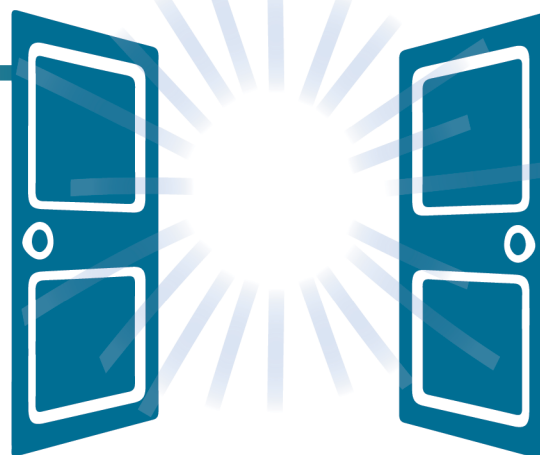




ASKING POINT NETWORK



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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. 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

Heaven OPEN, as usual!

The prophetic is the gift of God's voice to us, but in this pandemic there is much confusion given the avalanche of self-described 'prophetic' communications that presume to speak authoritatively for God and to the crisis, but are often sadly infected with personal conjecture and public theories of conspiracy. They end up more problematic than prophetic. To mean well is not necessarily to minister well. Of course, many questions are raised. Is this pandemic a "birth pain"? Is it one of the apocalyptic plagues? Is it retributive judgment? Is it punitive judgment or formative discipline? Is there a difference between being shaken and being judged? Is this natural or supernatural? Amidst all these different voices demanding attention, competing for our acknowledgment and agreement, it would be wise to attune our hearing to the commanding prophetic voice of Jesus Himself and to respond to His six-times repeated instruction at the Last Supper, to "ASK!"

We need the prophecy of "the one who sees clearly ... who hears the words of God ... who sees a vision from the Almighty ... whose eyes are opened" (Numbers 24:16). Jesus prophesied "famines and pestilences ... fearful events ... the time of punishment ... nations in anguish and perplexity ... terror." However, He gave us clear instructions in these circumstances: "Do not worry ... do not fear." When what we are seeing seems grounds enough for anxiety and fear, He tells us what our eyes need to be focused on.

- **Watch out for deceivers (Matthew 24:4)**
- **Watch your life and holiness (Luke 21:34)**
- **Watch the signs (Matthew 28:30)**
- **Watch and pray (Matthew 28:36)**

Our posture in the face of all these "fearful events" (Luke 21:11) is not to cower, hide or withdraw with lowered heads and covered eyes, but to "stand up and lift up our heads" (Luke 21:28). Where the head goes the eyes tend to follow! We are called to maintain this position so that we "may be able to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36). If we are watching, Jesus says "you can see these things for yourselves" (Luke 21:29) and when we do "see these things" (Matthew 24:33; Luke 21:31) our heavenly hope will irradiate the darkness of earthly hopelessness, because we will know that our "redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28) and That

Above all, we cannot cease to ASK for “the door of faith to be opened” to the nations

the “*sign of the Son of Man in heaven ... is near, right at the door*” (Matthew 24:33).

Are we ready? Are we right with God and all others? Are we “*learning the lesson*” (Matthew 24:32) in this present eschatological curriculum?

In the meantime, we are ASKing for other doors to open here on earth. Some of us have found ourselves praying Isaiah 26 in present circumstances: “*My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness*” (v9). Our ASKing for the “*people of the world*” comes out of a place of intimacy. Did not Jesus say that if we abide in Him we could ASK of Him (John 15:7)? Again, intimacy is the environment of intercession (John 15:7). But interestingly, the prophetic chapter ends like this: “*Go my people, enter*

your rooms and shut the doors behind you: hide yourselves for a little while until His wrath has passed by” (Isaiah 26:20). This sounds awfully like a shut-down, doesn't it? The vocabulary of our day amidst global pandemic is a litany of limitation and restriction: do-not-enter police tapes, barriers and diversions, lock-downs, quarantine mandates, social distance, shelter-in-place, services suspended, planes grounded, shut for business, cancelled, sealed customs posts, secured borders. In a word – CLOSED.

However, that same chapter in Isaiah begins: “**OPEN the gates**” (v2), the same ASKing request of the psalmist (118:19). We are encouraging you all, as behind-closed-doors, Jesus-style ASKers, to be in no doubt that we **ASK under an open heaven** (Deuteronomy 28:12) for the **doors of heaven to be always opened** (Psalm 78:23). Though our physical doors are shut, our “**longings lie open**” before the Lord (Psalm 38:9). In order to watch and pray we are **ASKing for open eyes** (Psalm 119:18; Luke 24:31) but also for **the opening of presently darkened and blind eyes** (Acts 26:18). **We are ASKing for open lips and mouths** (Psalm 51:15; 81:10); open ears (Psalm 40:6); **open hearts** (Acts 16:14); **open arms** for those both poor in possessions and poor in spirit (Proverbs 31:20). We are **ASKing for God's opening power**: for His open hand that creates (Psalm 104:28); for His opening of what to us is impenetrable rock that the waters may flow (Psalm 105:41); for His resurrection power to open what the minister of death has boxed and buried; for His exposing light that will “bring into the open” that which is being sinfully hidden and concealed (Luke 8:17).

Above all, we cannot cease to ASK for “*the door of faith to be opened*” to the nations (Acts 14:27). We want to say with Paul at this season: “*a great door of effective work has been opened to me*” (1 Corinthians 16:9) and ASK that God will “*open a door for our message*” (Colossians 4:3) in a manner unprecedented in history.

We finish where we began, declaring God's power to open doors, make iron gates yield, their hinges lubricated by the oil of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was the One foreseen by Isaiah who would hold the key of David, and open what no man would be able to shut. With man shutting doors, we will ASK Jesus to do His own shutting of that which needs to be sealed up, and shut down for demonic business and unclean trade, and unrighteous exchange. However, Isaiah talks about His opening power in chapter 22:22. I think most of us have heard the phrase ‘catch-22’. I like to call this verse ‘latch-22’ because this is our encouragement, when doors are barred, that a door has been opened. It is a “new and living way opened up for us through the curtain” so that we can “approach God's throne of grace” and ASK of the Father because we have “access by one Spirit”, an “access by faith into this grace in which we now stand” (Hebrews 10:2, 4:16; Ephesians 2:18; Romans 5:2). ASKers, watching and waiting; we are standing up and we are looking up in these times, and like John on Patmos, in a context of enforced constriction and restriction, we are seeing an open door in Heaven, and anticipating as never before, the open scroll and the open Temple (Revelation 4:1, 5:5, 11:19). Meanwhile, let us ask for the opening of millions of Laodicean doors on earth, that the King of glory may come in! Amen.



Stuart McAlpine
International Director
ASK Network

Honouring Anita & Charlie Cleverly for their faithful service to the Lord in ASK Network as Directors in Europe 2008-2020.

Dear Friends, all the saints in Christ Jesus in ASK,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

After 12 years as Directors of ASK Network UK & Europe, we know it is time to lay down leadership. We began to pray into this transition in 2018 as it became clear we would be retiring from our pastoral roles at St. Aldate's Church, Oxford, in 2020. We also began to receive a clear leading of God into a movement in Europe that seeks to support young church planters in major European cities. We anticipate increasing involvement in this movement with a 'pastoring the pastors' role that would obviously include all the elements of ASK. We hope and expect to remain connected with ASK Network, and perhaps to see some kind of partnership emerge in the course of time.

We owe an incalculable debt to ASK. We will miss the deep rivers of fellowship that are the hallmark of ASK. We especially want to pay tribute to Stuart & Celia McAlpine, International Directors and to Jenny Bailey, Liz Percival, Jane Askew & Jane Bradford who make up the UK & Europe team. Please pray for them all as they seek the way forward. We believe the best is yet to come, and know that the deeper the darkness, the brighter the light will shine. Our deepest thanks go too to you all, faithful intercessors. Europe is a different place because of your prayers; you are all held in our hearts and always will be.

We'd like to close as we opened with some of Paul's words to the Philippians:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart ... And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.



With our love, gratitude and blessings,
Charlie & Anita Cleverly

All of ASK Network extends their gratitude and blessing to Anita and Charlie, asking the Lord to reward them according to their faithfulness and His bountiful love. We assure them of our ongoing prayers and friendship. We know that the fruit of their labour remains, and the foundations they have laid will be built upon. We pray that they "will go out in joy and be led forth in peace." Isaiah 55:12

ASK

A New Wineskin: ZOOM!

At the end of 2019 the Lord began to speak to ASK about coming change. Perhaps you experienced that too. A common scripture pondered was Matthew 24, especially the latter verses. The Lord began to speak of new wineskins, of casting our bread upon the water, casting our nets on the other side of the boat. Letting go of the old and making room for the new.

In ASK Network we know there are some immovables: the Word of the Lord, His Name and His Spirit. But what is new is ZOOM! The world's experience with the COVID-19 crisis would have been very different 25 years ago. That was before the popularization of the Internet and email, even before the launch of Skype where one could both talk to and see someone at the same time!

The Lord is always a step ahead of us, and we had just begun to use Zoom for prayer calls. Now we expect more and more calls added across the time zones and around the world. We want to hand the baton along through a 24-hour time-frame. This fulfills the vision the Lord gave us in 2008 to 'gather all generations to pray for all nations.' It's a new wineskin! Are we ready? We need to be!

**Please join us on any or all of the calls below.
We look forward to seeing your face and hearing your voice!**

EVERY TUESDAY:

ASKing for Nations—Psalm 2:8
8AM PST / 11AM EST / 4PM GMT,BST
Email Sue Huston for inquiries or more info:
suehuston@asknetwork.ca

EVERY FRIDAY:

ASKing the Lord of the Harvest
Praying for UPGs
7AM PST / 10AM EST / 3PM BST
Email Nga Dang for inquiries or more info:
nga1048@yahoo.com

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:

ASKing with Compassion for the
LGBT+ Community
7AM PST / 10AM EST / 3PM GMT/BST
Email Fawn Parish for inquiries or more info:
fawnparish@gmail.com

CONNECT to Above Prayer Calls:

- Login to Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/3928843865>;
Password: 426129

- Or call-in: 1 312 626 6799 or 1 669 900 9128—Call in ID: 392 884 3865, Password: 426129

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH:

ASKing for the UK & Europe call: 7AM BST

- join from PC, Mac, Linux, IOS or Android:
<https://zoom.us/j/2795509928> (f you are able to join using your computer, we will be sharing information over the internet)
- Or iPhone one-tap: US: +1 408 638 0986, 2795509928# or +1 646 558 8665, 2795509928#
- Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a # based on your current location):
 - USA: +1 408 638 0986 or +1 646 558 8665
 - UK: +44 (0) 20 3695 008
Email Jenny Bailey for inquiries or more info: askuk@asknetwork.net

OMAN

The Sultanate of Oman is a place of deep culture, silent beauty, arid mountains, free-roaming camels and a desert known as the Empty Quarter, each place sparsely inhabited by people steeped in the ways of survival and Muslim culture. Located on the Arab Peninsula, Oman was once a seafaring Empire, boasting Sin Bad the Sailor as its hero, and claiming territories as far North as Pakistan and deep into Africa as far as Tanzania. But a series of weak monarchs led the country into poverty until 1970 when the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said gained the throne in a bloodless coup and ushered the Sultanate into modernity. Despite the rapid modernization, Oman remains a country juxtaposed with ancient tradition and the modern world.

While practicing a conservative Islam called Ibadi, which hails from before the Sunni, Shi'a split, Omanis remain respectful of other cultures. However, there is no religious freedom, which stems any extremist Islamic views, but makes the practice of Christianity by Omanis illegal, allowing only foreign nationals to practice Christianity on designated church compounds.

Although there is not a single statistic indicating there are ethnic Omani Christians, Muslim Omanis respect their Christian associates. In fact, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has hosted dialogues in the Grand Mosque between Islamic and Christian leaders. Despite the respect, everyday Omanis are not open to discussing the gospel, because like most Muslims, they think it blasphemous for God to have a son. And on that comment, they shut down all conversation, still revering Jesus as a most holy prophet. This beautiful and gentle people are a country in need of a Savior.

Let's ASK:

for the Omani people to be visited with dreams and visions of Jesus and have hearts open to the gospel, and that Christianity can be seen as a fulfillment of their culture and not a betrayal.

- Acts 17:16-27 *"This God whom you worship without even knowing anything about him... is God, the Creator made it so that every person would long for God, feel their way to him, and find him—for he is the God who is easy to discover! It is through him that we live and function and have our identity.*
- for continued resistance to Islamic extremism, the birth of religious freedom, loss of prejudice, and encouragement of freedom of thought so that this nation may hear the Father calling them. Romans 9:25-26. ... *"To those who were rejected and not my people, I will say to them: 'You are mine.' And to those who were unloved I will say: 'You are my darling.' In the place where they were told, 'You are nobody,' this will be the very place where they will be renamed 'Children of the living God.'"*
- for the influx of zealous Christian Arabs and other Eastern Christians into the country Acts 26:17-18

Unreached People Group:

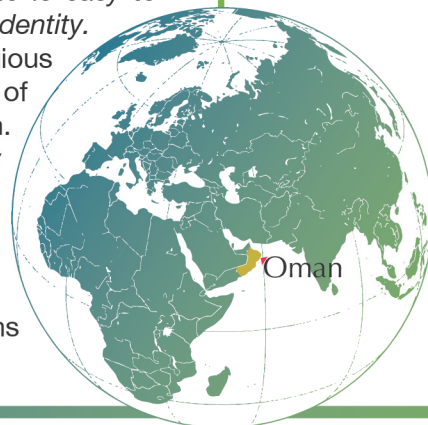
BATHARI OF OMAN

Population: 300
 Primary Religion: Islam
 Language: Arabic, Omani

Background

The Bathari live in the Dhofar region of southern Oman. Centuries of tribal expansion forced the Bathari from their semi-nomadic lifestyle to settle in a small, remote portion of Oman's southeastern coast. Today they make subsist on the sea for survival, using inflated goat skins to set shark traps miles out in the ocean. With fewer than 20 fluent speakers, their heart language is on the brink of extinction, nearly forgotten as Bathari have been forced to adopt Arabic in order to find employment and other opportunities. There are no known Christians among the Bathari and no known mission strategies in place to reach them.

Ask...that God would send *"fishers of men"* to share the Good News of Jesus with the Bathari people. Ask that God would make the Bathari whole and healed in body, mind and spirit, that they would know their true worth in God's eyes. (Matthew 4:18-25)



ASKing for the Nations

CHAD



Unreached People Group:

BOOR OF CHAD

Population:	200
Primary Religion:	Islam
Language:	Boor

Background

The population of the Boor is not known, but is estimated to be extremely small. They are quickly losing their language and cultural identity as they assimilate into larger nearby people groups in order to survive. The few remaining known speakers of the Boor language live in the small village of Dumraw in southern Chad. The Boor, like many other neighboring people groups, are cotton farmers. They practice folk Islam, blending their belief in Allah with reverence for the spirit world around them. The Boor language is nearly extinct, so it is unlikely Boor speakers will ever hear the Gospel in their heart language. There are no known Christians among the Boor, and no known outreach to them.

Ask...Pray boldly during Ramadan (April 24-May 23) that Boor people will have dreams and visions of Jesus speaking to them within their cultural context and heart language. (Joel 2:28-32)

The landlocked African **Republic of Chad** has more than 200 ethnic groups and 120 different languages and dialects. Muslims occupy the north, with Christians and animists living mainly in the south. The nation has been ripped apart by civil war and 80% of the population lives below the poverty line. Medical care and services are greatly lacking in this central African nation, and with the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, Chad has the fifth highest death rate in the world.

Three decades of civil war plagued the nation after France withdrew its holdings in 1960. The current government is known for its high levels of corruption. A Muslim minority group, the Zaghawa, control the majority of the government, trade, and the armed forces. Thankfully they support religious freedom. Even so, dissenting views are rare on broadcast media, as governmental control prevents other beliefs from receiving any airtime.

Chad is one of the few Muslim nations that welcome missionaries. However, in the past thirty years Islam had increased, bringing concerns that religious freedoms may disappear. Bible storytelling has proven to be an effective way of sharing the Gospel message and many unreached people are hearing the Gospel for the first time. Chad has more unreached people living within its borders than any other African country. Unity is being broken within the Church due to an increase in nominalism and the pervasive practice of indigenous tribalism. Chad has been torn apart as a nation and unification and reconciliation are desperately needed in the church and the nation.

Let's ASK:

- For the message of the Gospel to infiltrate the nation and the church bringing truth, unity, love, and peace into every strata of society. *2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, beloved friends, be cheerful! Repair whatever is broken among you, as your hearts are being knit together in perfect unity. Live continually in peace, and God, the source of love and peace, will mingle with you.*
- For the church to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for evangelism among an increasing Muslim majority. *Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of [Christ to] the world... Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds and moral excellence, and [recognize and honor and] glorify your Father who is in heaven.*
- For pioneer missionaries to persevere in difficult places in order to reach the unreached. *Romans 10:14-15 But how will people call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are commissioned and sent? How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*

