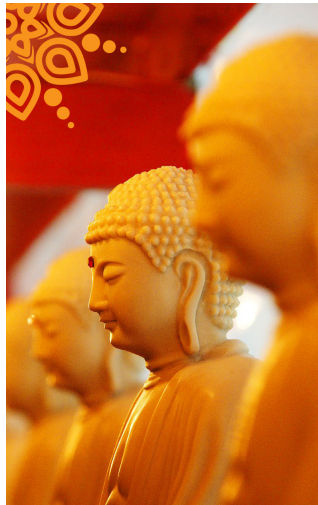


United States

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Jan 19

“Tune your ears to wisdom and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight and ask for understanding.”

Proverbs 2:2-3 (NIV Version)

Did you know that the most diverse Buddhist city in the world is Los Angeles? With 300 temples and meditation centers from nearly every Buddhist sect in the world LA encompasses the entire spectrum of Buddhist beliefs.

Buddha keychains, ornaments, t-shirts, necklaces, and phone cases are readily available. Wonder how pervasive Buddha ‘swag’ is in America? Check out www.redbubble.com.

Buddhist ideas are actively promoted in the US and throughout Western societies through images of peace, calm, and wisdom without any discussion of the worldview behind the façade. An example of this is the “Compassionate schools” program, which promotes itself as secular yet was developed by a professor of Tibetan Buddhist studies. The curriculum is based on two Tibetan Buddhist tenets of “mindfulness” and “contemplation.”

Buddhist worldview is actively celebrated in movies such as Star Wars, Kill Bill, and Dr. Strange. Business leaders like the late Steve Jobs of Apple actively promote Buddhist meditation. The local garden center will frequently have a Buddha figurine available to evoke calm in our yards.

Buddhist meditation is popular on college campuses. The contrast with Christian meditation couldn’t be more stark. In Buddhist meditation the focus is on emptying the mind, where Christian meditation fills the mind with scripture and gazing on God’s beauty.



Ways To Pray:

- Ask that God will open the eyes of people who don't understand that the true end of Buddhism is the annihilation of self.
- Pray that American Buddhists will be set free from merit-making and bondage to evil spirits.
- Pray that Jesus followers here in America will engage with and pray for Buddhist friends and neighbors with love, mercy, and the truth of Jesus.

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