



team
PRAYER FOCUS

APRIL 2022

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS!

Over the last several months, we've been focusing on specific ways to pray for followers of major world religions. This month, we focus on how to pray for Buddhists. Over 500 million people ascribe to Buddhism worldwide, and most of those are concentrated in Asia. Here are three specific ways to pray for Buddhists.

1. Pray for an understanding of the EXCLUSIVITY of the Gospel.

Jeff M., a TEAM worker in Thailand, says that many Buddhists don't practice a "pure" form of Buddhism, but rather a mixture of Buddhist ideology along with other religious traditions and animism. Because of this pluralistic worldview, Buddhists are often open to Christian ideas but want to add them to their existing theology. Pray for Buddhist people to comprehend the truth of Acts 4:12, that salvation comes through Christ alone.

2. Pray for BOLDNESS to be counter-cultural for Christ.

There is a Japanese adage that says, "The nail that sticks out gets hit!" This mindset of not wanting to stand out or be different from others is a pervasive way of thinking among Buddhist cultures. The cost for Buddhists to follow Christ is often great as they attract the attention of their family and friends in a way that may not be pleasant. Pray for new believers in Christ as well as those contemplating the Gospel to have courage and boldness to follow Jesus despite the cost.

3. Pray for Buddhists to find HOPE in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Stella C. served as a TEAM missionary in Japan for 65 years. She notes the increasing role of materialism and busyness in Japanese and Buddhist culture. "[People] are so involved with their jobs, sports, etc. that they don't have time to think about the existence of the true God."

Often it is only when hardships come – such as sickness or difficulties within the family – that Buddhists can begin to seek the hope that is found only in Christ.

**BUDDHIST PEOPLE NEED TO "HAVE THE EYES OF THEIR HEARTS ENLIGHTENED, THAT THEY MAY KNOW THE HOPE TO WHICH HE HAS CALLED THEM."
(EPHESIANS 1:18, ESV) WE WANT TO FAITHFULLY LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.**

TURN OVER FOR MORE REQUESTS!



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- Sun:* **PRAY** for Buddhists to begin to see the conflicting worldviews between Christianity, Buddhism, and other mixed ideology.
- Mon:* **PRAY** for Buddhists to sincerely investigate the Bible's claims that Jesus is the only way to eternal life and that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes to this truth.
- Tue:* **PRAY** for courage for those who are wrestling with placing their faith in Christ when they know that taking this step will likely lead to negative responses from their family and friends.
- Wed:* **PRAY** for boldness for new believers to move forward in grace and truth despite persecution.
- Thu:* **PRAY** for Christians to reach out to their Buddhist friends, family, neighbors and co-workers, building relationships that point people to Jesus.
- Fri:* **PRAY** for God to use the circumstances of life to get the attention of Buddhist people, that they may seek and find the hope of the Gospel.
- Sat:* **PRAY** for the hearts of Buddhist people to be turned from the darkness of seeking "Nirvana" to the one who is the Light of the World.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

- 1. UKRAINE** | Churches in Ukraine continue to do their best to minister to the critical and immediate needs of their people, especially those unable to seek shelter from the fighting. Pray for TEAM-affiliated churches and ministries that face incredible challenges on a daily basis.
- 2. CZECH REPUBLIC** | TEAM workers in the Czech Republic received refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine as early as one week into the conflict. The needs for these displaced people are many, including food, shelter, medical and hygiene supplies, and other basic necessities. Relief efforts are in place through TEAM and other agencies. Pray for funds to be dispersed quickly and effectively to meet these critical needs.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

- 1. TAIWAN** | Taiwanese pastors from all over the nation are encouraged by monthly presentations from TEAM workers, equipping the churches as they send their own missionaries to other regions such as Cambodia.
- 2. IRELAND** | TEAM workers in Ireland are reaching children with biblical messages through a puppet ministry. God is using this ministry to build relationships in the community and has recently begun to open doors for the puppets to make an appearance in the National Schools.