

Editorial

In the recent past many missiologists believed that Buddhism was at best a stagnant religion largely tied to the countries of Asia where Buddhist thought and teachings have an influence over a billion people. However, there is a growing interest in Buddhism among secular people in the West.

Daniëlle Koning's article should warrant serious thought by those who wonder at that attraction for so many. While it can be argued that many westerners see in Buddhism a religion that allows just about anything or any combination of beliefs and practices, it must also be pointed out that very serious spiritual seekers find in Buddhism methods and techniques for overcoming many of the same evil desires and conditions that Christianity speaks against but offers few concrete ways of overcoming.

This issue of the Journal of Adventist Mission Studies focuses on Christian encounters with Buddhism, a religion that has traditionally presented difficult barriers to the growth of the Christian faith in Asia. Notice the percentage of non-Christian populations in the following countries: Cambodia 96.9%, China 92.1%, Japan 98.5%, Laos 96.6%, Mongolia 98.3%, Myanmar 97.1%, Sri Lanka 91.6%, Thailand 98.9%, and Vietnam 90.6% (see Jason Mandryk, *Operation World* (Colorado Springs, CO: Biblica Publishing, 2010), 57). This is the challenge of Buddhist lands that warrants serious attention.

Bruce Bauer, editor