Communicating the Gospel Cross-Culturally:

The Influence of World View and Cultural Values

2000, John Eaves, InterFACE Ministries

Imagine yourself having a conversation with someone from Southeast Asia about Jesus Christ who is

from a Buddhist background. Notice how one’s world view affects the way we perceive our reality,

making the task of sharing faith more complicated than we might think. The Holy Spirit has a lot of

layers to penetrate and peel back before the Gospel begins to make sense.

**Topic**

**Future**

**Change**

**Family**

**History**

**Time**

**Relationships**

**When the American Says**

*“God wants to give you*

*eternal life when you believe*

*in Jesus”*

*“God wants to do something*

*new in your life and change*

*you through a relationship*

*with Jesus.”*

*“You need to make your own*

*decision about Jesus. No one*

*else can do it for you.”*

*“Don’t concern yourself with*

*what your family used to do.*

*God wants to show you a new*

*life in Jesus.”*

*“The Bible says, ‘Now is the*

*day of salvation.’ Do it now.*

*Don’t wait until it is too*

*late.”*

*“Don’t worry about what*

*others think. This is your*

*decision alone to make.”*

**The Southeast Asian**

**Buddhist Is Probably**

**Thinking …**

*“No one can alter their*

*destiny.”*

*“What is good for my*

*ancestors is good for me.”*

*“What will my family say if I*

*became a Christian? They*

*would never accept it.”*

*“Our family beliefs have*

*been the same for centuries.*

*Christianity is not that old,*

*and does not exist among my*

*people.”*

*“This person is not interested*

*in me. He (she) would never*

*ask me to turn my back on my*

*family and culture.”*

*“My friends and family will*

*abandon me. The cost is too*

*great.”*