



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.

www.ASKnetwork.net

ASKing ‘til the end... Come, Lord Jesus!

Our days are numbered. However, it is clear from the book of Revelation that Jesus is not going to return until the gospel has reached every tribe, tongue, people group and nation. Clearly He wants to return. The last words He speaks about Himself in scripture are: "I am the Bright Morning Star." Watching the Morning Star rise is an expected delight. It seems that other stars have been shining all night. Then, just as the night has been long and dark, this brilliant star cuts the horizon. At that point you know for sure morning is coming. Yes, there will be first light, followed by dawn which will be crowned by sunrise. *He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber.* Ps 19:4-5 NKJV

The Incarnate Christ was the Bright Morning Star. He ushered in first light. His Resurrection was as an Eternal Dawn. As He closes scripture with that self description the end of night and the coming of eternal day was for all time and eternity assured. We have seen first light, "the kingdom come, but not here yet..." We have even seen a dawning world-wide of a glorious Church (the Bride described in Revelation 21) emerging around the world. But oh the wonder when the Son rises with healing in His wings! *"But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts."* (Malachi 4:2, 3 ESV)

But that is not yet. There is a job to be done. You are called to the task. All believers in Jesus are. All Christians are meant to engage this passion for seeing all nations gathered in. But not all may know where to start, how to go about it. This task is too big for any one, it needs to be shouldered by all. It needs Father, Son and Spirit. That is why ASK exists: to be a gathering place to ASK for all nations. We rely on the Holy Spirit to inspire, comfort, direct us. We ASK in the name of Jesus. We put our trust wholeheartedly in Father God, the only one who is able to—*do what only He can do*—which is answer our ASKing.


The news coming from around the world would be overwhelming if we had not already been warned by Christ to expect this. The Lord knew this was to happen and He warned us it would. *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.* (Matthew 24:6-14 ESV)

Let's take this to heart with all fervency, for the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:16 ESV)

- Cry out for mercy for all those caught in the terror of Ebola. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that*



we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. (2 Corinthians 1:3-7 ESV)

- Pray for the end to this plague. *I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? (Hosea 13:13) I say to the Lord, "You are my God." Hear, Lord, my cry for mercy. (Psalm 140:6)*
- Pray for comfort for those who have lost children and other loved ones in the recent horrors of ISIS activities. *They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. (Revelation 6:10, 11 ESV) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4:12, 13 ESV)*
- Pray that the blood of the martyrs, of whatever age, will cry out. *Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (John 12:7, 24-26 ESV)*
- Pray for the Church worldwide to grow straight and strong so that in days of darkness she may be prepared as a Bride, fit for the Lamb without spot or blemish, chosen before the foundations of the earth. *We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15, 16 ESV)* 

by Celia McAlpine, International Director

ASK Network News

ASKing in the Nations

In October ASKers gathered in Oxford, England to "seek the Lord while he may be found." (Isaiah 55:6) Charlie Cleverly (ASK Europe) spoke on the need for revival; Charles Kaloki (ASK Africa) spoke of the impact ASK is bringing to the nations of Africa, and admonished those in attendance to dig out the spiritual wells in our own nations. Sarah Percival of Romance Academy tackled the subject of revival and how it might come among the young people and, finally Senna Ounate-Lare taught that revival starts from a renewal of relationship with God. We thank God for enlarging understanding and drawing all who were present more deeply into the place of ASKing. For a fuller report, visit www.asknetwork.org.uk

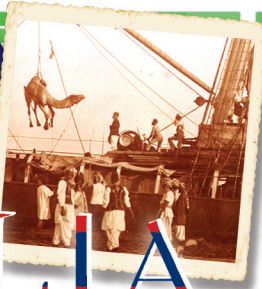
Representatives from several nations gathered in Johannesburg this October for the ASK Network's African Continental Conference. It was one of those "immeasurably more than we could have asked or imagined" occasions. As leaders shared of the increase of gatherings to ASK in their nations, we were all "built up in our most holy faith". There was a great balance between in-depth teaching on ASKing and extended times of actual ASKing for Africa; there was an outpouring of "the spirit of grace and supplication".

Soberingly there were some empty seats. Ebola had prevented some coming from West Africa. Expanding limitations on visas due to terrorism and immigration restrictions had prevented others. We grieved the absence of those from Liberia, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, DRC and Rwanda. We were blessed to have good representation from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Zambia. Also a team representing ASK International came from the USA. Our South African hosts were gracious beyond description showing us the best of African hospitality. It was a joy to see some new leaders set in place: Elliot and Sabbath Borchardt for the region of Southern Africa, Goodman and Tshidi Shandu for South Africa and Bishop Flemings Matunga for Zambia. We thank God for these choice servants of the Lord, proven and fruitful in kingdom work.

Much as we were encouraged by this wonderful gathering we desire even greater growth in Africa! As Charles Kaloki, Continental Director for Africa with his wife Miriam, reminded us that Jesus gave the barren fig tree a chance to bear fruit in a subsequent year! May we all be encouraged to seek fruitfulness in the year to come!

Please join us in prayer now for an upcoming event in Australia at the Ellel Ministry base outside Sydney, November 14-16. May those who have a heart to ASK for the nations join us there and may we see trustworthy people catch the vision to gather ASKers! (2 Timothy 2:2) 

ASKing for the Nations



AUSTRALIA

Unreached People Group:

Australia is the sixth largest nation on earth. It is considered one of the most highly developed civilizations and is among the wealthiest. Historically, it has also been one of the least religious. Indigenous Australians here were undisturbed for millennia until, first the Dutch (in 1606) and then the British (in 1770), established a European presence on this vast continent.


Australia is now a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-religious land. Faith in 'God' is very muddled here. There are 'many gods' being worshipped (along with materialism, sport, etc.). Praise the Lord there is freedom to worship Jesus. Having said that, Muslims would appear to be more outwardly committed and serious about worship of Allah than Christians are in their own faith. Australia is very sensitive about offending the Muslim but not so concerned about offending the Christian. Please pray that in these times the Body of Christ will wake up and be alert to pray and find their voice, letting others know they can trust in the true and living God in these threatening times.

The Jews are a great unreached people group in Australia, and there has been an increase in anti-Semitic threats in recent times. Very few Christian churches are aware of their Jewish roots and are not caring for their Jewish brothers and sisters as they have been indoctrinated with Replacement Theology.

The present-day Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, is described as a thoughtful Christian. Please pray for him and all those in authority, leaders of the nation and of the church, to be discerning, to make wise decisions in these challenging days concerning terrorist and other major issues both in Australia and overseas.

Terrorism has moved from abroad to Australia. The nation has been placed on high terrorist alert for the first time with citizens being told to be 'vigilant at home and abroad'. A young man here was killed recently when he attacked two policemen with a knife with the intention of beheading them. These are fearful and worrying times in the natural. Strong anti-terror legislation is currently being proposed, debated and some has already been passed. Sadly dozens of Islamic militants are going from Australia to Syria and Iraq to fight with terrorist groups.

Let's ASK God together...

- That moderate Islamic leaders will have courage as they seek to calm and dissuade their "misguided and alienated" youth who want to travel overseas to join the terrorist militia; and for community leaders as they discuss and determine why Islamic young people are so vulnerable to this radicalisation. *Psalm 72:12-14, 119:9-10*
- For restraint over all those wanting to enact revenge; against the spirit of violence. *Proverbs 10:12*
- That He would reveal Himself to those of all faiths and that Christians would take courage in this hour; that He would lift the veil of ignorance over the Body of Christ so they may reach out in love to the Jews of this land and introduce them to Messiah. *Isaiah 25:6-9, 2 Corinthians 3:14-18* 

AFGHAN OF AUSTRALIA

Population: 24,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Southern Pashto

Background

Afghans first arrived in Australia in the 19th century, recruited by Britain to assist in the development of the Australian Outback. They operated camel trains in the desert, providing water, food and materials to remote stations and mining settlements. They also labored to construct the Overland Telegraph and the "Port Augusta to Alice Springs" railway. In the 1930's, railways and motor cars made camel trains irrelevant, so most Afghans resettled in Australia's major urban centers. A second wave of Afghans immigrated to Australia in the late 20th century to escape the Soviet and civil wars in Afghanistan. Afghans introduced Islam in Australia. There are only a few known followers of Jesus among Australia's Afghans.

ASK...that Australian Christians would be empowered by God's Spirit to show His love to the Afghan foreigners in their midst. Ask that Afghans would encounter Jesus as the Living Water (Deuteronomy 10:14-22, Proverbs 25:25-26)

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

Cambodia is in Southeast Asia, bordered by Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Because of foreign invasions and domination, much of Cambodia's history was filled with turbulence and bloodshed. However, the Khmer Rouge regime, from 1975-1979, caused great loss of life and had a deadly impact on the country. Marked as the "genocide of Cambodians," the militant Khmer Rouge regime under the leadership of Pol Pot massacred about two million people. In hope of establishing a Marxist agrarian utopia, Pol Pot and his Khmer soldiers executed, imprisoned, and tortured those citizens with education, foreign influence, and wealth because they were deemed as traitors or "impure" for the revolution.

Even now more than 30 years later, the aftermath of this bloody political struggle leaves Cambodia as one of the most corrupt and poorest of nations. With an impoverished economy and weak law enforcement, Cambodia is a breeding ground for the exploitation of children and women. UNICEF estimates that children make up a third of 40,000 to 100,000 people who are in this nation's sex trade. Svay Pak, a small fishing town outside of the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, is recognized as a prime destination globally for pedophile tourism. It is not uncommon for mothers to sell their daughters' virginity simply to survive.


Sadly, destitute Cambodian children are also used to illicit money from sympathetic foreigners. A 2011 UNICEF study indicated that "orphanages had become a lucrative business" estimating that about 77 percent of those in orphanages still have living parents. In response to the UNICEF report, Cambodia's Minister of Social Affairs announced the immediate shut down of 70 privately run orphanages showing these centers failed to provide even basic care and safety. Yet three years later, the number of orphanages has again increased and most of these operate without compliance to government guidelines.

Whether the vain hope of a brutal regime or the desperate decision of a mother, Cambodia exemplifies what Scripture declares, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

Please pray for the revelation of Jesus, the Mediator –

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. John 14:6

PRAYER POINTS...

- Ask for repentance and restoration: *Isaiah 30:15, 18-22; Ephesians 2:1-8*
- Exalt the attributes of God in Psalm 103 as a song of deliverance for Cambodia. Ask for forgiveness, healing, mercy and justice for the Cambodians and pray that they would reciprocate compassion, forgiveness, mercy and justice to others—Cambodians and foreigners alike. 

WESTERN CHAM OF CAMBODIA

Population: 237,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Western Cham

Background

Many years ago, the Cham ruled a strong empire in what is now southern Vietnam. In 1471, this empire was destroyed by the Vietnamese, and the Cham fled to Cambodia. In the late 20th century, Cham (a minority group) were targeted for annihilation by the Khmer Rouge because they practiced Islam. About 100,000 Cham are said to have been executed at that time. Those who survived were disbursed into small groups and, for the most part, sacrificed their ethnic identity in order to integrate into Cambodian lifestyle. Today, the Cham are extremely poor and survive by farming, fishing and building boats.

ASK... that God would restore all that He created precious in the Cham ethnic identity. Ask that God would heal the deep generational wounds left by the targeted attacks of the Khmer Rouge. Ask that God would send laborers to bring the good news of His kingdom to the Cham. (Psalm 13, Psalm 116)