Are there really Russian Buddhists?  Yes, there are more than a million, and now 20 years after the collapse of communism, Buddhism is experiencing a massive revival right in the areas where it has been strong historically: Kalmykia, Tuva, and Buryatia.

The Kalmyks inhabit the only Buddhist nation in Europe. The Republic of Kalmykia became federated within Russia after 1991. The Tuvans live in an area north of Mongolia where less than 1% are Christian and 90% profess Tibetan Buddhism. Buryatia is the center of Buddhism in Russia and is the site of the country’s first Buddhist convent. Mongolian and Tibetan lamas first appeared in the middle of the 17th century and worked to quickly spread Buddhism.
firsts. He was born in the eastern Indian town of Darjeeling and has never visited Tibet. He is also the first secular leader to take over the political leadership of the Tibetan community. Dalai Lama will remain the spiritual leader for Tibetan Buddhists and others.

Click here for Russia 2006: Adventist President Joins Russian Church in 120th Anniversary Celebrations

Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the science of saving souls. Before communicating with men, commune with Christ. At the throne of heavenly grace obtain a preparation for ministering to the people.

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Still no visa granted

Tibet's Dalai Lama is considered the highest spiritual leader for Russian Buddhists and they have asked that he be allowed to come to Russia and consecrate new temples and monasteries. Moscow, however, has refused to give him a visa since his last visit in 2004. A local nun in Buryatia says, "a price cannot be put on the role of the Dalai Lama for the rebirth of Buddhism in Russia."

Your part and mine...

This is another opportunity to pray for a group of people who do not know the true and living God. They do not know that Jesus is soon to return to take His faithful home. They need to have the opportunity to embrace the truth as it is in Jesus.

Please pray for our church leaders and workers in Russia. Some recent work has been done among these Buddhists. Pray for more laborers to enter that harvest. Also, people of Tibetan Buddhist background have immigrated to many places around the world. Pray for those of us that live nearby to reach out with God's love.

"One should never initiate anything that he cannot saturate with prayer."

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will
send forth laborers into His harvest. Matthew 9:38

For resources and ideas to reach out to your Buddhist neighbor, please go to our website @
www.bridgesforministry.org