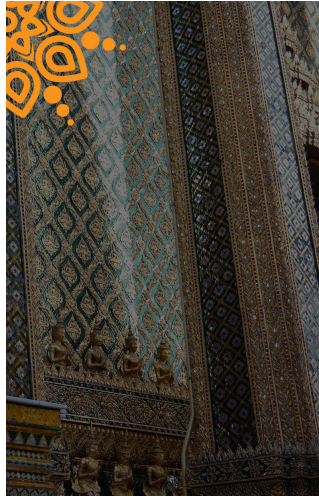


# Thailand

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Jan 20

“Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands. They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see. They have ears but cannot hear, and noses but cannot smell. They have hands but cannot feel, and feet but cannot walk, and throats but cannot make a sound. And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.”

## Psalm 115: 4-8 (NIV Version)

As a “works based” religion, Buddhism has many traditions that followers are called to continue as part of overcoming their karma. Prominent among these is the Heet sip song, translated as “12 Traditions.”

Each of these traditions is associated with the monthly moon cycle and focuses on a temple ritual in which every village family is expected to participate. The traditions include actions such as offering monks special sticky rice treats, offering money for monks to do penance, listening to Buddha’s greatest sermons, pouring sacred water, and giving robes to monks.

Most Thai houses, even in urban areas, as well as government buildings and Buddhist temples have a “spirit house.” These are miniature houses that are set on a pillar in the yard. Adherents prepare gifts of fruit and flowers, take them to this house, lift their hands to demonstrate respect, and place their gift in front of the tiny house.

These actions are designed to bring merit to counter any bad thoughts or actions of the previous month. By honoring the spirits and the traditions of Buddhism the people hope to be reborn into a higher state of enlightenment.

Sadly, they recognize that it is unlikely, even for the monks, to reach enlightenment in this lifetime.



### Ways To Pray:

- Ask for open eyes for Thai Buddhists to see that fruit, flowers, and sticky rice can never cleanse their hearts or earn enough merit to change their karma.
- Pray that they will come to know the true creator of the world: “The earth is the Lord’s” ([Psalm 24:1](#))
- Pray that the generational cycle of traditions passed down will be broken so the truth of the grace of Jesus can be understood

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