cultures and several Buddhist celebrations are determined by it.

The Sinhalese in Malaysia originally migrated from Sri Lanka, an island nation south of India, in 1890. Many of them came to assist the British colonial government with the administration of Malaysia and they brought their own form of Theravada Buddhism with them, funding some large temples which are still active and prosperous. About 30,000 Sinhalese Buddhists live in Malaysia today, and Buddhism is the second largest religion in Malaysia, with about 20% of the population, mostly ethnic Chinese, identifying as Buddhist.

This excerpt is based on a prayer entry from *Global Prayer Digest*, now merged with *Joshua Project's Unreached of the Day*, <https://joshuaproject.net/prayer/unreachedoftheday>

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray that the Sinhalese in Malaysia, as well as in Sri Lanka, come to realize that Jesus Christ Himself is the Light of the World, the true source of spiritual truth for which they hunger.

Pray for faithful workers who live out and communicate well the message of good news that Jesus has come to light their darkness.

Pray for every Sinhalese family to come together in gratitude and worship of the One who created the sun, moon, and the stars.

Buddhism in Vietnam

Whenever they could, Mai and her friends took weekend trips to visit nearby temples. It was refreshing to get out of the city, especially to visit temples in the mountains, and the Huong temple has a cave which shelters many different shrines to deities and even special rock formations which are considered sacred.

There are many others visiting the temple on a pilgrimage. Mai is not particularly devout, but Buddhism is a part of life in Vietnam and she makes a point of stopping at two particular rock formations called Nui Co (the girl) and Nui Cau (the boy) to ask for the blessing of a child, which she and her husband have been longing for. When she leaves, she will pay a dollar to a person holding small birds in cages. The dollar pays for the bird to be released, which Mai hopes will mean merit for her in a future life.

Buddhism has a long history in Vietnam and although many Vietnamese practice

traditional religions or no religion, Buddhism has influenced the culture of the nation significantly. Buddhism is the largest organized religion in Vietnam, with about 15% of the population calling themselves Buddhist.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray that Buddhists in Vietnam will experience the Father's love for them. **(MATTHEW 10:29-31)**

Pray for churches in Vietnam – whether they have been able to take services online or have had to stop meeting due to COVID-19. Pray that church members would grow in their faith and be witnesses to their neighbours. **(EPHESIANS 6:14-15)**

Vietnam has a vibrant culture, globally renowned cuisine, and a growing economy. Pray that their leaders will promote justice and peace in the nation. **(1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4).**

The Buryats

About 500,000 Buryat people live across northern Russia. Bayrma was born to a Buryat family in Siberia. Her maternal grandmother practiced shamanistic rituals when there was a family need. At school, Bayrma was taught that God was an outdated belief. Her paternal grandfather prayed with Buddhist prayer beads, burned incense before a small Buddha statue and visited a Buddhist temple once a year. But Buddhism was a mystery to Bayrma. No one talked to the children about it.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, Bayrma's father announced they now had freedom to follow the Buddhist path. It was the way of their ancestors. Bayrma's first visit to a Buddhist temple left her with many questions. Why were the prayers in Old Tibetan, a language they couldn't

understand? Why did they have to pay money for the rituals? Why were there so many Buddha statues and why could you not turn your back on them? Her father had no answers. He too was learning Buddhism. They were Buryats so they were Buddhists, he said.

In college, Bayrma was asked by some foreigners to help with some translation work and she became friends with them. She began attending a Bible study with them and was fascinated by a Bible in her own language. She began finding answers to many of her questions in its pages. She found stories in the Gospels that she could relate to. Putting her faith in Jesus gave Bayrma a new identity, one that was clear and free and led her to salvation.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

The Buryat are surrounded by many religious - and non-religious - belief systems, but few Christians. Pray that they will experience the living Christ.

Pray for the Buryat to discover their identity as God's beloved children.
(1 JOHN 3:1-2)

Be inspired to pray for the Buryat from **PSALM 115**.

Buddhism In America

American culture celebrates hard work and rewards individual accomplishment. A successful life is often recognized by the acquisition of material things.

Buddhism, with its pursuit of the acceptance of suffering and a focus on suppressing desire does not seem like it would easily integrate into the American way of life. And yet, Buddhism is ever ready to adapt.

Buddhism arrived in America with Chinese immigrants seeking their fortunes in the Gold Rush of the mid-1800s. Japanese immigrants helped popularize Zen Buddhism in the mid 1900's and young Americans travelling in India and Thailand developed an interest in Buddhist meditation in the 1960s and 1970s. Around this time, there was also an increase in immigration to

the United States from East Asia. This created a Buddhist population which is a combination of immigrants and converts, who adapted traditional practices to suit their own needs.

Today, only about 1% of the US population identifies as Buddhist and the majority of those are immigrants. Some Americans have incorporated Buddhist traditions such as meditation, yoga and the burning of incense in an effort to acquire the peace they hope it will bring.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray for Buddhist immigrants to the US to meet Christians who will share their friendship and their faith.

(MATTHEW 25:38-40)

Pray for American Buddhists, seeking peace and wisdom, to find the truth that sets them free.

(JOHN 8:31-32)

Pray for the church in America, to be light and salt to Buddhists in their nation. **(MARK 9:49-50)**

Shinbyu ceremonies in Myanmar

Nyan was excited as he dressed in the clothes of a prince for his Shinbyu ceremony. At 11 years of age, his family had finally saved enough money for him to spend a week at the Buddhist monastery. This event, which usually takes place in March, during school holidays, is the most important tradition for Buddhist families in Myanmar. Sending a son to the monastery for the first time is considered a blessing that will benefit the whole family and be a spiritual gift that will last a lifetime.

Everyone came out to watch Nyan parade to the most important pagoda in the village. Riding on a horse, he followed his

parents around the Buddha statue. His mother carried a box with the white robes he would wear at the monastery. Later, Nyan's hair would be shaved and kept in a cloth for his parents, and he would be formally accepted as a novice, observing the monastery rules and studying Buddhist scripture while he was there. But first - there would be a feast!

Buddhism is practiced by approximately 90% of the people of the Myanmar and has the highest number of monks in terms of the proportion of the population of any country.

HOW CAN WE PRAY?

Pray for Buddhist parents in Myanmar to know the good gifts that their Heavenly Father has for them and their children.
(MATTHEW 7:7-11).

Parts of Myanmar have seen ongoing conflict between different religious groups. Pray for peace and reconciliation through Christ.
(COLOSSIANS 1:21-23)

Pray a blessing on the children of Myanmar as Jesus did.
(MATTHEW 19:14)



Thank you for participating in prayer for the Buddhist World this year!

Keep praying for Buddhist people. We understand that Buddhism is complicated and can be hard to understand, but God responds to our prayers for Buddhist people, whom He loves.

For more information about Buddhism and resources to learn how to minister to those who follow Buddhism please visit our website at www.pray15days.org.

You can find more resources for prayer at: www.prayercast.com, and also at the Ethne project at: www.ethneprayer.org. Updated Buddhist World Prayer Guides are produced every year.

Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net) has an excellent app called Unreached of the Day. You can find it on any app store.

Visit World Prayer Guides at: www.worldprayerguides.org to order more and to find prayer guides for other groups and causes in many languages.

We would welcome your feedback on this prayer guide. Contact World Prayer Guides at: info@worldprayerguides.org



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