

---

# 15 Days of Prayer

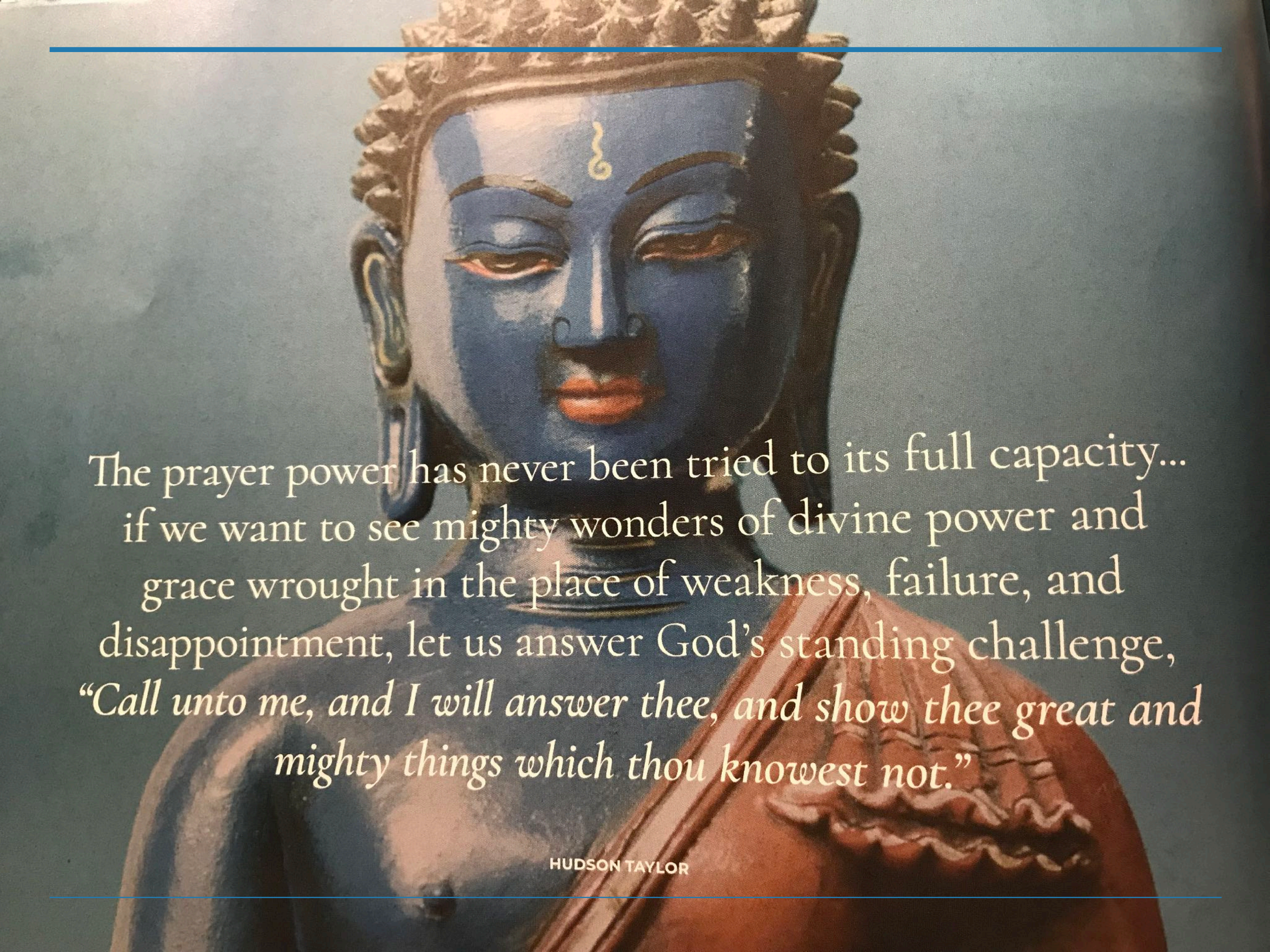


## for the Buddhist World

18 January - 1 February, 2022

---





---

The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity...  
if we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and  
grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure, and  
disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge,  
*"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and  
mighty things which thou knowest not."*

HUDSON TAYLOR

---



---

# Why pray for the Buddhist world?

- first and foremost because of their spiritual state without Jesus; they are lost
    - many Buddhist people groups are considered Unreached or Least Reached. They "have no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelise without outside help." *Joshua Project*
  - God's Name is not lifted up in that part of the world; He is not glorified there.
  - Buddhism "punches above its weight", having increasing influence on worldview and lifestyle in the West
-



---

# *The Lord's Prayer*

བཀའ་བཏེན་གྱི་སྒྲིབ་ལམ།

*English Version*



---

# Stats

---



---

6.5%

Percentage of world population that is Buddhist



---

678

Buddhist people groups



---

# 530

UPGs among Buddhist people groups - 78.2%





Most Buddhist still live in the Buddhist heartlands





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxAzks8tVJ0>



---

# Pray for:

- For more Christians to become aware of the Buddhist world and regularly pray for the people in it
  - For more resources to be developed to help Christians to do the 2 things above, and to help them engage with Buddhists near them.
  - Pray for more Christian workers to go to the Buddhist regions.
  - Pray for Disciple Making Movements to happen amongst the various Buddhist peoples.
-

---

# A bit about Buddhism

- considered one of the major world religions
  - Buddhism is a complex and diverse system of beliefs, practices and cultures. It has been likened to a blanket that falls on existing cultures and conforms to the landscape underneath.
  - no creator God
  - not about belief alone, but about doing
  - not seeking eternal life but relief from the endless cycle of death and rebirth and suffering they believe in
  - many Buddhist are folk Buddhists, believing in good and evil spirits.
-



---

**Where it all started**

---





---

# The Buddha

---

- born @500BC
- named Siddhartha Gautama
- historical, but details fuzzy
- royal but gave it up to find the meaning of life
- tried everything and finally just meditated under a fig tree and became 'enlightened' to the Middle Way
- widely taught the Middle Way he discovered
- died at around 80



# The Middle Way

- The Four Noble Truths
    - all life is *dukkha* (suffering, imperfect, empty, impermanent, insubstantial)
    - ignorance and desires of the senses lead to *dukkha*
    - deliverance from *dukkha* can be achieved through attaining enlightenment
    - attaining enlightenment is achieved by obeying the Buddhist ethic, The Eightfold Path
      - The Eightfold Path
        - right view
        - right intention
        - right speech
        - right action
        - right livelihood
        - right effort
        - right concentration
        - right mindfulness
-



*Song: Longing for a Saviour*





---

# Pray for

- Buddhists to have dreams and visions of Jesus, clearly encountering Him, which lead them on the path to salvation. "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *John 14:6*
  - Buddhists are more likely to be impacted by stories of Jesus' supernatural power and His free offer of salvation. Pray for miraculous healings and the revelation of grace. *John 1:14*
-



---

# **3 Major Branches of Buddhism**

---





---

“DOCTRINE OF THE ELDERS”

# Theravada

---

- preserved most of original nature of Buddhism
- Buddha a teacher not a god
- teaching for monks/nuns only, not common people. Only they can achieve nirvana
- Pali Canon - 1st century BC collection of Buddhist scriptures
- emphasises strenuous ascetic discipline
- “southern Buddhism” -Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnams, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka





---

“THE GREAT WHEEL”

# Mahayana Buddhism

---

- for everyone
- reaction to austerity & individualism of early Buddhism
- emphasis on:
  - faith in and devotion to the Buddha
  - love and compassion for all living beings
- define the doctrine of “emptiness” and non-attachment
- pantheon of buddhas, bodhisattvas, and spiritual beings
- “northern Buddhism” - China, Korea, Japan, Tibet
- includes several types: Zen, Pure Land, etc





---

“TIBETAN BUDDHISM”

# Vajrayana Buddhism

---

- a form of Mahayana Buddhism
- syncretism between Buddhism and original Tibetan religion, Bön (shamanism)
- considered fastest way to enlightenment - one lifetime
- pantheon of celestial beings
- includes tantra (secret occult rituals) and yoga
- key figure is the lama (guru)
- rituals are key: including mantras, prayer wheels and flags, visualisation of mandalas, sacred hand gestures, etc
- 4 main schools - Dalai Lama the head of the Gelug school. Others are: Nyingma, Sakya, Kagyu



---

# Pray for:

- God's doorways into the Buddhist world; for the veil to be lifted
  - for the People of Peace His has already destined, including those who are Saul's right now
  - for workers to have wisdom and discernment. Spiritual forces are strong and Buddhism is confusing. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit", says the Lord Almighty
  - for continual prayer cover for those working in the Buddhist world, and for Buddhist Background Believers (BBB's)
-



# **Under the Protection of the Most High Psalm 91**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inMRILH7990>



---



# Buddhism in the West

The subtle influence

---



---

# The De-Christianisation of Europe

- fewer and fewer people say they believe in God and/or attend church service on a regular basis
  - unbelief is a viable option. Christianity is seen as one option among others and not the easiest to embrace.
  - secularisation of public space - relegation of religious belief to private sphere
  - increased number of those self-identifying as LGBT+, especially among the younger generation
  - great increase in those saying they are spiritual but not religious, especially amongst the young
-



*The* BUDDHA  
IN DAILY  
LIFE

An Introduction to the Buddhism of  
NICHIREN DAISHONIN



RICHARD CAUSTON



CAMBRIDGE  
buddhist centre





---

# Pray for:

- Western believing Christians to reach out to Asian Buddhists around them, learning from them and from Holy Spirit how to love them, befriend them and share the Gospel with them
  - students from Buddhist countries to encounter Jesus and be disciplined while studying, taking their new faith back with them when they return home
  - that Westerners who are looking for peace, hope, stability and meaning, would encounter believing Christians and would encounter Jesus
  - for Western Christians to go deeper with God, knowing Whose they are. For them to grow in faith, reaching out in expectation of seeing God's power and authority working through them and transformation happening.
-





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LqKtdRlchE&t=2s>





# 15 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE BUDDHIST WORLD

JANUARY 18 – FEBRUARY 1, 2022



---

# 15 Days of Prayer for the Buddhist World

Prayer guides available in booklet or PDF form from:

<https://worldprayerguides.org/shop-all/>

or

<https://buddhistprayerguide.org.uk/order/>

---