



CHANGE THE MAP

PRAYER FOR THE BUDDHIST WORLD

FIFTEEN DAYS OF PRAYER
FOR THE BUDDHIST WORLD

WWW.PRAYFORBUDDHISTS.COM

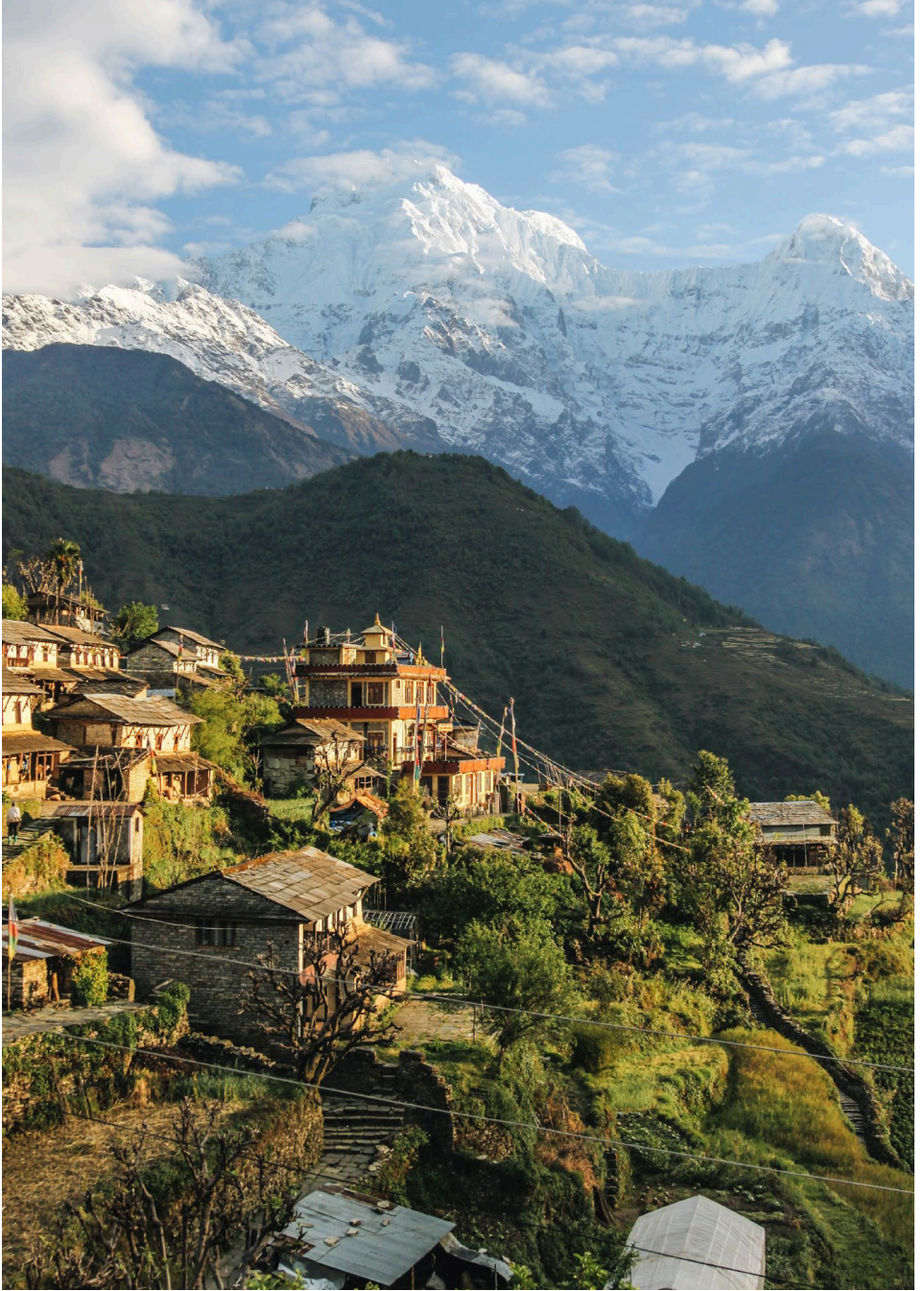


THE JOURNEY BEGINS

This 15-day prayer guide comes from true stories sent by Change The Map workers throughout the Buddhist world. They illustrate the spiritual challenges and victories that are happening there today.

May the Lord anoint your prayers as you take this journey into the Buddhist world.

Change The Map exists to inspire you to pray for the world's one billion Buddhists. Your prayer is the most powerful means to open the hearts of Buddhists who are waiting to experience the love of Jesus Christ. Find testimonies of salvation, resources, and current prayer requests at www.ctm.world.



All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. (Psalm 22:27)

DAY 01

A PICTURE SPEAKS

“Who is that?” Everyone followed the gaze of the girl to a picture on the wall...

A group of young people from a predominantly Buddhist country were selected to represent their country in an international sports competition in nearby Nepal, a Hindu-majority country. Several athletes had never traveled far from their villages and certainly had never been on an airplane before. Mostly, though, the athletes’ families were concerned because their children had never been outside their structured Buddhist culture. To calm the families’ fears, two key leaders agreed to go with the group. Amazingly, one of these leaders was a follower of Jesus.

Upon arriving in Nepal, the group was escorted to a local hotel. As they entered the lobby, one of the athletes said, “Who is that?” Everyone followed the gaze of the girl to the wall where a picture of Jesus was neatly framed. The competition’s organizing committee had unknowingly assigned this Buddhist group to a hotel owned by Christians. Seizing the opportunity, the Christian leader explained, “It’s Jesus!” and told the group who Jesus is. One question led to another, opening the door for more questions all week long. On the trip home, one of the athletes leaned over to his leader and said, “I believe Jesus is the real truth.”

PRAYER:

Pray for Buddhists who travel to other countries to meet with Jesus, be open to Him, and make Christian friends who will pour into them.

ACTION STEP:

As you go through this book, look for ways to share the love of God and the good news of Jesus with people around you who may have never encountered Christ before. Make a point of talking with foreign tourists and immigrants.





"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit." (Joel 2:28-29)

DAY 02

DREAMS & VISIONS

“I didn't know if I should go, but before I could, I woke up.”

I took a ministry to Muslims class in 2007 and discovered how often Muslims have visions and dreams about Jesus. Ever since then, I have been praying for Buddhists to have dreams about Jesus, before I even knew that dreams are extremely important in Cambodian culture.

I brought a visiting team from the U.S. to meet my neighbors in the mid-sized Cambodian town where I lived. The little grandpa that lived across the street was excited to see them and told us that the previous night he dreamt that these very people came to his house.

“All of you were smiling and looked so kind,” he said. “I knew that you felt sorry for me and wanted to help my family. Then in my dream, you,” he pointed to one of the team members, “invited me to come upstairs. I didn't know if I should go, but before I could go upstairs, I woke up.”

I explained to Grandpa that the team members were people who loved Jesus and that they wanted to help him and his family, not because he was poor, but because they wanted him and his family to know how much Jesus loved them. He just smiled and nodded.

About a year later, Grandpa came to tell me he had dreamt about me the previous night. He saw me riding a motorcycle and remembered the license plate number. When he woke up, he played the license number in the lottery, and won! These dreams have not yet led Grandpa to Jesus, but he, like most Cambodians, sees dreams as very significant. I believe dreams can and will play a powerful role in bringing Cambodians to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER:

Pray for the salvation of the grandpa in this story. Pray for Buddhists to have dreams that lead them to Jesus and to Christians who will share about Jesus.

ACTION STEP:

Today, use Scripture to combine worshiping God with praying over the Buddhist world. For example, Psalm 86:8-9 says, “There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.”



For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

DAY 03

THE LIVING WORD

He didn't even recognize the Vietnamese word for "Bible."

At his friend's invitation, Sang, a Vietnamese university student, came to the Christian-run coffee shop. He met some American university students who were volunteering at the coffee shop for the summer. They were reading their Bibles, a book Sang had never heard of before. He didn't even recognize the Vietnamese word for "Bible." The students explained that the Bible was a book of stories about God. Sang was shocked! "There's more than one story about God?"

Over that summer, Sang regularly came to the coffee shop to spend time with his new friends and hear more about God from the Bible. At the end of the summer, Sang took his friends on a memorable trip to visit his family's home in another town. Afterward, Sang decided to become a Christian.

Sang grew in his faith and eventually got a job at the coffee shop where he first heard about the Bible. He was dating a non-Christian young woman, but he knew he should only marry a fellow believer. After some time, he led his girlfriend to the Lord, and they got married. God has blessed their family with a beautiful daughter. Sang now has his own successful business and continues to live as a committed follower of Christ

PRAYER:

Thank God for Sang's salvation. Pray for the coffee shop ministry to continue to be fruitful in God's Kingdom. Pray for others like Sang to come there who are hungry for God.

ACTION STEP:

Spend extra time in the Word of God today. Memorize a Scripture that reminds you to share the Word with others. Ask God for opportunities to talk about His Word with the people around you. Be bold today and ask someone if they've read the Bible.





Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (Ephesians 6:13)

DAY 04

STANDING FIRM

The spiritual practices made Anny very uncomfortable, but how was she to oppose her dying father?

Anny's family lives in the mountains of Laos. They were Buddhist for much of her life growing up. However, when her aunt became sick, a local Christian was called to pray for her. Everything changed. Anny's aunt was miraculously healed and Anny's mother began attending a gathering of Christians in a house church. Soon after, Anny saw a change in her mother and she also began attending church. Anny's father was very opposed to his wife and daughter attending church. He forbade them to go, and out of respect they submitted. However, he often had to travel for work, and when he was out of town Anny and her mother would attend the house church. Anny asked her mother why they went after her father had told them not to. Her mother responded saying, "Just don't tell him. He doesn't need to know."

Anny's father became ill soon after Anny and her mother surrendered to Christ. As he was dying, others brought monks to do their ceremonies and offer alms to the spirits on his behalf. The spiritual practices made Anny very uncomfortable, but how was she to oppose her dying father? She did not participate in the ceremonies, but her heart was conflicted.

After her father passed away, Anny and her mother had freedom to attend church regularly and became very involved in their fellowship. Despite the heartbreak of losing their husband and father, they have clearly seen the contrast of the healing power of Christ and the futility of Buddhist rituals.

Anny recently got married. She and her husband are now embarking on the journey of building a family and Christian heritage in a majority-Buddhist nation. The challenges are undeniable, but they are committed to following Christ no matter the cost.

PRAYER:

Pray that people like Anny and her mother, who face opposition from Buddhist family members, will stand strong and have wisdom from Jesus to honor Him and love their families well. Pray for Christians, both in America and in the Buddhist world, to love God wholeheartedly. Pray that believers will surrender the world's values for God's values.

ACTION STEP:

Write down a minute-long story about a time God did something miraculous in your life. Memorize the story and practice sharing it in conversation. Pray for the opportunity to share your experience and tell it to someone today.



For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." (Isaiah 57:15)

DAY 05

REHABILITATION & REVOLUTION

He fell into the wrong crowd and became addicted to drugs.

Fynn had been a Buddhist monk for several years when an American man came to his monastery in Bhutan and shared about Jesus. Fynn was intrigued and wanted to learn more, but eventually he lost contact with the man. In his search for truth, Fynn left the monastery, but he fell into the wrong crowd and became addicted to drugs.

Very recently, Fynn found himself in a drug rehab center in a new city, hearing from the same man who had shared the gospel with him five years ago. He knew it was a miracle! This time Fynn's heart was open and he decided to follow Jesus. His journey to recovery has not been perfect, but he is learning more about God and growing in his faith.

Drug addiction is a major problem in many Buddhist nations. The Golden Triangle spans Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. Other nearby areas are also known for heavy involvement in drug trafficking and trade.

Teen Challenge and other international Christian rehab programs face pressures from lack of financial resources and personnel, and government regulations that create difficulty to open and run rehab centers. Social norms are also opposed to losing face

PRAYER:

Pray for Buddhists to find salvation and freedom from addictions in Jesus. Pray that Buddhist monks will meet with Jesus while they go about their lives, teach, meditate, and sleep.

ACTION STEP:

Look up Christian drug rehab centers in your area. Find out if there are ways you can support them and volunteer to get involved in their ministries.



*"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."
(Jeremiah 29:13)*

DAY 06

ADVENTURE IN TIBET

He asked everyone he knew around him if they knew who Jesus is, but no one knew.

A Tibetan Buddhist monk began to have dreams of a man coming to visit him. The man was dressed completely in white and said His name was Jesus. The monk had the same dream over and over. He asked everyone he knew around him if they knew who Jesus is, but no one knew.

Unsatisfied, he decided to walk to India to try to get an audience with the Dalai Lama to ask him about Jesus. On the way, he came across some aid tents set up by local Christians. Tired from his journey, he stopped in and asked them if they had ever heard of a man named Jesus. They shared the gospel story with him and ultimately the monk gave his life to Jesus. Today he owns a business and is one of only two Tibetan Christians known by foreign Christian workers in that area.

Tibetan Buddhism is known for its dark and dangerous practices, including self-harm dedicated to pleasing spirits, which is clearly demonic. Monks like the one in this testimony believe that this is the only way they can get out of the cycle of rebirth and reach enlightenment. Tibet is also very closed to outside influence, especially Christian influence.

PRAYER:

Pray for people in the Buddhist world to realize there is no way to earn righteousness for ourselves. Pray that they seek the One True God for the truth of salvation.

ACTION STEP:

Paul told the Christians in Ephesus to pray "at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18). Today, spend time fasting and praying over the Church, all Christians, both in your city and in Buddhist nations.





For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:21-23)

DAY 07

BACK TO BUDDHISM

She has returned to regular Buddhist worship practice.

Ying came to study English at a local church's English conversation program near her university. She had grown up in a Buddhist home, but was open to learning about the Christian God at the parties and activities offered by the English program after classes. Ying experienced God's love through the genuine and caring friendships she made at the church. She became more and more interested in Christianity and started studying the Bible with one of the English program's staff.

While at the English center, Ying started dating another student there, Glong. Glong kindly listened to people when they shared the gospel, but he kept firmly to his Buddhist beliefs. Glong openly explained why he believed in the Buddhist teachings and practices. Still, he made friendships at the church and attended all the English program activities with Ying.

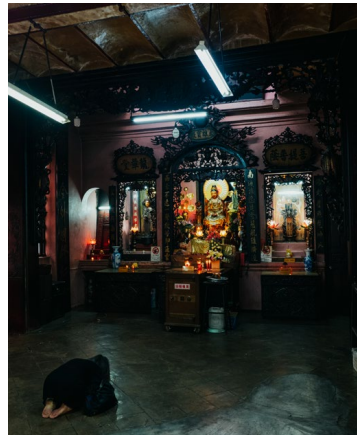
When Ying and Glong graduated, they felt so much at home at the church that they brought their families to meet their Christian friends. However, as often happens in this Buddhist culture, after they moved back to their hometowns to find work, Ying's interest in Christianity, which once was so sincere, faded and seemed to end. Ying is no longer reading the Bible or searching for truth from God. She has returned to regular Buddhist worship practice.

PRAYER:

Pray for the salvation of Ying and Glong. Pray for Christians in the Buddhist world to fully surrender their lives to Jesus. Pray that those who are interested in Christ will not be pulled away by friends, family, or the traps of the world. Pray for them to seek strong relationships with other believers.

ACTION STEP:

Find someone newer to their faith and ask to spend time with them. Encourage them in their faith, commit to consistently spend time together, and offer to have regular times of prayer and Bible study.





But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

DAY 08

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

She made up her mind to return home and die.

A local businesswoman, well known for her success, was diagnosed with lung disease. She began visiting the hospital in hopes of a cure, but to no avail. She spent all of her money searching for a way to save her life. She soon became poor and her wealthy friends lost interest in her. Eventually, she was completely alone. She had one final hope: travel to the best hospital in the country. She sold everything she had in order to travel and stay at the hospital. If they couldn't help, she made up her mind to return home and die.

When she arrived at the hospital, the doctor told her that he didn't think they could help her. However, he said he knew someone who could. The doctor told her that he knows the Lord Jesus who heals diseases and he asked if he could pray for her. She agreed, the doctor prayed, and the woman felt the touch of God on her body. The doctor immediately took her to be scanned and her lungs were visibly improved.

What medical doctors were unable to do over the course of several months, Jesus did in a matter of minutes. The woman stayed in the hospital for a few more days while she took more tests and her lungs fully recovered. She returned to her hometown completely healed. Now she goes to her old friends and tells them about the greatness of the One True God who heals. This woman also challenges local believers to share their faith with others.

PRAYER:

Pray for believers in the Buddhist world to be like the doctor in this story who had boldness to share about Jesus and faith to pray big prayers. Pray for them to also be like the woman who had the love and forgiveness to go back and share about Jesus with her affluent friends who had abandoned her.

ACTION STEP:

Step out in faith to visit someone who is sick. Pray and believe for their healing.





Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ...to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:7-8,10)

DAY 09

ALL OR NOTHING

They had once invited a spirit to be their protector and guide, a common practice in this area.

Ann is a missionary living in a strongly Buddhist area. She built a friendship with a couple, husband Lek and wife Ploy. Doors opened to share her faith with them and they began to attend church with her, drawn by the caring atmosphere for them and their son. Before long both Lek and Ploy prayed a salvation prayer.

Soon afterwards, the family began to experience deep problems. Lek was arrested for drunk driving. Ploy began to suspect Lek was being unfaithful. She started to have bad dreams. Her health deteriorated, forcing her to quit her job. A Buddhist friend suggested the problems were happening because they abandoned Buddhism, and that they must continue to go to the temple, give food to the monks, and make merit for Ploy's deceased parents.

Ann discovered that they had once invited a spirit to be their protector and guide, a common practice in this area. They became extremely concerned about offending their spirits. Ploy sought the advice of a fortuneteller who warned her that to avoid upsetting the familiar spirit she must not participate in Christian ceremonies. Ploy was very afraid because she had already participated in communion and prayed the salvation prayer, and now bad things happened frequently.

Ploy attended church for a while, but never stopped her Buddhist practices, and she could not forsake her familiar spirit. She wished she could be both Buddhist and Christian, but ultimately she retracted her profession of faith, stopped going to church, and returned the Bibles Ann had given her. She hoped Ann was not disappointed or angry and would understand that it is too hard for someone born Buddhist to change religions. Ann still visits Ploy and is praying for her salvation.

PRAYER:

Pray for Lek and Ploy to be saved. Pray that Buddhists who begin to seek after Jesus will experience complete spiritual freedom: to be free from evil spirits, to find protection in Jesus, and to stand strong in faith in Him.

ACTION STEP:

Study the differences between Christianity and Buddhism. You can find helpful information at <https://www.prayforbuddhists.com/buddhism101>. Pray about how you can be used to communicate Christ to Buddhists wherever you go.



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

DAY 10

OBEYING THE HOLY SPIRIT

He began to flail his arms and yell, but I kept sharing. Nothing changed.

I was at a small Thai church, about to preach the Sunday morning sermon. During worship, I looked outside and saw a man in the street flailing his arms and dropping to the ground, kicking and screaming. He pointed in the air, yelling. Then he prostrated himself and recited Buddhist prayers. He did so repeatedly.

The Holy Spirit told me, "Go pray for him." I reasoned with God, "I'm about to preach, I can't leave. Besides, this guy's crazy, and I can't help him." God told me that an evil spirit possessed the man and that I needed to go talk to him. I just stood there. The Holy Spirit pounded on my chest and again told me to go pray for the man. After gathering my courage, I told the pastor that we must go pray for him. She grabbed her Bible and we went outside.

I told the man that God loves him and can give him the peace he is searching for. I explained how the answer to his life question is inside the church and that if he came in, God would heal him and give him peace. He began to flail his arms and yell, but I kept sharing. Nothing changed. Eventually, we returned inside. "God," I prayed, "why did You have me go pray for him if nothing was going to happen?" I explained the situation to the congregation and a woman stood up and prayed for the man, inspiring the rest of us to join her.

When I returned to the church a month later, the pastor asked, "Do you remember that man you witnessed to last month? Yesterday he came to church for the first time. He used to hate us and yell curses, but yesterday, he came because he was hurting. We ministered to him." Through his miraculous deliverance, he is moving toward faith in Jesus.

PRAYER:

Pray for people who hate Christians to receive the love of God through Christians who choose to love them. Pray for the man in this story as we await his salvation, and others like him who need deliverance.

ACTION STEP:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to speak with someone with boldness today. Bring up Jesus in conversation. Pray for God to give you opportunities, boldness, and love. Continue to ask God to give you more of His heart for lost people.



The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound... (Isaiah 61:1)

DAY 11

GOD OF THE RICH AND THE POOR

His leaders learned about what he was doing, so he lost his job.

A high-ranking police officer in our town hated Christians. He only knew Christianity as the religion of the poor. He himself was Buddhist. The officer was married, but his wife passed away, leaving him to care for his two children. He began to feel like there was no hope for him in this life. He missed his wife. After some time, an elderly and affluent woman in his village asked to talk with him. She had noticed his distress. "Have you heard of Jesus?" she asked him. "Christians follow Jesus," he said, "and that's the religion of the poor. It's not for me." She revealed to him that she was a Christian. The officer had never met an affluent Christian before, and he wondered if Christianity could really be a religion for people of every status.

Over time, this woman explained the gospel to him. This hard-hearted, Christian-hating police officer eventually decided that Jesus was the only hope for his life. Soon, the officer started sharing his newfound belief with anyone who would listen. As a high-ranking officer, he held the respect of those under him, so his employees listened to what he had to say.

The officer's leaders learned about what he was doing, so he eventually lost his job. This man continues to boldly share his belief with those around him. He even shared about the importance of evangelism at his church's Christmas service. The police always station an officer to sit in their Christmas services, but they've begun rotating officers each year because so many of the men stationed there decide to follow Jesus.

PRAYER:

Pray for God to raise up more Christians in leadership positions in the Buddhist world. Pray that they will have boldness and love to share Jesus with others, like the police officer and the affluent woman in this story.

ACTION STEP:

Think about someone in your life who has seemed closed off to the gospel, or someone you have felt you could not share with. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and speak with that person about Jesus this week.





*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...
(2 Corinthians 10:4-5)*

DAY 12

A SPIRITUAL BATTLE

She knew for certain that ghosts existed.

Cherry became a housekeeper for a missionary family in a majority-Buddhist nation. It was her first encounter with Christians, and the first time she had ever heard the name of Jesus. Over a period of several years Cherry grew increasingly interested in Christianity, but something kept her from committing her life to Jesus.

Cherry agreed to have a weekly Bible study with the missionaries, and one day while meeting together, the subject of ghosts and evil spirits came up. The missionaries explained that ghosts were not spirits of dead people as many believe, but instead were demonic spirits from Satan trying to control people through fear and demonstrations of power. Cherry surprised them by disagreeing strongly. She said she knew for certain that ghosts existed because her dead father had recently revealed himself to her. Her daily practice was to “feed” her father’s ghost by meditating, lighting incense, and leaving food at his urn on the spirit shelf in her home.

One day she experienced a terrible headache and realized she had forgotten to “feed” her father’s ghost. She rushed home and did the ritual, and her headache immediately disappeared. The missionaries prayed for Cherry and challenged her to stop “feeding” her father’s ghost for one week to test and see whether Jesus is stronger than the evil spirits pretending to be her father. They prayed intensely throughout the week that followed.

Upon meeting a week later, they asked Cherry, “Did you ‘feed’ your father last week?”

“No,” she answered.

“Did you have any headaches?” they asked.

“No,” she answered.

“Are you ready to give your life to Jesus?” they asked.

“Yes,” she answered, and prayed with the missionaries to receive Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

PRAYER:

Pray for the spiritual freedom of people in the Buddhist world, and for their prayers and believers’ prayers to be answered as evidence of God’s power over evil spirits.

ACTION STEP:

Today, spend time fasting and praying against the demonic activity in Buddhist nations. This is a spiritual battle, and it requires intense spiritual warfare.



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

DAY 13

A LIFE WORTH LIVING

He had lost everything and decided to drown himself in the river.

Yaden was a Tibetan Buddhist monk (or *lama*). He had lived at the lamasery (monastery of lamas) since he was five when his parents left him there to gain merit. He was a dedicated monk, and rose to become a leading, teaching lama, training others about Buddhism.

One day a Christian visited and gave Yaden three scriptures. Yaden sent three lower monks to find a Bible to see if the scriptures were real. They found a Bible and brought it to him. Yaden found the verses, and said, "I found the scriptures and they have touched me, but unless God speaks to me directly, I cannot serve Him."

Soon Yaden heard his mother was very ill. He left the lamasery to see her, but she died before he arrived. Yaden's family blamed him for his mother's death, saying, "Because you left the lamasery, Mother is dead." Yaden was crushed that he had lost both his mother and his family. Instead of returning to the lamasery, he took his money to start a business, but it failed. Yaden felt he had lost everything and decided to drown himself in the river.

At 3:00 am, alone on the road, Yaden heard a voice say, "Where are you going?" Yaden was startled and looked around, but saw no one. He continued walking, but heard the voice again, "Where are you going?" Again no one was around. After taking a few more steps he heard the voice much louder, "Where are you going?" This time he stopped and said, "I'm going to the river to drown myself. I have nothing to live for." The voice answered, "No you're not. I have plans for you." Yaden dropped to his knees and gave his life to Christ.

Yaden got married, has a daughter, and his ministry is focused on reaching Buddhist lamas with the gospel.

PRAYER:

Pray for Buddhist monks like Yaden to experience Jesus. Pray for people in the Buddhist world who consider suicide to meet with Jesus and to experience His love through Christians.

ACTION STEP:

Pray about someone in your life who might be struggling with depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts. Reach out to them and let them know you're thinking about them and praying for them. Also try to spend time with them regularly and encourage them.



So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:12-15)

DAY 14

OBLIGATIONS

Forsaking the monkhood was akin to denying salvation to his mom.

Pong started attending church during his senior year at college in northern Thailand. He knew little about Christianity but was captured by the warmth of Christians and wanted to join. I invited him to one-on-one weekly Bible studies and Pong came every Tuesday morning. After several months of studying about God, Jesus, the Bible, prayer, and other basics, Pong was growing in faith. He was committed to daily devotions and church attendance and even joined the worship team as a guitarist.

We finished our third week of studies on water baptism and I asked Pong if he was ready to be baptized. He said he had not yet become a Buddhist monk, as is expected of all young men in Thailand, and that he had to do so for his mom. He intended to enter the monkhood after graduation for a brief time and then he would get baptized.

I asked Pong why he felt obligated to do it. His answer was eye-opening. In Theravada Buddhism the highest merit is earned by becoming a monk. Women cannot be monks in Thai Buddhism, but they earn merit vicariously when their firstborn son enters monkhood. Pong felt that forsaking the monkhood was akin to denying salvation to his mom. He felt deeply obligated to become a monk for her sake.

We prayed together for his mother's salvation, and talked about the power of prayer that is greater than anything else he could do to help his mom.

Even though his mother did not become a Christian, just before graduation Pong asked to be water baptized. He told his mother that he would not become a monk, and that her salvation was in Jesus Christ alone. He continues as a strong Christian to this day.

PRAYER:

Pray for people like Pong to have strength to follow Jesus, even when it goes against their culture. Pray that they will have wisdom, humility, boldness, and love towards the people in their lives and that their witness will stand strong in Christ.

ACTION STEP:

Ask God, "Is there anything I'm doing that You want me to stop doing?" and "Is there anything I'm not doing that You want me to begin doing?" Write down your recent activities and decide what needs to change, and then make those changes.





*And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.
(2 Corinthians 11:14-15)*

DAY 15

A YOUNG CALLING

A monk identified him as the child reincarnation of one of the original monks.

Tre is a high-order Buddhist monk who had slowly developed a friendship with a Christian foreigner living in Tre's majority-Buddhist country. One day the monk asked his foreign friend to go to lunch so he could share his story of how he became a high-order monk. The friend accepted the lunch meeting on the condition that Tre would also let him tell his story about how he became a follower of Jesus Christ. They agreed on equal time for both stories.

The lunch turned into a bigger event than the foreigner expected. Tre brought with him eight junior monks who serve and follow him. His story began at ten years of age when a monk identified him as the child reincarnation of one of the original monks who had brought Buddhism to their country centuries ago. To prove it was true, young Tre was put into a room with several of this country's most important Buddhist leaders. Fifty objects were placed before him and he was asked to identify the three that had belonged to the original monk centuries before. The reasoning was that if he were the true reincarnation, he would recognize his own relics. Tre quickly identified the three correct objects. When asked how he did it, Tre said, "An inner voice told me." Since then, Tre has been venerated as a high-order monk.

When it came time for the foreigner to tell his story, he began with, "I too heard an inner voice." All nine monks grew quiet and listened intently while he shared with them how the gospel changed his life. They asked genuine questions as seeds of faith in Jesus Christ were sown deeply that day.

PRAYER:

Pray for the salvation of the monks in the story and for more interactions like this between Christians and Buddhists. Pray that Buddhist monks will be open to opportunities to hear the gospel and to listen to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit when He calls them.



ACTION STEP:

More needs to happen in the lives of these monks, and other Buddhists like them, before they decide to follow Jesus. So the question remains: What are you going to do about it? Ask God with an open heart what He wants you to do with this knowledge, and put plans in place to obey Him.

KEEP GOING...

Thank you for joining us on this journey into the Buddhist world. The stories you've read are powerful examples of how your prayers can make a difference.

Whether you're just starting your intercession journey, or have been praying for Buddhists for years, we've created some great resources to assist you.

Sign up for our monthly prayer guide at www.ctm.world and explore more media, resources, and information on Buddhism. For more frequent, targeted prayer points, follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**.





CHANGE THE MAP
BUDDHIST PRAYER INITIATIVE