

ASK 10 YEARS NETWORK

10th Anniversary Edition of ASKing Point



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“TO GOD BE THE GLORY!”

In any ASK setting worship should always be our first response, most appropriately. Before all else God’s character and what He does in His gracious omnipotence is worthy of recognition before we even begin to ask. May this 10th Anniversary Edition of ASKing Point bring great glory to our God.

This edition is both an expression of thanksgiving to the Lord but also an overview of some of the essential components of ASK Network so we hope it will provide you with both helpful teachings as well as a summary of who we are and what we do.

ASK Network has been blessed by the Lord since it began in January 2008. After a 21-day period of praise and fasting the Lord gave the call, vision and name now summarized in the introduction card.

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.

www.ASKnetwork.net

(All literature featured in this edition can be downloaded at www.asknetwork.net)

Faithful ASKing Changes Nations

In the late summer of 1997, two of the world's most famous women died. Twenty years later, in the late summer of 2017, the thoughts of many, returned to the death of Diana Princess of Wales, in a car crash in Paris and the death of Mother Theresa in Calcutta. Their deaths occurred just a few days apart. The two women met only once, in the last week of Diana's life. Looking at the photograph that was taken at the time, the huge contrasts immediately come to mind.

One so tall and one so tiny.

One so young and one so old.

One so beautiful and one so wrinkled.

One so rich and one so poor.

When Mother Theresa died, her sole possessions were 3 saris woven by lepers in one of her homes in Calcutta, a small crucifix, a wooden wash bucket, one worn sweater and a much thumbed Bible. But did she really die poor at the age of 87? For over fifty years she worked among the poor of this world, earning the title of 'the saint of the gutters', and for her work she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Far from being poor, her legacy leaves us speechless. Six hundred centres in one hundred and thirty nations feeding half a million families each year. Twenty thousand slum children being taught annually. Ninety thousand lepers treated yearly, twenty thousand dying with dignity in one of her hospices.

Born Gouxha Agnes Bgaxhui to Albanian parents living in Skopje, she left the Balkans at the age of 18 to train as a nun in Ireland. It was not however, until 1950, that she founded her order, The Missionaries of Charity. When I came to Europe in 1970, from my homeland of New Zealand, Albania was regarded as the country most hostile to the gospel in all the world. Enver Hoxha, its cruel dictator, declared that his nation would be the first in human history to utterly deny the existence of God. All mosques and churches were closed or destroyed. All priests, both Moslem and Christian were sent to re-education camps which were in effect death camps. Bibles, Korans, prayer books and all literature of a religious nature were required to be burned. No vestige of the Cross was left in the land ... it was even chiselled out of gravestones where Christians had been buried.

In 1973, a British friend and I joined one of the first tour groups allowed into the land. We were arrested, tried, sentenced to death, (this was then commuted to life imprisonment), but in fact we were driven to the northern border, and told to walk home.



Throughout the sixties, seventies and eighties Christians around the world prayed for Albania and its three million people. No doubt Mother Theresa was one of them. God heard and God answered their prayers. In 1989 God began to dismantle communism in Eastern Europe. Albania was the last to capitulate, holding out till 1991. It was estimated in that year that there were five known evangelical believers in the land, but by 1997 there were more missionaries per capita of population in Albania than anywhere else in the world. In excess of 700. By 1999, 160 churches had been planted with in excess of 8,000 believers. Since then, from the north to the south, the east to the west, in the cities, the towns, the villages and even to remote mountain hamlets, God's servants — Albanian and others, have preached the good news, and raised up healthcare, kindergartens, schools, youth clubs, care for the poorest, the disabled, the elderly.

Just before Easter in 2017, in the port city of Dures, 700 young Christians came from all over Europe, to worship, to pray and to respond to go as God leads to the as yet unreached parts of the world. This event took place, just a mile from the hotel, where in 1973 we had been condemned for bringing in Christian literature. The church in Albania believes they are a nation called into missions and while they are aware that discipleship is still needed in every area of society in their own land, today there are Albanian missionaries in most Balkan and neighbouring nations — nations like Kosovo, Bosnia, Turkey, Greece and Italy.

It really pays to pray! Pray with patience and perseverance, for our God bends low to hear and delights to answer.

No one less than the apostle Paul first brought the gospel to Albania. In Romans 15:19 he declared, that with signs and wonders following, he had fully preached the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to Illyricum ... the ancient name of Albania.

As I was working on this article I came across a quote from Mother Theresa concerning prayer. 'Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God at His disposition and listening to His voice in the depths of our heart.' As ASKers let us do this: listen to His voice and respond accordingly.



Reona Joly



for Nations



When God says in Psalm 2:8 "ASK me and I will make the nations your inheritance." As followers of Jesus we can respond to this invitation to ASK.

ASK and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
Matthew 7:7

ASKing for nations

ASKing is of primary importance. We should ask often, continually, and intentionally but we must ASK! Jesus said when we ask something will be given.

SEEKING for nations

This implies we need to know more, be directed and specific in our ASKing and not to give up. Jesus said when we seek we will find.

KNOCKING for nations

When our ASKing has become so insistent that we are actually knocking, we can break through any resistance. Jesus describes this as an **opened door**.

- **ASK God to give you a vision of what will happen through your prayers for nations.** After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. Revelation 7:9
- **ASK God to give you His love and compassion for nations.** For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
- **ASK God big things for nations.** Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ASK or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. Ephesians 3:20

Turn this card over to learn about some ways we can ASK, seek and knock for nations.

www.ASKNetwork.net



ASKing leads to God's kingdom coming.

How to ASK ... SEEK ... KNOCK for nations

- **ASK God to give you specific Bible passages** to pray for different nations. Psalm 119:130
 - **Watch the news** and pray for nations that are in the headlines. 1 Chronicles 12:32
 - **Follow the lines of relationship.** If you have friends living or serving in a nation begin by praying for them and for that nation. Ephesians 6:18-19
 - **ASK God** to impress on you particular nations needing prayer for a season. Daniel 2:22
 - Target **unreached people groups** ASKing God to send gospel bearers. Isaiah 45:22-23
 - **Pray with fasting** for nations to be set free. Isaiah 58:5
 - **Be informed.** Find out anything you can about a nation. (Resources listed at www.ASKNetwork.net) Proverbs 2:1-6
 - **Invite others to join with you** and share your vision. Matthew 18:19-20
 - As you pray for nations ASK the Lord to **raise up intercessors** in that nation and maybe even establish ASK Network there. Luke 10:2
 - **Pray over maps, and sing and worship** as you pray. Genesis 13:17
 - **Declare the Names of the Lord** and His right to rule over the nations. 1 Samuel 17:45 (List of Names available at www.ASKNetwork.net)
 - ASK that you may **visit nations** to pray, love and share the gospel. Matthew 28:19
 - Commit to **pray for others** going on missions' trips. Ephesians 1:15-17
- ASK the Lord to **expand of your mission vision.** Keep it simple!
"The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. It is not the only thing. But it is the chief thing." S.D. Gordon
- I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. Acts 10:34-35

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ASK God to give you a nation or nations to adopt in prayer. Pray until you see change, even if it takes decades of faithfulness!

Word First, the need for Biblical Meditation

The message that ASK Network carries is that praying the Word of God is a dynamic, but meditating on that Word gives your intercession a strategic and cutting edge, as with a double-edged sword.

What is it? Meditation in Prayer is Asking, Seeking and Knocking.

Asking God for the prayers on His heart, Seeking Him through the Word of God and Holy Spirit's guidance, Knocking on doors with His words that give you delegated authority to pray ... in Jesus' name.

How do I do it? As you read a preselected passage of scripture, first, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then as a portion or even a word stands out to you, stop and read and reread until it becomes clear what the Spirit is saying, This becomes the meat of your prayer.

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ASKing with the Word of God

...releases power, revelation and prophetic truth



You have exalted above all things Your Name and Your Word. Psalm 138:2
Jesus said: ASK in My Name...

The distinctive calling of ASK Network is to listen to God before we pray, and before we act. We wait for Him to speak through His Word, taking responsibility to respond to what the Holy Spirit is revealing. We do so by praying the Word with fervency and diligence, followed by obedience. God takes our words and actions and moves in power to accomplish His purposes for His glory.

Listen to what God has to say... He listens to what you pray.

Turn this card over to find simple principles of how to pray the Word of God. For further teaching, visit our web site www.ASKNetwork.net

Pray the Word of God for Church, communities and all nations.



Praying the Word of God can be as simple as opening your Bible and declaring its truth, but meditating on it gives greater understanding. The Holy Spirit is the best teacher; allow Him to lead you into all truth as you follow these simple steps to a deep and dynamic ASKing.

- **Set time aside** to pray as Jesus did. Fast as He leads you. Luke 5:16, Matthew 6:17
 - If possible **join with others**, as Jesus taught. Matthew 18:19-20
 - **Prepare yourself** with confession and repentance. 1 John 1:9
 - **Worship God** and acknowledge His character. Matthew 6:9
 - ASK for the **Holy Spirit's protection.** Ephesians 6:10-18
 - **Expect God to impress on you** what is on His heart which will give you a focus for ASKing. Isaiah 55:8
 - **Trust God to lead you** to an appropriate scripture. Psalm 37:23
 - **Read the passage carefully** and repeatedly until the Holy Spirit begins to draw your attention to certain words or ideas. John 16:13
 - **Meditate on it**, waiting on God for understanding. Psalm 119:30
 - As you receive insights from God while meditating in His Word, **respond** to it **personally** and let its truth affect you. Ezekiel 3:1
 - **Consider carefully** how the truth God is showing you from His Word gives you insight to ASK for His purposes. 1 Corinthians 2:10
 - **Report what God has shown**, either by writing it down or talking together, so that what He has revealed to each one is shared. Habakkuk 2:2
 - **ASK God**, in prayer, for the things He showed you, believing your requests are powerful weapons. 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; James 5:16
- Be prepared to **be radically obedient** to anything God may ASK you to do. John 2:5
- Thank God** He answers prayer. 1 John 5:14

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ASKing



The Lord has impressed upon us in ASK Network the need to be praying for the final frontier of mission, the Unreached People Groups of the earth. We hope this article inspires you to sign up to pray daily for them.

Embracing the Least, the Last, the Lost

Why Unreached People Groups Matter



Tara Chase

From beginning to end, the Bible reminds us of God's love and commitment toward all of humanity, and of His great longing and desire to be reconciled to all peoples. John's vision in the book of Revelation paints a beautiful picture of God's ultimate intention — that members of every nation, tribe, people and language will one day be gathered together in unity celebrating the saving grace and mighty power of God (Revelation 7:9-12). Can you imagine?

The word nation in that passage comes from the Greek word *ethne* and refers to ethnic groups. While there are nearly 200 geopolitical nations and territories on the earth today, anthropologists and missiologists have identified over 12,000 unique ethnic groups—bands of people who share a common language or dialect, cultural forms and traditions that are distinct from other groups. This is the image described in Revelation 7—not only that Iraqis would gather around God's throne in worship, but that Kurds, Arabs, Yazidi, Shabak, Assyrians and all the people groups of Iraq, along with ethnic groups from every other country in the world, would be represented. It's a glorious glimpse of a reality we will one day know.

In praying for the nations, the ASK Network has made a particular commitment to remembering unreached people groups (UPGs). Who are UPGs? Many confuse unchurched peoples with unreached peoples. The distinction all boils down to access. An unchurched person is someone who has access to the Gospel in a familiar language and cultural form, but for whatever reason has not chosen to embrace the message of Jesus. Unreached peoples, on the other hand, lack access to the Gospel message altogether. They do not get to choose for or against Christ, they simply have little or no context for the Good News. Perhaps there is no church or fellowship of believers in their village, town, region or country. Perhaps the Word of God has not yet been translated into a language they understand at a heart level.

Missiologists have identified some 6,500 ethnic groups today that still wait to hear the Good News of Jesus. Of these 6,500 UPGs, it is estimated that over 1,300 are not even on the radar of a Christian mission organization. It is also estimated that more than 97% of all mission giving in the global Church is directed toward places where Christianity is already established, leaving very little left in the way of financial resources to reach those who have never heard the Good News. The majority of all Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims in the world (87%) do not personally know a Christian. How can they follow Jesus if they have never heard of Him (Romans 10:14-15)?

A generation ago, UPGs used to be far away from the Western world—somewhere “over there” where brave missionaries would go, often at the expense of their own lives, to bring the message of Jesus to people living in the remotest places on earth. While it is true that many UPGs are still located in places that are difficult to access, they can now also be found in every nation of the world. Immigration, forced migration and globalization have all contributed to a world whose people are now very mobile. We no longer need to leave our cities to find UPGs. They have come to us. And often they come to us out of contexts where their ability to choose their own beliefs was very restricted. They arrive in our cities, many times, with hearts soft and readied to receive new ideas and experiences. The opportunity is riper than ever before to introduce Jesus!

But in all the busyness of our lives and the wonderful activities of the Church, why does it matter so much to God and to ASK that we turn our attention to UPGs? Is it not enough that one-third of the world's population claims Christianity? Scripture is clear—it is not enough! God desires all *ethne*, all people groups, to be represented in His Kingdom.

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Here are three reasons why we are so passionate about ASKING for unreached peoples:

It is our mandate as followers of Jesus! Jesus' final act on earth was to give His followers direction and authority to carry the message of the Gospel into the world: Go therefore and make disciples of all *ethne* ... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ... You will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:6-9). As Teresa of Avila has written, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours." This is our job to do and, as Matthew 24:14 suggests, the return of Christ will wait until the task is complete.

As lovers of Christ, we bear the weighty compassion of God, that all peoples would be saved, redeemed and restored to fullness of life in Christ (Jeremiah 31; John 3:16-17, 10:10). We desire all peoples to experience a flourishing life. We desire all peoples to know a God who loves them unconditionally. We long for all peoples to receive the gifts of God's Kingdom.

We honor and value the image of God imprinted on each human in every culture. Because God created humans in His image (Genesis 1:27) and placed people in cultures (Acts 17:24-28), we believe every ethnic group has a way of comprehending Christ that is unique and purposeful. Said another way, the body of Christ is incomplete without all of its parts. We long for humans and cultures to be redeemed, that Christ's body may be made whole. We want to see Jesus ever more clearly, and understand that in order to do so, we desperately

need the missing perspective of our brothers and sisters from other cultures.

As the ASK Network moves into the next decade, we celebrate all God has done—and all God has yet to do—to draw unreached peoples to Himself. And we are grateful for our part in it. Let us continue to partner with God and ASK:

... that God would continue to open up avenues of access—spiritually, geographically, politically, mentally and emotionally—where unreached peoples remain hidden and blocked from the Gospel message (Psalm 24).

... that God would raise up laborers within the global Church to go to unreached peoples with the Gospel (Matthew 9:35-38, Luke 10:1-12).

... that Christians in every nation would overcome fear of the unknown and fear of the other in order to embrace the incredible opportunity God has given us to generously share Christ's love with immigrants, refugees and visitors who have never had an opportunity to hear the Good News (Romans 8:19, Ephesians 2:11-22).

... that the global Church would be ready to receive new members of Christ's body, honoring and uplifting the new Kingdom perspective each member brings (Matthew 20:1-16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13).

... that all peoples of the earth would soon celebrate together the coming of God's Kingdom of peace (Isaiah 11:6-9, Revelation 7:9-17).

For more information about unreached people groups, visit joshuaproject.net, finishingthetask.com and operationworld.com.



ASKing... for those from every Nation, Tribe, People & Language



The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. — Revelation 22:17

We eagerly await the day when "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, will be standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." Revelation 7:9 On that day our ASKing will have ceased but until then our prayers can and must prepare for the coming of that great day!

These four words "people, tribe, language and nation" are mentioned five times in the book of Revelation, but not in the same order; showing us that all four are equally important in God's eyes. Revelation 5:9, 7:9, 11:9, 13:7, 14:6

ASKing for nations

The 600 references to nations in the Bible indicate God's intentional design and redemptive purposes for them. There are currently 195 recognized independent sovereign states. In this context, a nation can be described as a land defined by geographic borders and under a body of governance.

ASK for your own nation. I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Pray the Church, with strong disciples, will be established in every nation; Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20

Follow a plan to pray for all nations. www.operationworld.org has many resources

ASKing for peoples

The Lord told Jacob: "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring." His offspring were the Jewish people. One designation of a people group can be racial grouping; sometimes this coincides with continental grouping. This can be a very helpful way to identify peoples for prayer, asking God that their distinctive attributes and cultures may be fully expressed to the glory of God.

More on the reverse side...

Worship God that all people belong to Him, praying for that revelation to come to all people. The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1 worldwide. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Matthew 5:9.

ASK the Lord of the harvest for the gospel to go in power to every people group. Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples. Romans 15:11

ASKing for languages

The number of languages spoken in the world today is at least 6,800. The number of languages without any of the Bible, but with a possible need of a Bible translation to begin, is over 2,000, which affects 340 million people.

Pray for the Bible to be translated into every language so that everyone can hear the gospel in their own language. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? Romans 10:14

Pray for God to provide for and prosper the work of www.wycliffe.org www.pioneerbible.org www.lbt.org May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon them; establish the work of their hands for them—yes, establish the work of their hands. Psalm 90:17

Ask God to reverse the effect of His judgment after the building of the Tower of Babel: There the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth. Genesis 11:9

ASKing for tribes

Within the one nation of Israel there were twelve tribes. Many nations of the world have internal tribal systems. Tribes often began as families, or some other close knit group. They exist as unreached people groups within nations. It is very common that tribes

Get involved in praying for Unreached People Groups. There are approximately 7,000 UPG, meaning 41% of all people groups are unreached. That is 2.84 billion people. You can sign on to www.joshuaproject.net and receive information by email about a different UPG to pray for every day.

Pray that through the gift of technology and cyberspace the gospel will go forth to the ends of the earth with ever increasing speed and effectiveness. All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations. Psalm 22:26-27

Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. 1 Chronicles 16:24

ASK Network can fulfill its destiny by praying until those from every Nation, Tribe, People & Language have come to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

www.ASKNetworkusa.net

ASKing with Fasting

I thank God for the gift of fasting. That does not mean I may immediately love the practice! Who doesn't know those pangs of hunger or desire for breakfast or even McDonald's fries when fasting? But I love the effect of fasting. First on me. The purification it brings, the focus, the empowerment. Of course this is not of us, but completely by the power of the Holy Spirit. Who would not want to fast regularly as a devotional practice just for their own ongoing sanctification? Only Jesus makes us holy of course, but fasting is a holy exercise by which we become more in touch with the holiness of God.

But there is a far more important reason. **Nations hang in the balance.** Just as Esther fasted for the deliverance of her people, we too can pray for people groups and nations. Fasting is a mercy ministry, laying down one's life for others. This is actually something we can do for others when we feel helpless; we can pray with fasting. This is a mystery but fasting adds an edge to our intercessions. But it is not *"of works, lest we should boast"*! Rather it is beyond our comprehension why the Divine Almighty should receive our small sacrifice of food as an acceptable offering? After all, isn't God more interested in a contrite heart than sacrifices? (Psalm 51:16) **But 1 Peter 2:4-5 shows what grace is being extended to us:** *"As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*

The fact is that fasting reminds us of our mortality, our weak frames. Within a matter of hours we feel the effect of our hunger. **We recognize our total dependence on God.** We are human, He is divine. We are weak, He is strong. Fasting declares we do not have the answers but we are coming to the One who does.

We are glad that fasting is a vital companion to our call to prayer in ASK Network. Of course this is not original to us; Jesus endorsed this joint practice in His juxtaposition of prayer and fasting in His teaching in Matthew 6: "when you pray ... when you fast." (v.5,16) But that was not the first time these are seen as essential partners. They are seen as effective together in Ezra 8:23, Nehemiah 1:4, Daniel 9:3, Luke 2:37, 5:33, Acts 13:3, 14:23. So let us join these giants of faith in praying with fasting. Let us endeavour to keep this practice alive as a regular part of our devotional life in ASK adding to the effectiveness of our intercession.

You may download this card on Asking with Fasting at www.asknetwork.net. Use it in your ASK group and invite others to join you! They will thank you when they see the effect it has in their lives.

Celia McAlpine



ASKing with Fasting

When you pray... when you fast... Matthew 6:5,16

Jesus teaches prayer and fasting as related subjects. Sometimes scripture even describes them as combined activities. (E.g. Matthew 17:21, Acts 14:23) In ASK Network we ASK with fasting, as the Lord directs. Receive from Him anything we ASK, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him. 1 John 3:22

Fasting food and drink quickly reminds us of our humanity. Hence, it helps us focus on God. It is known medically that the body should not go more than three days without water. There are three exceptions: the supernatural fasts of Jesus, Elijah and Moses who all did forty-day fasts without food or water; Moses twice. Interestingly Elijah and Moses appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, representing the Law and the Prophets.

Here we are looking primarily at the devotional practice of abstaining from food, or maybe drink, but God may ask any kind of a fast of us as He does in Isaiah 58 where abstaining from various sinful behaviors can break the effect of injustice.

Reasons for fasting when ASKing on behalf of Church, communities and all nations:

- **To be humbled** I humbled my soul by fasting. Psalm 69:10 I proclaimed a fast... that we might humble ourselves before our God. Ezra 8:21
- **To be holy** They stood and confessed their sins. Nehemiah 9:1-3 Then your righteousness will go before you. Isaiah 58:8
- **To be heard** So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer. Ezra 8:23 They declared a fast, and all of them... When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened. Jonah 3:5,10
- **To hear** I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes... "I have now come to give you insight and understanding." Daniel 9:3,22

More on the reverse side...

Types of fasting:

- **Total fast:** Esther observed a three-day fast with no food or water. (The n can sustain naturally.) Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I an Paul also did a total fast for three days. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. Acts 9:9 This was preparation for ministry.
- **Abstaining from food only:** This is what is understood by most biblical references to fasting. E.g. Ezra — 9:5, 10:6, People of Nineveh — Jonah 3:5-9, Anna — Luke 2:37, Church in Antioch — Acts 13:2-3, etc.
- **Partial fast:** This can be a very useful form of fasting as it need not affect every day life. Daniel did a partial fast for three weeks: I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. Daniel 10:3

Before you fast:

- Be clear as to the spiritual objective of the fast.
- Seek the Lord as to how long (sunset to sunset, one, three, ten, twenty-one and forty days are all mentioned in scripture.) if it is to be an extended fast prepare carefully and prayerfully, and break fast wisely.
- Pray about what kind of fast (total, food, partial or some other).
- Ask the Lord to purify your motive and humble your heart.
- Determine if this is a public fast with others (e.g. Zechariah 7:5) or private (Acts 13:2).
- Make yourself accountable to someone.
- If you might have any medical complications check with a doctor.

➤ **To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.**

Revelation 1:5-6

www.ASKnetwork.org.uk

Gathering in a Time of Scattering

by Stuart McAlpine

I am privileged to be a participant in this global prayer movement known as ASK NETWORK. Our Mission Statement reads:

Gathering all generations to pray for all nations, **asking** God to do what only He can do, and **doing** whatever He asks of us.

It was Jesus Himself who established the necessary relationship between gathering and asking (Matthew 18: 19-20). According to this call, and to our Mission Statement, the first order of business is 'to gather', which prompted me to do a Genesis-to-Revelation study on this verb. From the gathering of God in the opening act of the creation of this earth (Genesis 1:9), to the gathering work of the angels in the Apocalypse before the manifestation of a new earth (Revelation 16:16), the divine acts of gathering are central to the narrative of temporal and eternal history. The move of God in the last days is a 'gathering movement'. In Revelation we read of a gathering for judgment (14:19, 16:16, 19:17) and a gathering for the Supper of the Lamb (19:9). The Bible ends with a gathering call: "Come!" (Revelation 22:17). As I began to pore over hundreds of scriptures, I was gripped afresh, not just by the divine **practice** of gathering, but also by the specific divine **purposes** for it. God's gathering, godly gathering, is sadly not necessarily synonymous with how we often plan and organize events and services, how we expand our ministries, or how we attract people to our churches. However, before we plant a church and grow a congregation, or collect a following, or develop a ministry and garner supporters, it might be wise to know what God's purposes are in such endeavors, and what purposes He has when we gather in His name. Do our motives, means and methods of assembly actually exhibit and express God's desires for our gathering together? Do our expected and hoped-for outcomes of such gatherings reflect the intentions of how and why He gathers? Jesus said that He would gather other sheep, than those of the immediate fold. Are we aware of who these sheep are, and how He is gathering them?

Of course, there is a counter reaction to gathering that has to be acknowledged – scattering. The Bible also has much to say about this. For a physicist, 'scattering' is the word that describes a general physical process where some particles are forced to deviate from a straight trajectory. Scattering, as a spiritual process, has the same characteristic, as someone is dislodged from the place of being gathered, and deviates from the path that is straight. The lack of desire and failure to gather in Christian community is a sure sign of being scattered,

or at least, a sure vulnerability to being scattered, regardless of access to internet-religion or podcasts. It is not without significance that it is when David is in the gathering of the congregation in the Temple that he is so aware of the enemies

of righteousness and therefore prays "make straight your way before me" (Psalm 5:8). Again, in Psalm 27, it is when he asks if he may always dwell in the house of the Lord, in the gathering of God's people, that he prays "lead me in a straight path" (Psalm 27: 4, 11). It was his experience of gathering that provoked and preserved his desire for the Lord to keep his path straight and protect him from scattering. It was the non-negotiable context for his asking. In the New Testament, Peter describes false teachers and their followers who have left the gathering of believers as those who "have left the straight way" (2 Peter 2:15). Given the fact that we live in an age of unprecedented heresy, it is not surprising that we need to discern both the righteous gathering of God, and the unrighteous scattering of Satan.

In His teaching, Jesus presented the stark difference between two masters, two roads, two foundations for your house, two sons, sheep and goats. He was also intently aware of two other opposing realities. "He who does not gather with Me scatters" (Luke 11:23). I am just about to publish another booklet for use in the ASK NETWORK entitled: **Gathering in a Time of Scattering**. Please look out for it. We will let you know when it is available, hopefully in the new year. It deals with two fundamental possibilities. Are you gathered or are you scattered? Are we gathering or are we scattering? Are we experiencing the purposes and provisions of God's gathering or are we subject to the dispersing, diverting, dividing, defecting strategies of the enemy of our souls? The Bible begins with Adam and Eve being scattered from the garden by the judgment of God, and concludes with the gathering by God of those who have been saved from judgment by His love, expressed in the gift of grace that is our justification (Romans 5:16). In the words of the seventeenth century pastor, Lancelot Andrewes, "All perished by being scattered from ... All must be recovered by being gathered to ..."

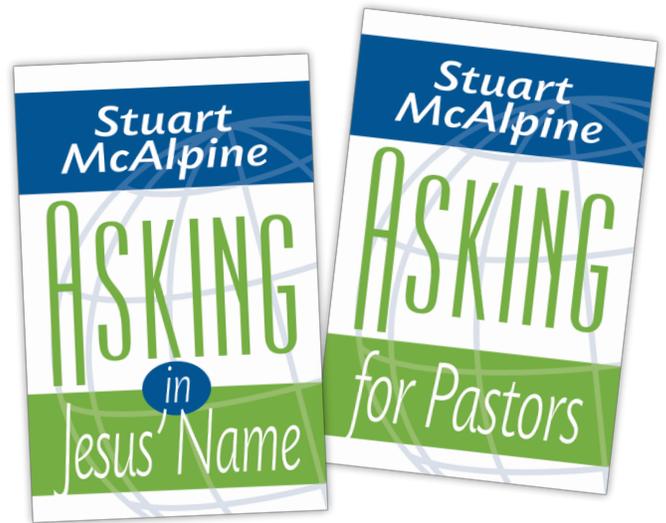
Basic and essential to the call of ASK NETWORK is the commitment to be pro-active gatherers, inviting people



to the place of asking. Asking is not merely a solitary business — gathering two or three is a good Jesus-endorsed start! Have you asked your pastor if you can start and gather an ASK group in your church as part of the prayer outreach. Why not buy a 10-pack of ‘Asking for Pastors’, give your pastor a copy and ask him if you can gather eight other people (making 9 including you) to begin by asking for him, and other pastors, every week, possibly meeting before the service every Sunday. It was this kind of gathering at Metropolitan Tabernacle that Spurgeon said explained what happened in the sanctuary every Sunday. Gather friends in your home. Gather prayer leaders in your city.

So in the words of Lancelot Andrewes, from the same sermon quoted above, “**Gather then and be gathered to Him. Gather then and be gathered with Him. He that gathereth not with Him scattereth ... to gathering we go.**” And all in ASK NETWORK replied: “**YES LORD, TO GATHERING WE WILL GO SO THAT ASKING WE MAY DO!**”

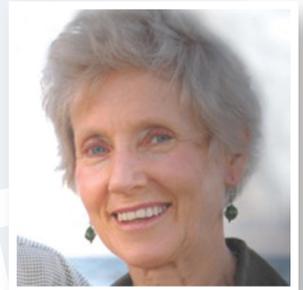
Stuart McAlpine



(Both these booklets may be obtained at orders@mc Alpinepartners.org)

ASK NETWORK NEWS

THE USA AND CANADA have had several joint Gatherings since ASK commenced in Canada several years ago. Both nations have joined in praying for Mexico. Prayers were answered when an ASK team from the USA recently conducted an ASK weekend at a church in Mexico. ASK groups there are now in the process of commencing. Outreach to Cuba resulted in our contacts sharing ASK in local churches and, as a result, ASK groups have now started in Cuba. January 25-27, 2018 a North American Continental Gathering will take place in St. Augustine, USA, the oldest continuously settled city in America. We are planning for each country and all generations to be represented, to sing “a new song” together. “*And they sang a new song, saying ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.’*” Revelation 5:9



*Beverly Coad,
ASK Director
North America*

ASK EUROPE 2017— CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14

Ten years ago, as ASK was birthed, we received a prophetic word from a seasoned prayer warrior friend that we in ASK EUROPE would be like an SAS team*, receiving precise strategy for each specific, under the radar, assignment. And that is exactly how it has been.

In the West, many people assume history is aimless: ‘Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing’ (as Shakespeare put it in *Macbeth*). In sharp contrast, the New Testament sees history as moving towards a climax. The ultimate struggle is between *good and evil* — ending with the *triumph of good and God*.

continued on p10

We know as Christians that the kingdom of God will not fail. God is working his purposes out in history, and Jesus is the centrepiece. All lines in history converge on him. As someone has said: 'The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable.'

It is a joy, as ASKers, to play a small part in God's plans as he works out his purposes in co-operation with his people.

This year we have gathered in Nice, France as ASK Europe to pray from the spectacular vantage point of Les Courmettes (www.arocha.org); we have partnered with Ellel Ministries (www.Ellel.org) twice: in their new Baak Centre in Holland, meeting many fine European prayer leaders; and at the Grange in the UK, for intensive prayer, focussing particularly on the Brexit process.

Jenny Bailey (UK director) has initiated a monthly prayer conference call, during which participants, having meditated in a given scripture passage, pray through ASKing Point.

Praise be to the Lord my rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield in whom I take refuge...Psalm 144:1,2

Rejoicing with you in the faithfulness of our God,

The ASK Europe team.

*A special forces unit of the British Army which undertakes a number of roles including covert reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, direct action and hostage rescue.

SOME OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED AS WE HAVE PRAYED FOR THE NATIONS

The ASKing Point publication is a God-given tool to effectively facilitate His call to ASK Network to pray for all nations. By no means have we completed the task, but we have accomplished praying for about 85 nations in the last 10 years and ASK groups have been established in more than 25 of these nations in answer to prayer.

In September 2009, Pakistan was the first nation highlighted for prayer in AP and in the last few months we are seeing the fruit of those prayers with a group of Pakistanis learning to ASK. What an encouragement to know that as we remain faithful to our call, He will answer in His time!

Often the answers have arrived more quickly as with Canada and Mexico. They have come into the network within the last 4 years completing the nations in N. America.

The continent of Africa has 12 nations with ASKing groups, and at least 2 more nations are scheduled for launching in 2018.

During these 10 years we have prayed for the regions of the Middle East and the Himalayans, which include the largest populations of the three main non-Christian religions. Other topics such as areas plagued with natural disasters, international social issues-global refugees, terrorism, famine, the church/pastors, sexual abuse and trafficking, and many others have all been brought to our Father for His healing presence and deliverance. May we continue to ASK with greater urgency than before for ALL the nations to come into the Kingdom of our God and Savior, as He desires to do great and mighty acts as we ASK!

REPORT FROM AFRICA

It has been a privilege for some of us to have been in relationship with Charles & Miriam Kaloki for many years. It was not surprising that their call to leadership in ASK Network has

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**Charlie & Anita
Cleverly, ASK
Directors Europe**



Martie Hunter

been a blessing both within Africa but also to the work internationally. They had been leaders in Nairobi, Kenya for many years before accepting the position of ASK Directors for Africa in 2010. As Continental Directors they have had important input to the growth of the vision around the world.

Below is a summary of the work as it has been established so far in some of the nations in Africa. Please pray for these leaders and their nations where we are seeing significant growth in the ministry of ASK Network



*Miriam & Charles Kaloki,
ASK Directors Africa*

West Africa

- Liberia: Jackson & Victoria Weah
- Togo: Evarist & Rose Byll
- Nigeria: Franklin & Blessed Chidozie

Central Africa

- DRC: John Niko
- Cameroon: Edwin Asongwe

North Africa

- South Sudan: Patrick Ishmel
- Ethiopia: Workneh Jilo

East Africa

- Kenya: Charles & Miriam Kaloki (Continental Directors)
- Tanzania: Israel & Nabwike Popapo
- Uganda: Vincent & Stella Balisanyuka
- Rwanda: Joseph Kamanza (planned launching)
- Barundi: Julius Ngoy

South Africa

- South Africa: Eliot & Sabbath Borchardt (Regional Directors)
- Zambia: Flemmings Mtonga
- Botswana: Ben & Kelly Henry
- Malawi (planned launching).

2018

February:

- Swaziland outreach
- Rwanda for official launching.
- East Africa regional conference (invites to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Congo, DRC and Malawi)

March:

Cameroon

May:

Launching in Malawi
Follow-up visit to Zambia

August:

Gathering all national directors in Nairobi for three days retreat and asking together for Africa and training.



*Evarist & Rose,
with leaders
from Togo,
praying at the
Egyptian border*

*Charles Kaloki
delivers an
update on Africa
at the ASK 2017
conference in
Israel*



Prayer of Consecration

Lord God, we thank You for all the grace and favour You have granted ASK Network over the last decade. We acknowledge our total dependence on You for our existence, our ongoing purpose and our direction and development.

We know You are God, whose voice can be heard, so we say, “Speak, for Your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:10). Also, Lord, “as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant look to the hand of their mistress, so our eyes look to (You), Lord our God, till (You) have mercy on us.” (Psalm 123:2)

We acknowledge You, Almighty God, as the one “who hears our prayers” (Psalm 65:2). Thank You that You also listen to our voices as we ask of You and in Your grace answer with wisdom and power. You are the only one who can answer prayer.

As we look ahead and seek You, Lord, we pray with Paul for each other: “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is His exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:15-19)

Give us grace, most merciful Father, to worship You always in spirit and in truth; to pray faithfully and fervently for nations to be changed by You; to meditate in Your Word in depth in order to hear Your voice; to passionately pursue Your desire of seeing every UPG reached for You; to fast with our ASKing as You lead us; to gather others together unto You to ASK; and to testify to all the glorious answers to our ASKing You grant us.

Help us, Father God, to embrace our call to ASK so that Your Son may have the nations as His inheritance, and the ends of the earth His possession. (Psalm 2:8)

To God be the Glory!

Amen