



Sep/Oct 2013

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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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ASKing to be One...

*'How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!
It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, flowing down Aaron's beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes. It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that's where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.'*

Thus Peterson renders the penultimate Psalm of Ascents, 133, in *The Message*. It was written by David as the whole of Israel gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the return of the Ark of the Covenant. Aaron and his successors were anointed with oil when they became high priests, but David exults in the joy of seeing Israel worshipping in absolute unity through the Holy Spirit. United worship has the same pervasive and lingering fragrance as anointing oil. It's like the opulent dew of Hermon.

David's song concludes with the truism that where unity is manifest, God commands a blessing; not grants, not permits, not suggests, not gives, but commands. So unity has its own integral power; just as putting a match to wood produces fire, so unity produces blessing.

According to Augustine, this little psalm begat the monasteries, whose members are not merely 'monos' in being isolated, but 'monos' in the sense of being 'one.' Yet the most spectacularly unanswered prayer in world history is Jesus prayer in John 17:20-23. The concept of unity is so appealing, but the reality is so elusive, so challenging!

'Between what I say, and what I meant to say, and what I thought I said, and what you heard, and what you wanted to hear, and what you thought you heard, there are already 9 possibilities for misunderstanding in a conversation between two people!' Over the last 50 years or so, we've seen and lived exponential changes in many arenas; travel, communications and ethics to name but three. We've also seen the rise of political correctness, and its statutes enshrined in law. One of the effects this has had is to create a subtle evolution in the way we talk together. Where once we could cheerfully disagree with one another's opinions while remaining the best of friends, today the expression of an opposing viewpoint is often perceived as a rejection of a person's very identity. We somehow seem to hear 'I don't agree with you, therefore you are a person of no worth or value.'

How then should we ASK that we might be lovers and practitioners of unity? We must ASK and SEEK for:

- Intimacy with Jesus, which gives entrance to the sweetness of union with him. John 17: 11,14,17

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- Unity with myself. So many are fragmented within, broken by circumstance; true unity with another can only flow from wholeness within. John 4:7-39
- Unity with the other, as expressed in Acts 2:32. Practise forgiveness, remembering that none of us possesses all the truth. Can I do anything to pursue unity? Write a letter? Make a phone call?
- Unity between men & women, between husbands and wives. It is sometimes said that the deepest divide of all is between the genders, issuing from the Garden of Eden. Jesus displayed perfect honouring of personhood, irrespective of gender. Luke 7:46,47,50
- Unity between the generations. God's church is a tri-generational church. The elders need the fire and strength of the young; the young need the wisdom and maturity of the elders. 2 Timothy 1:5. Study the father heart of Paul expressed to Timothy, to the Galatians, to the Corinthians.
- Unity between parents and children. There are so many alienated families, full of unbearable pain, but God is Father as he is Creator. Malachi 4:5,6
- Unity with all other followers of Christ. Let us lay down our prejudices against others who express their faith differently, but whose faith can enrich our life. 1 Corinthians 3:6,7

A friend of mine, when asked whether she would be at an 8000 strong summer gathering of Christians replied, 'ALL those Christians together? No way!' So heaven might be a problem for such a person! One day we will gather round the throne to worship the Lamb in the company of angels and myriads of believers down through the ages...for now, the degree to which we hunger for and enjoy the presence and company of Jesus will determine our capacity to be secure in the company of other Christ followers who think or behave differently from us.

"Lord, grant me the patience to listen, and the grace to embrace..."

*By Anita Cleverly,
Co-Continental Coordinator,
EUROPE*



ASK Network News

Reaching across the generations is integral to the vision of ASK. Being intentional toward the Next Generation is of particular importance; affect the youth of the world and effect on the future will be generated through their prayers. In Oxford, England there has been an annual Next Generation conference the past eight years. In Africa, Charles and Miriam Kaloki lead ASK in their nations to focus on establishing groups on university campuses. Here is a wonderful report — another example of this invitation to youth through ASK Network...



Every summer dozens of youth gather for one week in Washington DC to serve the city at URBAN HANDS. Again this summer, ASK Network took responsibility for one service project: ASKing God for this influential city. This year's theme was "Teach us to pray... the Lord's Prayer." Each day teams of youth spent an hour and a half learning to meditate in and ASK from the Word of God. Then they took to the streets, prayerwalking with specific geographical targets and accompanying scriptures. After lunch, they gathered back together again, sharing feedback on the prayer walk, and then immersing themselves in a creative/art response to the Lord. The insights brought forth made our heads spin. God spoke to these young people on every level: personally, corporately, globally. What a blessing to become God's ambassadors in guiding the youth in a way of praying, using scripture meditation and putting prayers to their feet! 



ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

UNACCOMPANIED CHILD REFUGEES OF CANADA

Population: 300+ per year

Primary Religion: Various

Language: Various

Background

In the last five years, nearly 2,000 unaccompanied minors entered Canada seeking asylum. Many of these children come from unreached people groups in various nations. In most cases they are fleeing war, genocide, famine, and abuse. Some are sent away by their well-meaning parents. Others escape on their own, either from abusive parents or as orphans. Still others are the victims of human trafficking. In every case, these children arrive in Canada under incredibly difficult circumstances and must face asylum-seeking and integration into a new culture alone.

ASK...that God would heal broken hearts and comfort children who are alone and afraid in a foreign culture. Ask that He would restore all that has been lost to these children. Ask that Christians in Canada would rise up to offer practical expressions of God's provision, nurture and love to these children. (Joel 2:25-26, Jeremiah 31, Luke 18:15-17)

Canada is the world's second-largest country by total area, reaching from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west and northward to the Arctic Ocean. It shares the world's longest land border with the United States and was also first inhabited by Native tribes.

In the late 15th century, the British and French explored, later settling in the region's Atlantic coast. Today Canada is governed by a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy, with Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state. Officially bilingual (French and English), Canada has a population of approximately 35 million with 87% of her people located in cities. Its economy, the ninth highest per capita globally, relies chiefly upon the abundant natural resources and well-developed trade networks.

Recently the ASK North American Continental Coordinators, Graeme and Beverley Coad, visited Canada, gathering information and beginning to develop ASK Network.

They were encouraged to find a definite place for our type ministry in praying the Word. Although Canada is a secular country with little acknowledgement of their Christian heritage, Graeme and Bev met with several other prayer ministries in the capitol city of Ottawa, including intercessors who pray in the Parliament building and are invited to the gallery to intercede during crucial votes.

Because of God's gracious favor, ASK Network will participate in a conference on prayer walking in Ottawa the first week in June 2014. Graeme also has a strong desire to share the ASK vision in Canadian churches as the Lord leads.

ASK God for:

- God to release funds from Canadians' resources to bless ASK and other ministries. *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8"*
- God to call ASKers to go to Canada for the gathering in June 2014. Pray for His plans to develop and for Canadians who are praying about becoming a part of ASK. *"The LORD has called me from the womb...and He has made my mouth like a sharp sword and made me a polished shaft." Isaiah 49:1-2*
"Whom shall I send. And who will go for Us? ...Here am I! Send me." Isaiah 6:8
- Cities to be reached with the Gospel -spreading throughout Canada's churches and then to the nations. *"Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also." Zechariah 8:20-21*
- Pray for churches to open their doors to ASK Network. *"See, I have set before you an open door and no one can shut it..." Revelation 3:8, Psalm 119:173* 

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

HINDUS OF IRELAND

Population:	10,688
Primary Religion:	Hinduism
Language:	Hindi

Background

Hinduism is on the rise in Ireland, primarily due to an influx of immigrants from South Asia. Where Hindus in India, for example, feel their cultural and moral values threatened by the influx of Western ideas, Hindu immigrants in Ireland feel accepted and even celebrated for their cultural identity. At least eight Hindu temples can be found throughout Ireland. Hindus worship a pantheon of gods and believe that souls never die, but are reincarnated. Hindus follow the law of karma, believing that every action influences how the soul will be born again in the next life. Subsequently, Hindus labor to do enough good to outweigh the bad in order to secure a better “next life.”

ASK...the Hindus of Ireland would know Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. Ask that Hindus would find lasting rest for their souls. (Matthew 11:28-29, John 3:1-21)

Ireland is the western-most nation in Europe. Today, it is a nation divided with 6 counties in “the North” governed by the United Kingdom, and 26 counties in “the South”, known as the Republic of Ireland. This Republic is under its own government but with full membership in and under the authority of the European Union (EU) which is mostly ungodly.

Ireland was a pagan land for 7,000 years until the 5th century when Patrick came and brought Christianity to the people. Faith flourished into the 9th century during which time many Irish missionaries ventured back into dark Europe and far beyond. Ireland became known as “the island of saints and scholars”.

Late in the 12th century Roman Catholicism was imposed on the people of Ireland by Henry II of England at the request of Pope Adrian VI. This began a period of English rule in Ireland that continued from 1169 A.D. until 1922. These 700 years were characterised by waves of “plantations” of settlers coming from England and Scotland. Continuous resistance on the part of the (largely) native Irish population erupted in rebellions against English rule down through the centuries, culminating in the War of Independence and Civil War. Much of present-day Irish political life is coloured by the factions that fought each other during the Civil War. In addition the Great Famine of the 1840-50s swept across the land killing one million and forcing another million to emigrate. The population of Ireland was reduced by almost 25% at this time.

Today 85% of the population is Roman Catholic. The combined Church of Ireland (Anglican) and other Protestant Churches comprise about 2.9%, Islam amounts to 1.5% (and rising). Evangelical and Pentecostal churches account for approximately 1% of religious belief.

ASK for:

- Unity in the churches. *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity....for there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.” Psalm 133:1-3*
- Godly authority and order in government, for the fear of God to reign in officials’ hearts as they seek to legislate abortion against the majority will of the people. *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” James 3:17 “Thou shalt not murder.” Exodus 20:13, Micah 6:8, 1Timothy 2:1-2*
- Relief from the high suicide rate, especially among young men, and the dramatic increase in the drug-related violence, especially in the capital city of Dublin. *“I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.” Deut 30:19, Acts 9:31, Romans 12:21, Psalm 72.12-14*
- Salvation to come to the growing Islamic community. *“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13, Luke 4:18-19, Acts 26:17-18* 