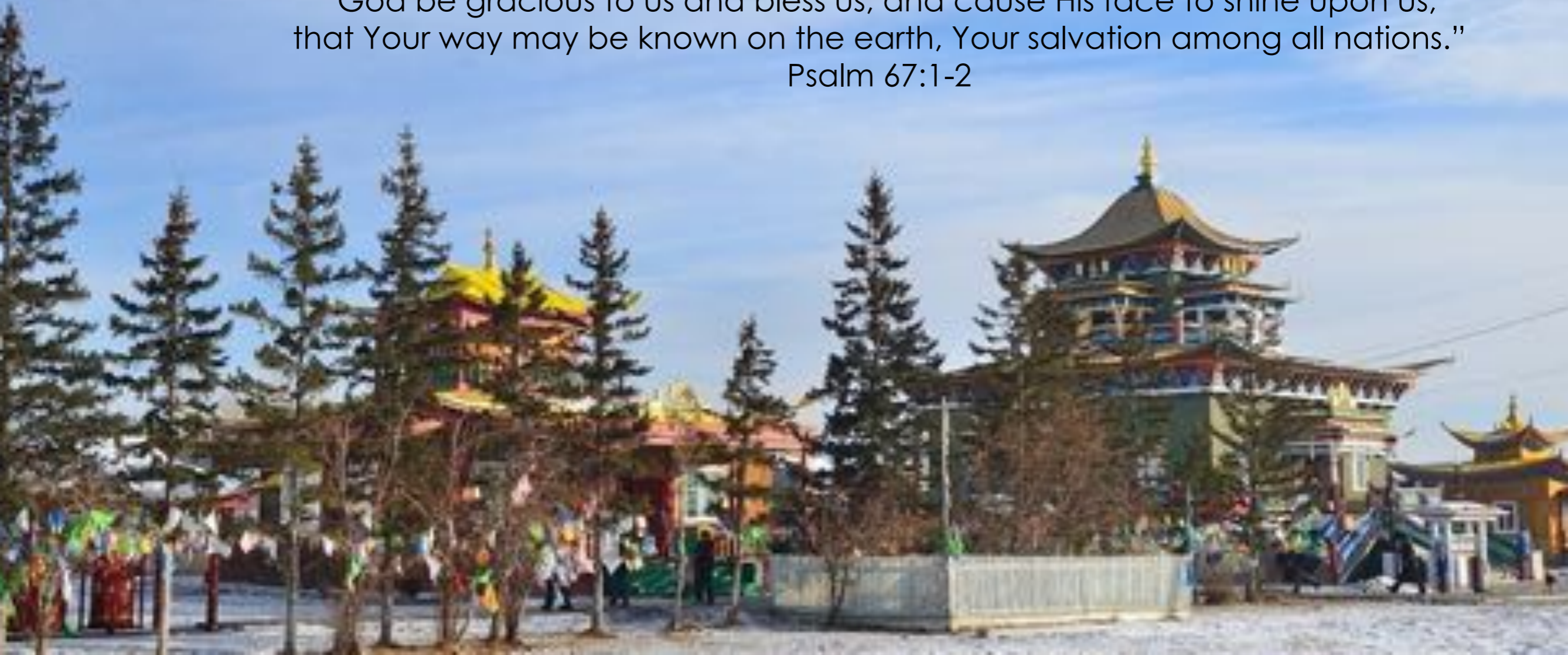


21 Days of Prayer for the Buryat of Russia

“God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us,
that Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.”

Psalm 67:1-2





We want to pray intentionally this month for the Buryats, the largest unreached people group living in Siberia. This week is the start of the Buryat holiday *Sagaalgan* (“White Month”), the start of the New Year according to the lunar calendar. *Sagaalgan* symbolizes cleansing, the beginning of a new life and the union with everything that is bright and good. The Buryats have many traditions surrounding White Month, some of them are related to family and food, but others are related to their Buddhist religion. It can be a spiritually dark time as many of them worship, pray to, and give offerings to Buddhist gods and the spirits of their ancestors, and as they perform various cleansing ceremonies. The days leading up to the first day are used to prepare for the new year by cleansing oneself from everything bad and evil from the past year in order to start fresh in the new year. Each day over the next 20 days prayers will be recited by Buddhist monks, each day to a specific god or spirit. So, for the next 21 days please join in this crusade to pray for the salvation of Buryat people and a work of God’s Spirit in their hearts and lives to bring them to the true knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Buryat of Russia



Population

462,000

Location in Russia

Republic of Buryatia, Zabaykalsky Krai, and Irkutsk Oblast.

Language

Buryat

Religion

Tibetan Buddhism

Bible translation

New Testament

Evangelical Christian

Less than 0.1%

***Republic of Buryatia
in Russia***



Day 1 (4 days before New Year)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats will come to know God as the Only One worthy of all worship and that they will offer themselves to Him as a living sacrifice.
- Pray that the Buryats will hunger for the Word of God and will come to know Jesus, the true Word, and will follow His teachings that will set them free. Pray that they will hear the Word of Truth, and faith will come from hearing.
- Pray for the translation of the Old Testament into the Buryat language to be completed.
- Pray that the Buryats will know that God is the Sovereign God who alone has the power over life and death. Pray that the Buryats will have dreams that will lead them to Jesus and to seek truth in Him.

On the days leading up to the first day of *Sagaalgaan*, solemn rituals, called “*khurals*” are performed to bless the offerings that will be given to the gods during the holiday. On each day leading up to “New Year’s Day” the *lamas* and monks say prayers to different gods. They say prayers to the 10 gods who defend the teachings - prayers for all living things and for the elimination of all things that will interfere with following the teachings of Buddha. Prayers are said to the god who helps eliminate false views, misfortune, sorrow, diseases of mind and body, and who helps overcome evil influences, as well as prayers to the god who helps eliminate bad thoughts, evil tongues, and consequences of bad dreams.

Day 2 (3 days before New Year)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that God will indeed bless the Buryat people and keep them, that God will shine His face upon them and be gracious to them. Pray that He will lift His countenance upon them and give them peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)
- Pray that the Buryats will be blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3), who alone can give them true spiritual blessings.
- Pray that each Buryat family will be blessed to personally know a believer and follower of Jesus, and to hear the Good News in this new year.

Blessings are a large part of Buryat culture. They seek blessings from the *lamas* and monks at the Temple. They take the offerings, that will be given to the spirits on the morning of the new year, to the monks so that they will be blessed. They say blessings and good wishes over their family members during the time of the holiday. During this holiday, they desire to have their lives and homes blessed as they move into the new year with a fresh start with all that is good and pure.

Day 3 (2 days before New Year)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats will recognize their own weakness, and the weakness of the gods, to cleanse and purify themselves. Pray that the Buryats will know the cleansing power and redemption of Jesus through His death for them on the cross.
- Pray that they can know the spiritual and physical healing power of Jesus. Pray they will know that only the Living God has the power and ability to set them free from sin and evil.
- Pray that they will be set free from sin and evil and be clothed in Jesus' righteousness.

On the evening before the Day of Fasting, there is a cleansing ritual bonfire at the Temple. The ritual has them rubbing off the evil from their bodies with a piece of dough/paper/white cloth, then they throw it into the bonfire. First, they rub it on their forehead to symbolize the elimination of evil thoughts, then they rub it around the mouth to take away bad words, on the chest – to cleanse the conscience, then the palms to symbolize taking away bad deeds. They also can rub it on places of the body that are in pain.

Day 4 – New Year's Eve - The Day of Fasting



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats will be hungry only so they can be filled with Jesus' bread; that they will be thirsty, so their thirst can be quenched with the water Jesus gives; pray that they will be poor in spirit so that they can see the kingdom of God.
- Pray that in this New Year, many Buryats will be transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.
- Pray that the Buryats' hearts will be cleansed by the blood of Jesus and recognize that He is the only way for them to get rid of the evil in their hearts.

Today is "New Year's Eve" for the Buryats and it's the day of fasting. On this day, the Buryats fast from alcohol and meat and do their best to be kind to those around them and not think bad thoughts. They clean their homes and throw away old and worn-out things, and some invite a *lama* to perform a ceremony that will rid their homes of evil and bad luck. This ceremony includes taking the food leftover from their meal, coins, old cloths, a Buryat scarf (called a *hadak*) and a figurine of a man in red, wrap them up together and go outside to throw it all out. They all return into the house without looking back to symbolize getting rid of the evil & bad luck of the past year from one's home and life.

Day 5 – New Year's Day



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that God will richly bless the Buryat people so that they in turn can bless other people and share His truth and light with their own people and with other unreached peoples.
- Pray that God will enlighten their minds and hearts with the light of the knowledge of Him.
- Pray that they would have an understanding of eternal life in Jesus, as opposed to the endless cycle of reincarnation.
- Pray that they can know the grace of Jesus who gives life, true abundant life!

Today is the big day! The Buryats wake up before the sun comes out. They get up while it is still dark and start fires in their fireplaces and make sure lights are on in the house. They do this so the god who brings luck won't pass them by. If they are sleeping when he comes, then the coming year may not go well for them. They keep busy that early in the morning by preparing food to eat together as a family – white foods such as sour cream, cottage cheese, milk, and things made with white flour – in addition to traditional Buryat foods, such as *pozi* (steamed meat dumplings). They also exchange gifts with one another. This is the beginning of *Sagaalgan*, or White Month – the New Year according to the lunar calendar.

Day 6



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats will know that the Lord is great and that He is above all gods; that they will see His power and sovereignty - whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all the deeps.
- Pray that they would realize that the idols of Buddhism are but silver and gold, just the work of men's hands, that they have mouths but cannot speak; they have ears, but cannot hear; that there is no breath at all in their mouths. Those who make them will be like them, may the Buryats no longer trust in them! (Psalm 135)
- Pray that the Buryats will come to worship the Most High God in spirit and in truth.
- Pray that many Buryats will become "temples of the Most High God" - that the Holy Spirit would come to abide in them and give them new life in Christ.

In the center of every *Datsan* (Buddhist temple) is a statue of Buddha. Along each wall on the right and left of the Buddha statue are statues of many other gods. The Buryats will walk clock-wise around the inside of the temple, stopping before each god and say prayers to them. They bow before these gods and give offerings to them of grains, sugar, rice, milk, candy, or coins. They can also earn merit by bowing down before Buddha, face to the ground, up and down over and over again. The more they bow, the more merit they receive.

Day 7



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats will understand the meaning of prayer – having communion with a living God who hears, cares for them, and is willing to act on their behalf.
- Pray that they will cast their cares on Him, at any time, at any place, knowing that He cares for them (1 Peter 5:7).
- Pray that the Buryats will learn that they don't need to be anxious for anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving they can make known their requests to the living God.
- Pray that through prayer God's peace, that surpasses all comprehension, will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7)

Buddhists, whether they are devoted or nominal, will go to the *Datsan* (Buddhist temple) to do the rituals to ensure good karma. One way is to walk the prayer walk that should be walked clock-wise on the path around the *Datsan*. Along this path are prayer wheels that they spin as they walk by. While they walk, they are to free their mind of bad and negative thoughts and try to think positive thoughts. They also purchase prayer flags in the temple and hang them on designated trees or poles located close to the temple. Spinning the wheels and the blowing of prayer flags in the wind give them hope that their prayers will lift up to the spirits/gods.

Day 8



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the Buryats to come to know and experience the Sovereign God who takes a personal interest in their lives and who works all things according to His will.
- Pray that, as the Buryat people are dead in their trespasses and sins, God would have mercy on them and make them alive together with Christ and raise them up and seat them with Him in the heavenly places.
- Pray that the Buddhist monks, shamans & men of prominence of their religion & culture would be given a Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, that their eyes would be enlightened, that they would know what is the hope to which He has called them. (Ephesians 1:17-ff)

Astrology is widely used in the Tibetan Buddhist world, and many things are connected to the year of one's birth (there are 12 Zodiac signs/animals). There are descriptions for each animal/sign that describe strengths, weaknesses, best matches and fortune of each person and year. For example, 2019 is the year of the pig. Each day for the next 12 days will represent a different zodiac sign. People are encouraged to go to the Buddhist temple on the day that corresponds to the zodiac sign of their year of birth in order to pray and get counsel from the *lamas* about the upcoming year.

Day 9



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Lord will make known to the Buryats the path of life and that in His presence would be their fullness of joy. Pray that they would find pleasures forevermore at God's right hand. (Psalm 16:11)
- Pray that the Buryats will sing together with many other nations and peoples the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. Pray that they would know and experience that the Lord God, the Almighty's works are great and marvelous, that His ways are righteous and true, that He is the King of the nations!
- Pray that the Buryats will fear the Lord, and glorify His name, and worship Him for His holiness. Pray that the Buryats and all the nations will come and worship before Him, and that His righteous acts will be revealed to them." (Revelation 15:3-4)

The Buryats, like in many Asian cultures, have deep respect for their elders. Elderly people are held in high esteem in Buryatia and children often use a reverential term of address when speaking to their parents, older relatives and other adults. This respect is seen in everyday life, for example, on public transportation, the younger will give up their seats for the elderly. It's also seen in their cultural traditions, such as the tradition that it is the responsibility of the youngest child to take care of his parents when they are old. During White Month, it is customary for the younger to present their older relatives with gifts and good wishes, placing it on the Buryat scarf ("*hadak*") as they hand it to them.

Day 10



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that as the Buryats celebrate *Sagaalgan* with their families, relatives and friends over the course of the next couple weeks that they would come to know the belonging that they can have in the family of God.
- Pray that they would become “fellow citizens with the saints and our brothers and sisters in the household of God.”
- Pray that whole families of Buryats will come to know God as their loving Father, and Jesus as their devoted brother and that the family of God would grow and multiply in Buryatia.
- Pray that the Buryats would know that God is the One who created them and that He, as their Creator, values their culture and the beauty they bring to His world.

Family ties are very important in Buryat culture. It's part of the tradition for Buryats during the course of White Month to visit many of their relatives, bringing gifts to their older relatives and eating traditional foods together. When the Buryats go to visit one another during White Month, they have a special greeting as the guests enter their home. When a host who is older reaches out his folded arms to greet the guest, the younger guest folds his arms in the same manner and place them above his host's. If a host is younger, he will pass his arms under the host's and try to take his elbows in his hands.

Day 11



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the traditions of *Sagalgaan* can be redeemed in order to be used to worship the One True God and point others to who He is.
- Pray for Buryat believers to have wisdom and discernment in knowing how to worship God during this holiday and how they can use it to point their family & friends to His truth.
- Pray for God's protection over them as some of them are spiritually attacked, ostracized, or misunderstood for not participating in the Buddhist rituals and traditions related to this holiday.
- Pray that they will have strength to stand firm, and patience and love towards their lost family & friends.
- Pray for opportunities for believers in Buryatia to read the Bible together with Buryats who are seeking rest for their souls.

When a Buryat becomes a believer in Jesus, it can be difficult for them to know how to continue to celebrate *Sagaalgaan* since so many of the traditions associated with the holiday are connected to Buddhism. Buryat believers can often times experience persecution from their families when they refuse to participate in Buryat traditions and Buddhist rituals. Sometimes they are ridiculed for their belief in Jesus. Some Buryat believers refuse to celebrate White Month at all because it is hard to separate their cultural traditions from the religious traditions, and often times drunkenness is a large part of the family celebrations. *Sagaalgaan* can be a spiritually dark time, but we believe that God can redeem all things, and that this holiday is a great opportunity for many to share that Jesus' light is greater than the darkness.

Day 12



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray that, as the Buryats seek to cleanse themselves during this holiday, that God will “clothe the Buryats with garments of salvation, He will wrap them with a robe of Jesus’ righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels.”
- Pray that as the earth brings forth its sprouts in springtime, and as a garden causes things sown in it to spring up, that the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring up from the hearts and lips of the Buryat people. (Isaiah 61:10-11)
- Pray that the Buryats will see the love of Christ in the lives of Christians and that His “light would shine before men in such a way that they may see their good works, and glorify our Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Buryat traditional costumes are are very beautiful and colorful. Since Buryats actually belong to different tribes, they have different costumes. However, all the costumes have something in common. If you know the meaning of the details in a costume, you can find out if a woman is married or not. As for men, you cannot tell if he is married or not, but you will definitely be able to tell which tribe he belongs to, just by looking at his costume. Costumes are specially designed. They also have a practical use, in that Buryats traditionally don’t marry to the seventh generation, which means, if a man and a woman are closer than 7-generation relatives, they are not allowed to get married. Their costumes give clues such as these.

Day 13



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the Buryats to be set free from their fear of the spirits and to live in freedom and peace with the God who loves & cares for them.
- Pray for God to set the shamans free from the demons that possess them and that they can be free to worship and serve God.
- Pray that the shamans and Buryats would know and experience the power of Jesus Christ to heal, protect, help and save.
- Pray that the places where the spirits are worshipped (like *Olkhon* Island) will be places where God's name is praised & exalted and His truth proclaimed.

“Shamanism is a peculiar kind of belief, the adherents of which acknowledge the existence of a supernatural realm parallel to everyday reality, inhabited by ghosts and deities capable of interfering with human souls....The shaman is the only person that possesses the ability to communicate with ghosts in their world.” (taken from the article *“Modern Forms of Buryat Shaman Activity on Olkhon Island”* by Alexandra Wierucka). The shaman goes into a trance by drinking alcohol, hitting a tambourine and dancing a special dance. His/her spirit leaves their body and evil spirits come into them, and they believe that it's a deceased relative that has come to speak to them. Mongolian shamans set a goal to convert 100,000 people into practicing shamans by 2012. When they achieved their goal, it started spreading more into Buryatia. People seek help and counsel from shamans for a variety of reasons, from sickness to bad dreams, as well as to perform rituals and offer sacrifices to appease the spirits. *Olkhon* is an island on Lake Baikal that is well known for shamanistic activity. Many of the Buryats live in fear of the spirits and the harm they can cause if they are not pleased.

Day 14

PRAYER REQUESTS



- Pray that many Buryat men will become faithful followers of Jesus and will be strong in the fear, love and worship of the Lord God.
- Pray that God will raise up godly leaders amongst the Buryat men, who will courageously lead their families, their communities, their towns/cities in the grace and truth of Jesus.
- Pray that the Buryats, who are weary and heavy-laden by the hopelessness of their religion of self-works and lack of an intimate relationship with a loving God, would come to Jesus who will give them true rest.
- Pray that they would take Jesus' yoke on themselves and be His disciples, learning from His gentle and humble nature. (Matt. 11:28-30)
- Pray that each Buryat "generation will tell its children of God's mighty acts, and proclaim His power." (Psalm 145:4)

Buryats, as most Asian people, pay a lot of attention to the names they give their children. For Western Buryats the names are not as important as for Eastern Buryats. Western Buryats were baptized into the Orthodox Church by force, so most of them give their children Russian names. Among the older generation you can find Biblical or Jewish names. For the eastern Buryats, Tibetan Buddhism was the dominant religion, and so there are entire families with Tibetan names. Many Buryat names come from the Tibetan or Sanscript languages. After the birth of a baby, the head of the house goes to the *lama* (Buddhist monk) who tells them what to name the baby. He chooses the most appropriate name for the child based on Tibetan Buddhist astrology. Among the older generation, you even can find siblings with the same name. Many Buryat names carry meanings related to spiritual and cultural characteristics and values, and they believe their names can influence the destiny of the child. Here are some popular names and their meanings: Erzhen (f) – Mother-of-Pearl; Erdenie (m) – Treasure; Tuyana (f) – Rays of the sun or Daybreak; Aldar (m) - Glory; Seseg (f) – Flower; Bayar (m) – Joy, Sayan (m) or Sayana (f) – name of beautiful mountain range in Buryatia.

Day 15



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats and “Theater Baikal” will sing for joy in the Lord, and that their praise would be becoming to them, as they live in Jesus’ righteousness.
- Pray that Buryats would give thanks to the Lord with their flutes and drums, that they would sing praises to Him with their national stringed instruments.
- Pray that they would sing to Him a new song (in Buryat language) and play and dance skillfully with a shout of joy.
- Pray that the Buryats, and the well-known artists and musicians, would know that the word of the Lord is upright and all His work is done in faithfulness, that He loves righteousness and justice.
- Pray that Buryatia and all the earth would be full of the lovingkindness of the Lord. (Psalm 33:1-5)

The Buryats generally love learning and are very cultured. In Buryatia there are many talented musicians, singers, artists, and dancers. “Theater Baikal” is a group of musicians and dancers who perform concerts in Ulan-Ude and often they travel to other parts of Russia and even to other countries to perform. They sing in Buryat (and some even throat sing) and play unique instruments like the *chanza* and *morin khur*. One famous traditional dance is called the *yohur*, which is a group dance usually done together at celebrations, like birthdays and weddings. This dance brings everyone together in a big circle. They hold hands with the people next to them and pump their hands up and down, in and out, as the music plays, moving their feet around the circle. Buryat music and dances reflect the values and beauty of their culture.

Day 16



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats would see and know that the Lord reigns over nature and that even the earth rejoices and trembles at His presence.
- Pray that they would know that God is the Almighty Creator who performs miracles through His creation.
- May the Buryats have a healthy fear of God and know that “clouds and thick darkness surround the Lord, that righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne....the earth saw and trembled, the mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- Pray that they would know that the heavens declare His righteousness and that all peoples will see His glory.” (Psalm 97:1-6)

Many of the Buryats and Tibetan Buddhists believe that certain places in nature have different degrees of “spiritual energy.” For example, there are hot springs that they believe can heal specific diseases because of the spiritual energy in that place. Certain hills or mountain tops are believed to be sacred because they are closer to the spiritual realm. There are monuments and rocks that look like an animal or figure and these are also considered sacred places. The famous Lake Baikal is a place that also is full of spiritual energy. When Buryats approach these places, they do so with great fear and reverence and also in hopes of gaining some of that energy.

Day 17



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that God will send out His light and His truth to the Buryat people so they will know Him as the only God worthy of receiving worship.
- Pray that His light and truth would lead them and bring them to His holy hill and to His dwelling place – to His presence.
- Pray that they will go to the altar of God, and that He will be their exceeding joy, which will cause them to give offerings of praise to the Lord. (Psalm 43:3-4).

As Buryats drive or walk by a “holy place” (which often times is located on a hill), they will give an offering of some kind. Most times it is coins (which drivers may throw out their window as they pass by), but it could be candy, cigarettes, or rice that they set down on the ground. Some people make their own altar in their homes for the gods who protect their family, placing little offerings of milk, candy and other food before them. Buryats also hang prayer flags on trees that are located by the sacred place. Some of these “holy places” are interesting forms in nature, like a rock that looks like an animal, which they consider sacred. They are careful to not disturb the place by littering or damaging it in any way.

Day 18



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats would labor and strive (like in wrestling) and it would be their aim (as in archery) to fix their hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men.
- Pray that they would discipline themselves, not just physically, but spiritually for the purpose of godliness, believing that it is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:7-8)
- Pray that their striving would be no longer after “enlightenment,” to have good karma, or to appease the spirits, but they would strive for Jesus Himself, the pearl of great price and the godliness of being like Him.

Many Buryats love sports – their national sports are archery, wrestling and horse-back riding. In the summer, they have competitions for these 3 sports in which people, young and old, from all over Buryatia participate. Many Buryats also love to hike, bike, and do fitness. They really enjoy being active out in nature.

Day 19



Buryat culture is displayed in various forms of art. The Buryat people love the arts and are proud to share about their culture, their values, their history and religion, as well as the beautiful country of Buryatia through their folk songs, poems, stories, legends, paintings, sculptures and more recently, through films. Traditionally a nomadic culture, Buryat artists often portray those values that came from when they lived in yurts out in the steppe, herded sheep, rode horses and lived in tight-knit communities.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Buryats will use the arts in Buryat style to worship God and make His name known.
- Pray that the Buryat language will be preserved and that more Christian resources to be made available in the Buryat language.
- Pray that the Buryats will seek the Lord while He may be found; that they will call upon Him while He is near.
- Pray that they will forsake their wicked ways and their unrighteous thoughts; pray that they will turn to the Lord so that He will have compassion on them. Pray that they may know and experience the one True God, whose thoughts are not our thoughts, and whose ways are not our ways.
- Pray that “as the rain and snow come down from heaven onto Buryatia, and don’t return back without watering the earth and making it bear & sprout and giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, that God’s Word will go forth throughout Buryatia and not return empty without accomplishing what God desires. (taken from Isaiah 55:6-ff)

Day 20



Buryats in NYC dancing the traditional "yohur"

Especially over the past several years, more and more Buryats are moving out of Buryatia in search of better jobs, more opportunities for travel, and a better life for themselves and their children. Many of them have moved out of Russia to places all over the world. Our desire is that God would use this Buryat "diaspora" to further His kingdom by giving them opportunities to hear and receive the Gospel of Jesus where they are living, and to also to be an instrument of bringing God's peace to other places in the world. And may God use the Buryat people to carry the Good News to other unreached Buddhist people groups!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the Buryat "diaspora" living in other parts of Russia and the world to have opportunities to meet followers of Jesus and to clearly hear the Gospel in the places where they are living.
- Pray for them, as they live in a new culture with a different language, that they will think about the purpose and meaning of life. Pray that they will realize that God "determined their appointed times in history...so that they would seek Him and reach out for Him and find Him" (Acts 17:26-27).
- "O LORD God of hosts, restore the Buryat; Cause Your face to shine upon them, and they will be saved." (Psalm 80:19) Pray that there will be "a harvest appointed for the Buryat, when God restores their fortunes." (Hosea 6:11)
- Pray that the Buryat people "will be a light to other unreached people groups so that God's salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

Day 21



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that as the Buryats experience hardship and troubles in life, that instead of seeking consultation from Buddhist monks and lamas, they would call to the Lord God, and that He would answer them and show them great and mighty things which they have never seen from Buddha or the other gods/spirits (Jeremiah 33:3).
- Pray that many Buryats would find great unrest and discontentment from the teachings and practices of Tibetan Buddhism & shamanism, which would ultimately lead them to seek Truth in Jesus.
- Pray that the wrong stereotypes they have about Jesus would be broken and that many Buryats will have an interest to learn about who Jesus is and what He taught.

As we conclude this 21-day prayer marathon, please continue to pray regularly for the Buryat people. Although they have unique traditions and a unique culture, they are just like everyone else in that they all are seeking love, happiness and satisfaction, and often experience deep pain, suffering, hurt, discouragement, and emptiness. Many of them seek consultations from monks, *lamas* or shamans to get help and advice for their everyday problems, questions & concerns. They don't know where else to go, and many don't know that there is a personal God, who takes personal interest in their lives and is ready to help them in their time of need, if only they would call on the name of the Lord.



Please use this prayer guide every year to pray for the Buryats during *Sagaalgan*. The table to the right shows the date when “White Month” officially starts, or New Year’s Day (according to the lunar calendar). This prayer guide starts 4 days prior to that day.

The light of Jesus is greater than the darkness – may our prayers be used by God to bring a mighty work of His Spirit amongst the Buryat people and all nations, tribes and tongues!

Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.”
Psalms 96:2-10

Year	New Year’s Day
2019	February 5
2020	February 24
2021	February 12
2022	February 1
2023	February 20
2024	February 10
2025	January 29
2026	February 17
2027	February 6
2028	January 26
2029	February 13

More Ways to Pray for the Buryat and other People Groups

- ❖ *Praise God in advance that “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” will be established among every unreached Buddhist nation, and all tribes, peoples and tongues. (Rev 7:9–10)*
- ❖ *Bind the forces of darkness, resisting all demonic rulers and spiritual powers, which, in heavenly places, influence Buddhist countries among others. (Eph 6:12–13; Dan 10:13, 20)*
- ❖ *Break down spiritual strongholds and human philosophies or arguments against God, which produce barriers of resistance among Buddhists. (2 Cor 10:4–5)*
- ❖ *Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. (Matt 9:38)*
- ❖ *Intercede for lasting fruit for those working among Buddhists. (John 12:24)*
- ❖ *Plead with our Lord for the opening of Buddhists’ eyes to the revelation of the true and living God and His Christ, the unique Savior. (Eph 1:17–23)*
- ❖ *“What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.” (Matt 10:27)*
- ❖ *Ask God to enlighten the minds of Buddhists about the folly of making images and practicing idolatry. (Ps 115:4–8)*
- ❖ *Ask God to help Christians discern the biblical difference between Buddhist terms and the gospel so they can intelligently, articulately and compassionately communicate the gospel. (Prov 2:2–3; 2 Tim 2:7)*
- ❖ *Pray for the hearts of Buddhists to understand the gospel, especially the doctrines of Christ’s substitution and redemption. (Gal 3:13; 1 Pet 1:18–29, 2:24)*
- ❖ *Intercede for Buddhists and their families to come to faith in Christ, repenting from their total dependence on their own good works. (Eph 2:8–9)*
- ❖ *Pray that believers will share the gospel as bold witnesses to their Buddhist families, friends and neighbors. (Acts 4:29–31)*
- ❖ *Ask God to multiply disciples and churches and begin church-planting movements among each Buddhist people group worldwide. (Matt 16:18; 1 Pet 2:9–10)*
- ❖ *Intercede for the raising up of national church leaders to train and care for God’s flocks and to extend the Church into each Buddhist group and family. (Acts 20:27–32; 1 Pet 5:1–4)*
- ❖ *Ask God to open minds, hearts and eyes spiritually. Pray that the Lord will give discernment and wisdom, and will bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor 10:5)*
- ❖ *Praise God for what He is doing and will do in the lives of Buddhists, their families and their communities around the world.*

***taken from the *Buddhist Prayer Booklet*
by SEANET**

