



ASKing Point

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ASKing Point

is a bi-monthly communication on behalf of ASK Network International. It is an invitation to join the network of prayer throughout the nations, ASKing and agreeing regarding key issues on God's heart. It is a tool for prayer, a place for testimony to God's faithfulness in answering, and a gift of worship to the Living God.

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Waiting As We ASK

He giveth power to the faint,
and to them that have no might increaseth strength.
Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall,
But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run,
and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:29-31

To wait gives a notion of holding on strongly, enduring, staying in one place; to anticipate, to look forward to a probably occurrence.

Why wait on God in prayer?

Growing in Dependence —

Our personal weaknesses make us aware of our lack of ability, which in turn causes us to turn our heart to God in prayer. The kind of weakness to which God responds is that which produces a sense of dependence on Him. The attitude of dependence upon God attracts His attention and draws Him to us and causes Him to gloriously manifest His power through us. A story is told of a blind man who had strong legs, and the lame man had perfect eyes. The cripple offered his seeing ability to the blind man in exchange for his mobility. The blind man could carry the cripple on his back and the cripple could instruct the blind man of the pitfalls. In the same way our spiritual blindness and lameness should drive us to a prayerful dependent relationship with God, so His strength can take the place of our weakness.

Acknowledging Our Need —

The place of waiting is a place where we acknowledge our need for the Lord. This sense of need contributes to the development of a healthy devotional and prayer life. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3 "O God thou art my God, early will I seek thee — my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is." Psalm 34:6 David wrote and said, "this poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles." Isaiah 41:17-20 "When the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them, I will open rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys, I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land

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springs of water...that they may see and know and consider and understand together the hand of the Lord has done this.” 1 Corinthians 12:10 “When I am weak then I am strong.”

Renewing Strength —

In waiting we renew (exchange) our strength. As we wait on the Lord in prayer we renew our strength. At the place of waiting we exchange our weakness with His strength—ashes for beauty, sorrow for joy, mourning for dancing...after which we mount up with wings like eagles, run and not faint. At this point we are able to press forward in ASKing without failing.

Honoring God’s Timing —

Waiting for God’s timing where we take no major action until God shows us it is time to act. It is important to learn that whatever our interpretation of world events, whatever our sense of urgency—God acts in His own time and not ours. God controls the time Galatians 4:4 “...When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son...” Let’s consider not to get ahead and not to lag behind. The times and seasons are the Father’s own power (Acts 1:7). Let us learn to wait patiently on Him. He will reveal the times and seasons to us when we need to know them.

Miriam Mbevi Kaloki
Continental Co-Coordinator, Africa



ASK Network News

Those of us who have known Graeme and Beverley Coad for decades recognize what a gift of grace they are to ASK Network. They are choice, proven servants of the Lord. Yet, at a season of releasing the church they pastored to others and attending to health issues for Graeme, they responded to the call of the Lord to take on the responsibility of the continent of North America for ASK, envisioning the importance of the call to prayer from the northern reaches of Canada to the southern borders of Mexico.

Immediately they set out to seek God about this great task. Last summer they went for a scouting trip to Ottawa and the surrounding area. They now are anticipating returning this summer for ASK’s first Canadian prayer gathering.

Please take Psalm 18 — especially verses 30-36 — meditate on it and pray it for Beverley and Graeme in this high calling.

Pray for...

- Their health and strength
- Their ability to discern the will of The Lord
- The Lord’s empowering for the fulfillment of this call
- The churches of Canada and Mexico become “houses of prayer for all nations” 



ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

POPOLOCA OF MEXICO

Population: 2,600

Primary Religion: Roman Catholic

Language: Popoloca

Background

The Popoloca are Middle American Indians living in the southern Puebla state of central Mexico. Their name comes from the old Nahuatl word for *barbarian*, a term used by the Aztecs to refer to non-Aztec tribes. The Popoloca are farmers, and are also known for making and selling clay pots. They practice Roman Catholicism, but most do not have an evangelical understanding of salvation through Christ. The Popoloca are losing their culture and language. Most people under 40 no longer speak the Popoloca language, and are assimilating into a Mexican cultural identity.

ASK...that Popoloca hearts would come alive with the good news of Jesus' saving love, that they would know Him as Emmanuel, God with us. Ask that younger generations of Popoloca would find value in their unique cultural heritage and understand ways to walk in their identity while being immersed in Mexican culture. (Psalm 100, John 1:1-18)

Mexico is a large and diverse country geographically, culturally, and economically. It boasts impressive landscapes with deserts, mountains, tropical forest, fertile farmland, and highland plateaus. Bordering the Pacific Ocean to the west and Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea on the east, it has become a vibrant tourist destination. 30% of her population of 115 million are Amerindian. The predominant language is Spanish, but about 6 million citizens speak indigenous languages—Nahuatl (the language of the Aztecs) and Maya lead the way with between 1 and 2 million speakers each.

Mexico has a burgeoning middle class and has experienced economic growth since 2009 despite the ongoing wars between drug cartels that have caused tens of thousands of deaths in the northern border region. Although drug war violence has waned some, the border region cannot normalize until even further gains are realized. Mexicans have grown weary of being defined by that war and desire to move on, both in dialogue and action. They elected a new president in 2012 from the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the same party remembered for its continuous (and often said, corrupt) hold on power between 1929 and 2000. The PRI insists it is a different political party and President Enrique Peña Nieto has defined a rigorous agenda to cover his six-year term. The lengthy border with the United States assures an ongoing and significant relationship between the two nations.

There are many challenges facing Mexico in addition to the drug war. There is a great divide between rich and poor. Teachers and police officers can make as little as 5 dollars per day. Approximately half of the population can still be defined as poor, with the southern-most states experiencing the most economic hardship. Immigrants from Central America enter Mexico, often illegally, and reside in these states, exacerbating the already stark economic need. Mexico also recently became the most obese nation on the planet. This despite being a hardworking people with a 6-day (48-hour) work week.

Catholicism remains the most popular religion in Mexico at about 80% of the population. Protestant and evangelical churches comprise about 10% of the population, with much of the recent increases in those believers in the southern-most state of Chiapas. However, the mixing of Amerindian religious tradition with Catholicism or Protestantism often clouds believer identity. Finally, Mexico recently started a transition from a written inquisitorial to an oral adversarial criminal trial system. This change will impact judicial transparency and has the potential to reduce human rights violations and build a foundation for further strengthening of Mexican civil society.

ASK God for:

- A harvest of salvation and spiritual growth among those who *"hunger and thirst for righteousness."* Matthew 5:6; *"...that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations."* Psalm 67:1-2
- A reduction in drug-related violence, especially along the Mexico-U.S. border. *"The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."* Numbers 6:25-26; *"Bless the LORD, O my soul... Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies"* Psalm 103:4
- Improved justice for economic and social hardships faced by indigenous populations in southern Mexico. A successful transition to a new criminal justice system, improvements to individual health and wellness through education. *"Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; may the poor and needy praise your name."* Psalm 74:21; *"Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!"* 1 Kings 10:8 

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

YAKAN OF THE PHILIPPINES

Population: 169,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Yakan

Background

The Yakan are the traditional settlers of Basilan Island in the Southern Philippines. They are farmers, musicians and textile weavers, and live in settlements based on mosque affiliation. While primarily Muslim, the Yakan also incorporate many traditional animistic beliefs into their religious practice, including the belief that evil spirits sometimes attack people. Christianity was introduced in 1842, when Spaniards established a fort on the island. While there is a large Christian population living on Basilan Island today, there are still very few Christian resources available in the Yakan language.

ASK...that God would encounter Yakan people through their creative practices of music and weaving, that they would have a revelation of the God of creation. Ask that laborers would sense God's call to "go" to the Yakan—that Christians on Basilan Island would be compelled to reach their near neighbors with the good news of God's kingdom. (Genesis 1:1-4, Romans 10:1-15)

The Philippines is a picturesque archipelago of islands situated between the western edge of the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. With a population of just under 100 million, it is the 7th largest nation in Asia. Philippine culture is a unique combination of eastern and western cultures, and her people are known for the spirit of Bayanihan which describes a communal unity.

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan ripped through central Philippines hitting six islands and devastating the cities of Tacloban and Cebu. The statistics of damage after one month are: more than 6,000 deaths, 1,800 missing, 4 million displaced and 94,310 people now living in evacuation centers. Although many international communities and churches have responded to give aid, the victims face many challenges—including potential disease outbreaks and criminal exploitations.

Thriving under poverty and government corruption at all levels, the rise in human trafficking is alarming. Naming the cities of Cebu, Manila, Angeles and Mindanao as "breeding grounds", a 2012 United States Embassy report presented the distressing statistics of trafficked Filipino men, women and children who are forced into servitude, sex tourism, child combatants and pornography worldwide. Currently, 10-12 million Filipinos live and work abroad. An estimated 1 million seek such work annually, which creates ample opportunity for traffickers to masquerade as job agencies.

A significant number of engineers, nurses and non-skilled Filipino migrant workers have been subjected to conditions of involuntary servitude worldwide. The Filipina domestic workers experience rape, physical violence and sexual abuse in Asia and the Middle East. Within the Philippines, women and children from the rural areas are deceptively recruited to urban areas and are forced to provide commercial sex acts in "highly visible business establishments." The children, especially those who lack official documentation, are at risk of abduction into child sex tourism or military groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation (MILF), and the New People's Army (NPA).

The Philippines is primarily a Catholic nation (80-90%), with small Protestant and Islamic communities comprising only about 10% of the population. The fragmentation of the church's practices and doctrines is the greatest challenge for Filipino believers. Operation World cites over 2,000 registered religious denominations and hundreds of unregistered cults and sects. The Iglesia ni Cristo, a religion that rejects the Trinity and Jesus' divinity, has 1.4 million members in the Philippines and branches worldwide.

ASK for grace encounters to rescue, to redeem, and to restore:

- As Noah, which means "rest," found grace (Genesis 6:8), may the typhoon victims find salvation, provision and hope in the "One Who forms the light and creates darkness..." Isaiah 45:5-8, Jeremiah 29:11-14, Isaiah 49:8-9.
- "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you," who are victims of trafficking, sex tourism and child soldier. (Romans 16:20), Lamentations 3:57-59, Zephaniah 3:17, Joel 2:25-27
- Behold "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth," to break the bondage of false teachings and man-made spirituality— John 1:14,16, Isaiah 29:11-15(NLT), 1 Peter 1:17-20.
- "...grow in the grace and knowledge..." 2 Peter 3:17-18 for believers in Philippines. Colossians 2:6-12, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 16-17 