

## 30-Day Cycle of Prayer for Buddhists

### Day 1

**Need:** Buddhism's standard of morality is extremely high. Beyond the many rules, each person must deny all desires if he or she hopes to reach nirvana. Theravada Buddhism teaches that each person must save himself without help from any outside power. The laws are like a clear mirror showing what's wrong, but there is no soap powerful enough to clean.

**Prayer:** *Righteous God and Compassionate Savior, thank You for Your mighty power. Clean up my heart, my life, that those around me may know there is a God mighty enough to give them victory too. You gave us a new covenant and promised, "I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them" (Hebrews 10:16). Bring this hope to Buddhists that they might no longer struggle and fail in their own strength. I thank you in the mighty name of Jesus, amen*

### Day 2

**Need:** Almost 1 in every 6 people around the world could be called a Buddhist or has been strongly influenced by Buddhism. 150 million Theravada Buddhists live in countries like Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. 850 million Mahayana Buddhists live in such countries as China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Singapore, Vietnam, and wherever Chinese people have settled. Many of these are folk Buddhists who mix Buddhist beliefs with ancestor worship and other religions. These are faceless statistics to us, but God knows each and loves each as parent love their children.

**Prayer:** *Creator of nations, Light of the world, I honor You as the God who is great enough to see and love each human being. Fill my heart with Your love for my neighbor. Raise up Your church to passionately care for these millions of Buddhists. You guaranteed in Your word that at Jesus' coming the saved would be "a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues" (Revelation 7:9). Use me to help fulfill that promise. Let new work begin among those who've never heard. I ask this in the name of Jesus who died carrying their sins and mine, amen.*

### Day 3

**Need:** The cross is confusing to many Buddhists. Those who believe in karma and reincarnation easily assume that Jesus died for His own past sins. Many Buddhists think it is impossible for one person to receive the punishment of another.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, the God who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, find a way for Buddhists to understand Your great gift. Please fulfill Jesus' promise in John 12:32, "If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all peoples to Myself." Show them the beauty of Jesus' incredible sacrifice, His sweet love, and the way He forgave His enemies. Let my heart be touched each day by Your mercy and forgiveness that the peace and the joy in me might help them believe this story is true. I thank You in the name of my Savior, amen.*

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### Day 4

**Need:** A number of primarily Buddhist countries have serious poverty. Barely 1 out of 2 people in Laos can read. In Cambodia the average family tries to subsist on around US\$25 each month. Out of the 1.3 million children that are born each year in Myanmar, almost 1 out of 10 will die before they reach the age of five. The Gospel is for the poor, with its practical help and the hope of heaven, but few in these countries have felt God's loving arms through His church.

**Prayer:** *God of the fallen sparrow and God of the poor, thank You for having such great compassion for suffering, frightened and lonely people. Forgive me for being so absorbed with my own needs and happiness. Cleanse my heart from selfishness like You promised in 2 Corinthians 5:15. You are the God who "raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap" (Psalm 113:7). Work through Your people so that it might be true among Buddhists. Let me live for You and those in need. In the name of Him who became poor that we might be rich, amen.*

### Day 5

**Need:** Many philosophical Buddhists think it is foolish and unscientific to believe in any god. Buddha said a supreme God is unknowable, and that people should focus instead on what can be known and changed. Some Buddhists think the idea of a compassionate Creator is ridiculous since the world is unstable and full of suffering.

**Prayer:** *Supreme, eternal and all-powerful God, You hold in Your hands the life of those who deny You. Thank You for Your mercy to them. Thank You for Your mercy towards me. Many times I have forgotten Your nearness or failed to show You to others. You promised to pour out Your Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28), so fill me, and Your church world-wide, with the fruits of the Spirit, so that Buddhists may have clear evidence that You exist and are truly good. I am asking this in the name of Jesus, who showed the world His Father, amen.*

### Day 6

**Need:** If everyone in the village is Buddhist, can you imagine how difficult it is to become a Christian? This is especially true since most Asian cultures place harmony as one of their highest virtues. In many Buddhist countries people consider conversion to Christianity a betrayal of the family and the country. Jesus is considered a god for foreigners and outsiders.

**Prayer:** *Father of all nations, there is no prejudice in You, nor any limit to Your love. Let people everywhere know You are for them too. You have promised that Jesus "shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be from sea to sea" (Zechariah 9:10). Let it begin with me. Remove all my prejudice and give me a heart for Buddhist ethnic groups. Establish vibrant churches where there are none until our church can truly be called "a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7). I ask in the name of the Savior who broke down the wall of separation, amen.*

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### Day 7

**Need:** The unique sect called Tibetan Buddhism has fifteen million people in at least sixty ethnic groups. Persecution and war killed hundreds of thousands and scattered of refugees from Tibet around the world, especially into Russia, Nepal, India, Bhutan, China, Mongolia. The Dalai Lama has given Tibetan Buddhism a non-violent, peaceful face, leading to the conversion of many west-erners. A closer look reveals that much of this sect’s focus is on magical ceremonies and contact with spirits.

**Prayer:** *God of peace and safety, please set in motion a mighty plan to rescue Tibetan Buddhists. Persecution has made them hold on even tighter to spirits and to Buddhism. But the Bible promises, “All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wondrous things” (Psalm 86:9-10). Bring them hope, power, and a quiet resting place. Raise up thousands of workers for these many unentered people groups. In the name of the Prince of Peace, amen.*

### Day 8

**Need:** Gold-gilded temple by the thousands, hundreds upon hundreds of dedicated orange-robed monks, and a multitude of intricate ceremonies—these are the pride of Buddhists. Add to this the thousands of Buddhist scriptures, libraries full of books on Buddhist philosophy and a highly devel-oped system of meditation. Its high moral call demands the denial of all desires. Pride in their reli-gion leads many Buddhists to not even consider Christianity. They assume it has less to offer. The power and joy of a relationship with God remains unexplored.

**Prayer:** *“God who does not dwell in temples made with hands,” I honor You as my only pride and glory. May Your name be honored and known in every place for all of its majesty. Humble my heart and purify Your church that Buddhists might see something sweeter and purer than they have ex-perienced. Fulfill Your pledge that “Every mountain and hill shall be brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight...the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:4-5). Make a highway for My God through me, I pray in Jesus’ glorious name.*

### Day 9

**Need:** Cities tend to have a negative impact on every religion, including Buddhism. People in a big city may still call themselves Buddhist, but live their lives with a secular, materialistic focus. Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand, is an example of where city life chokes out religion and Jesus must compete with a thousand attractions. Peaceful Thailand is a prospering tropical paradise. 90% of its millions are Buddhist and more than half of the country has never heard the gospel. In the south it’s 75%.

**Prayer:** *Ruler and Builder of the Heavenly City, thank You that You see past the smog and the traffic to each valuable city-dweller. Please give me a heart of hope and love for the cities. Raise up work-ers and establish house churches in easy reach of each of the millions in Bangkok and other large cities. I trust it is true for us today as it was for Paul and the city of Corinth when You said, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city” (Acts 18:9-10). I ask in the name of Jesus who is building mansions for them, amen.*

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### Day 10

**Need:** Busyness is a weed that crowds out the chance for the gospel seed to grow. For example, Japan has around 88 million people who follow a mixture of Buddhism and Shintoism. However, their companies keep the men so busy that they have almost no time for their own religion, let alone to consider Christianity.

**Prayer:** *God who never slumbers nor sleeps, yet lives in perfect peace, bring calm and rest to this harried world. You have said, "Be still and know that I am God" and then the next phrase will happen: "You will be exalted among the nations" (Psalm 46:10). Quiet my heart, teach me to slow down and look to You. Teach Your church to be more prayerful than programmed, more peaceful than pushy. Let Buddhists see what they are searching for in us. In the name of the One who calmed the sea, amen.*

### Day 11

**Need:** Most Buddhists are very inclusive in their thinking and feeling, viewing each religion as good. A restaurant might have incense burning before pictures of Buddha, Jesus, ancestors and a local god. If a Christian portrays Jesus as the unique Savior, a Buddhist will often think, "I can accept Jesus as an enlightened teacher, but surely He's not the only way!"

**Prayer:** *God, and God alone, thank You for sending Jesus as the Way. Since only the Holy Spirit can open their eyes to see that Jesus is Lord, (1 Corinthians 12:3), then send Him to Buddhists today. Humble my heart that I might not unnecessarily offend Buddhists, yet give me such a joy in Christ's salvation that they can recognize how special His unique gift is. Make my words both tactful and courageous. My assurance is Your word, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." (Philippians 2:10-11). I trust in Jesus' name, amen.*

### Day 12

**Need:** Buddhist temples have done much to give children an education and some moral direction. Today television and video games are filling their minds with garbage instead. Poverty grinds many families until their children are unwittingly sold as sex slaves. China has made it illegal to witness to anyone under the age of 18. Millions of Buddhist children don't yet know about the Jesus who welcomed children on His lap.

**Prayer:** *Tender Father, the Bible says that You will gather the lambs with Your arm and carry them in Your bosom (Isaiah 40:11) and that even if a mother forgets her child, You will not forget them (Isaiah 49:15). Because of these promises, I plead that You will protect these little ones and send loving Christians into their lives to give them food and safety, homes and education. Most of all I ask that they might come to know the Jesus who said, "Let the little children come." Use me, Lord, in His sweet name, amen.*

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### Day 13

**Need:** Christian missions have existed in some Buddhist countries for hundreds of years with little response. This leads many Christians to feel it is impossible to reach Buddhists. Missionaries have often turned instead to those who are more responsive, such as those from animistic hill-tribes. The faith of the Church remains too small, not expecting great things from God among staunch Buddhist populations.

**Prayer:** *God of the impossible, increase my faith! "Is there anything too hard for the Lord" (Jeremiah 32:17)? Teach me to expect amazing things from you. Haven't you promised, "You may ask me for anything in My name and I will do it" (John 14:14)? So I'm asking now. Lord, do beyond what any of us are hoping, and let there be springs of water in dry lands (Isaiah 41:18) as you pour out Your Spirit like the rain. Let Buddhists begin turning to You by the thousands. In the name of Jesus who promised we'd do "greater things" (John 14:12).*

### Day 14

**Need:** In some countries with Buddhist background, the communist or socialist governments are persecuting Christians and limiting evangelism. Christians have died for their faith in North Korea. Many are regularly imprisoned in Vietnam. Open-air evangelism is not allowed in Myanmar. While some Buddhists are impressed by the Christians' courage, many others can't imagine taking the risk or simply haven't had a chance to consider it.

**Prayer:** *Mighty Defender, watch over Your precious witnesses. Give them courage and love toward their enemies. Let their words and even their blood be like seeds that spring up to eternal life in the hearts of Buddhists who listen and watch. It is true that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). I claim Your courage for myself and ask that You would make me faithful in little acts of service and faithful even to death. Thank You, in the name of Jesus the faithful Witness and Martyr, amen.*

### Day 15

**Need:** Most Buddhists are not very hopeful about reaching Nirvana any time soon. They leave that for monks and try to make some merit in hopes of a better reincarnation and perhaps a short stay in some sort of heaven. Funerals speak of never meeting again. In their understanding, the wheel of suffering continues to roll with a crushing weight while they have no solid hope.

**Prayer:** *Life-giver and my Eternal hope, open the eyes of Buddhists everywhere to see the Doorway You have made into eternity. Help them know that merit making is not enough, that "there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). Let their sorrow turn to joy as they learn the scriptures assurance, "He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces" (Isaiah 25:8). Fill my heart to overflowing with this hope, let me comfort others as You have comforted me because of Jesus' death alone, amen.*

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### Day 16

**Need:** Many Buddhists believe that a woman must be reborn as a man before she is eligible to reach nirvana. Most sects in Buddhist countries discourage or do not allow women to be ordained. Frequently women also bear the brunt of the hard labor of rice farming. In poor families it is often the daughters who stay home to help while the boys go off to school. Development agencies have found that the greatest way to help a country's poverty and health problems is to educate and empower the mothers.

**Prayer:** *God who made woman and man in Your image, protect and encourage Your ladies worldwide. Raise up Christian women to minister full-time among Buddhist women in areas of development, education and gospel work. Show me how to be used by You too. Let them come to know Your promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" and be able to say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me" (Hebrews 13:5-6)? In the name of Jesus, truest Friend of women, amen.*

### Day 17

**Need:** Much of the Christian literature that has been translated for Buddhists is not easily understood. New ideas are introduced too quickly, foreign illustrations are used. Topics don't fit. For instance Christians quickly want to talk about a living God and forgiveness through Jesus' death, two major differences with Buddhism. Quality materials are desperately needed that lead step-by-step from what Buddhists believe and value to what Scripture teaches.

**Prayer:** *Father in Heaven, You sent Jesus to show Your truth in a way people would understand and love. I don't know how to lead a Buddhist to You, so give me wisdom as You promised in James 1:5. Inspire Christian writers around the world to write the good news in a way that Buddhists can readily appreciate and enjoy. Scatter Your truth in languages that have never heard the name of Jesus. I ask this in the name of the Living Word, amen.*

### Day 18

**Need:** Some Buddhists do not feel the need for a savior or a conviction of sin. They may see sin as only the breaking of the 5 Precepts which they think they haven't broken. Others are fooled by their riches or status into thinking they are blessed because of their good karma.

**Prayer:** *Law-giver and Judge, may Your holiness be known. Send the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised, to "convict the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment" (John 16:8). Open Buddhists' eyes to see beyond their cultures of kindness and religion of morality to the selfishness that lies in each of our hearts. Convict me of my sins and all I can yet be through Your power. Let Your church become so filled with Your character that Buddhists will feel their need of the same. In the name of the Savior, amen.*

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### Day 19

**Need:** Refugees and immigrants from Buddhist countries have often settled in large groups in specific countries. For example, because of the Vietnam War, there are over a million Vietnamese in the USA, 300,000 in France and 150,000 in Australia. It is estimated that 35% of Vietnamese people have never heard the gospel. Christian churches have often neglected starting ministries and churches among the many Buddhist ethnic groups that have moved into their backyards.

**Prayer:** *God who "made from one blood every nation," You who works constantly "that they should seek the Lord" (Acts 17:26-27). Thank You for moving millions from countries closed to the gospel right into the very neighborhoods of Christians. Forgive us for being unaware, and interested in them. Remove all prejudice. Fill me with a desire to know them, to be helpful and interested in those who are different from myself. Thank You that You will give me "a word in season" (Isaiah 50:4) since I don't know what to say. Raise up ministries and churches that speak their languages. In the name of Jesus, who was a refugee too, amen.*

### Day 20

**Need:** Many Buddhists are lulled to a fatal sleep by the false hope of reincarnation. God has given us this one life, but Buddhists assume there are many more chances to come. Theravada Buddhism teaches you can save yourself. Some sects of Mahayana Buddhism proclaim various beings as saviors. Millions strive on in the vain hope that their merits or prayers will bring them salvation.

**Prayer:** *Redeemer God, Your Word gives me great hope for Buddhists, for You promised, "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 26:18). Turn them from their false hopes and beliefs to the truth of one life and then the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Help them know that there is only one Savior who is God eternal and who alone has died for their sins. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### Day 21

**Need:** Buddhism has grown rapidly in western countries over the last forty years. They have at least 1500 temples in the USA and claim to have ten million followers there. Some turn from the forms and failures of present-day Christianity, to the peace and simplicity they see in Buddhism. Even many who call themselves Christians no longer believe that salvation is found only through Jesus.

**Prayer:** *Builder of the church, forgive me, and forgive Your church, for not living the radical and attractive life of Christ that would have captured the hearts of those drawn to Buddhism. You have promised, "I will cleanse them...I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned....Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth" (Jeremiah 3:8-9). Transform us, and raise up Christian workers in the western world to effectively speak and live Your love. Empower me to speak for You and let the uniqueness of Jesus be seen in all its beauty. For His glory, amen.*

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### Day 22

**Need:** Many Buddhists have no access to a Bible or Christian literature. The Bible has not been translated into the heart languages of many Buddhists. For instance, there are 107 languages in Myanmar but only 2 languages with a full Bible and 10 with a New Testament. Over 80% of Myanmar is Buddhist.

**Prayer:** *You who speak through prophets and parables, who gave us the Holy Scriptures, cause Your Word to advance into every language. Let us see Your prediction fulfilled, "My word that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the things for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Your Word is for the salvation of the nations, so raise up Bible translators and church planters and use Me to place the Bible in the hands of Buddhists. I ask in the name of the Living Word, amen.*

### Day 23

**Need:** Theravada Buddhism clearly teaches that no one can escape the consequences of his or her sins. Tortures in hell are vividly pictured on many temple walls. Salvation comes only through one's own good deeds and meditation. There is no forgiveness of sins.

**Prayer:** *Thank You merciful God, that You "have no pleasure in the death of the wicked" (Ezekiel 18), but are "longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Please reveal the truth about hell and salvation to Buddhists. Let me so live and express the confidence of Your forgiveness and the joy of eternal life that they might see its reality and believe. I rejoice in Jesus who conquered the grave, amen.*

### Day 24

**Need:** The family is under attack around the world and that includes many Buddhist families. Divorce and unfaithfulness have skyrocketed in countries previously known for their family values. One of the greatest horrors is child prostitution. In Thailand alone there are approximately 800,000 children under the age of 16 who have been sold or tricked into being prostitutes (200,000 under 12). Slavery, abuse, AIDS, broken hearts and broken dreams are the daily reality of these little ones.

**Prayer:** *Father, Creator and Redeemer of families, come near to the brokenhearted and comfort them. Turn the hearts of fathers to their children and children to their fathers as You said You would do in the last days (Malachi 4:6). I claim Your promise that whole "families of the nations shall worship before You" (Psalm 22:27). Please strengthen my home to reflect Your plan and power to others. Raise up solid Christian families to reach entire families of Buddhists. In the name of Him who died to make us one, amen.*

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### Day 25

**Need:** Jesus lived a life of radical simplicity, rejecting material things and living for the poor. He modeled peace in the midst of chaos and forgiveness in the face of hatred. Buddhists are drawn to just such characteristics. Unfortunately they often see Christians who are stressed-out while they pursue their own financial or political gain and church full of people fighting with each other.

**Prayer:** *Forgive us for caring more about our comfort and personal gain than about the Buddhists who don't know You. Forgive us for bickering in our churches while the lost search for truth. Cleanse us and let us be what You believed we could be: "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Let me live the life of Jesus, amen.*

### Day 26

**Need:** Many Buddhist are convinced that all suffering comes from personal sin, either done in this life or a previous life. Though this motivates many to avoid evil and choose good, it shames a blind beggar or a poor widow since most everyone assumes it is his or her fault. How many handicapped and impoverished people need the comfort of God's love and the knowledge of Satan's role in suffering?

**Prayer:** *Thank You that You promised, "You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more" (Psalm 10:17-18). Do this through me, by showing me how to comfort the hurting, to lift their burdens and to show them how to trust You for their every need. Come Lord Jesus and end this horrible conflict with Satan and suffering, amen.*

### Day 27

**Need:** "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Christian missionaries today are largely sent to where there is already an established Christian presence. Much of mission offerings also end up going to schools, hospitals and organizations which have on-going needs. Huge unreached areas can never vote on our boards or cry out for a missionary, yet God sees the one lost lamb and longs for His children to leave the ninety-and-nine and begin the search.

**Prayer:** *You told us to pray for more laborers for the harvest (Matthew 19:38), so I'm confident You will answer as I ask You to raise up thousands of workers to begin ministry among Buddhists. Let it begin with me. Take all of me: take my time, my talents, my money, my family and my career. Let all that I have be for You and for reaching the people with whom You want to spend eternity. In the name of the One who is coming to reap the earth, amen.*

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### Day 28

**Need:** The high-fat, high-sugar and high-meat diet of the west has taken the east by storm. This means that many Buddhist countries are suffering more and more from cancer, diabetes, strokes and heart disease. The interest in health information and lifestyle change is rapidly rising. Scripture is full of wisdom that leads to good health. God has incredible power to heal the heart and the body. Most Buddhists still wait to meet this Great Physician.

**Prayer:** *Healer of body and soul, thank You for Your wisdom and Your power. May it be known among Buddhists who are struggling to regain health that You are the God "who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction" (Psalm 103:3-4). Help me to honor Your health counsel, caring for the body You gave me so that I might serve You with all my strength and mind. Train up Your church to touch the sick with kindness, simple treatments, education and prayers for healing. I ask in the name of Jesus whose healing touch transformed each village He entered, amen.*

### Day 29

**Need:** Buddha told people to stay away from magic and superstitions. He also told them to depend on themselves and not to look to him as a god who could help them. But people feel a need for power, so millions of Buddhists have turned to fortune - telling, amulets, mediums, and all forms of magic for help. These are open doors through which the powers of evil deceive and destroy.

**Prayer:** *Victorious Warrior, You who contends with the enemy and sets the captives free, I praise Your mighty power (Isaiah 49:25). Thank You that Jesus "has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). Open the eyes of Buddhists to see the lies of Satan and the greater power of God. Protect me from evil and use me to bring Your freedom to those bound by evil. I thank You in the freeing name of Jesus, amen.*

### Day 30

**Need:** God longs to have each Buddhist look up and say, "Abba, Father." Jesus personally carried each Buddhist's sins. The Holy Spirit strives today to draw each Buddhist closer to salvation. Sleepily, the majority of Christians are unaware of Buddhists nearby or far away.

**Prayer:** *Wake us up, loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Cause these dead bones to live (Ezekiel 37). Pour out Your Spirit to finish Your work (Acts 1:8). Let Your church rise up to the great challenge of sharing Your love with Buddhists. Do in us and through us, "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). "Here I am, Lord, send me" (Isaiah 6:8).*