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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

What do we do in ASK Network?

Non-Negotiables, Easy Essentials and Righteous Requisites

ASK Network carries a message. The entirety of this "message" can be found in scripture, but many of us received this message through others and it has greatly enriched our lives. Can you imagine your life without the wonderful truths handed on to you? Maybe you can remember those who first taught you to pray in the way we do in ASK. Do you recall the joy that came when you realized God would give you "the **treasures of darkness** and hidden riches of secret places" (Isaiah 45:3), buried in the Word of God, mined through the simple but profound practice of meditating on scripture? Then the greater joy was realized. These revelations were for the kingdom of God, for us to turn into prayer, to speak back to God what He had spoken to us. What a glorious cycle. Yes indeed, the gratitude to those who taught us remains.

So should we not hand on these principles of truths to others who will feel as we do, eternally grateful? What are these truths? Let's take a look.

If you are part of an ASK group that meets weekly, monthly or regularly you will know that there are certain ingredients to any prayer time that rarely change, even if they vary from time to time. However, if you have only attended ASK gatherings or conferences in your nation or others, you might not have seen those essential ingredients as obviously on display. Such events are more a time to "confer" with one another as well as the Lord. For instance if you had been at our gathering in The Negev, Israel, earlier this year, you would have witnessed a wonderful blend of listening to reports from continents and praying together for those nations and their needs with our Bibles open. In that setting when time is at a premium we are not able to wait on the Lord in an extended in-depth way that we can when gathering with the few, with unstructured time to wait for the Lord to reveal His heart concerns.

Do not misunderstand! All our gatherings, even large corporate ones, should be the result of seeking the Lord, waiting on Him and being led by the Spirit as a result of revelation. However, for larger settings these necessary steps may have been taken before the gathering itself. But as we gather more frequently and with those we are in close committed prayer relationship, we can take extended time to wait in the presence of the Lord for His revelation.

So how do we do that? Here are some easy principles which we can follow in the grace-filled freedom of being Holy Spirit led. You will recognize them from our various pieces of literature, especially the introductory card (all pieces can be downloaded at www.asknetwork.net)

- **Worship** — This can be everything from singing a known or a "new" song (either with understanding or in the Spirit), to the reading of worshipful passages of scripture. Or the declaration of who God is, using His names or other descriptions in scripture. It may just be the free expression and acknowledgment of who God is and what He does. How glorious is this!



- **Waiting** on the Lord with the help of the Holy Spirit. When we meet to ASK we need to know what it is God wants us to pray about, what is on His heart. Sometimes we may come carrying one burden and He impresses us with something more urgent. Then we return to scripture to hear more on this concern of His, again waiting for scriptures that will bring a truth to apply to this situation.
- **Word-based** intercession is prophetic and powerful. When the Spirit marries the Word with a need something is ignited. God is about to do something. He has inspired these prayers, He wanted them prayed and now He is going to do something. As we ponder quietly the passage the Holy Spirit brings, strong impressions and the Lord reveals a strategy. It is a glorious mystery. If this is still an unfamiliar way of praying for you go to the website and download the booklet “Meditating on the Word of God.”

So there we have it: the non-negotiables, easy essentials and righteous requisites of ASK Network!

Either on your own or with your ASK group sow them back into the work of ASK Network that we may be faithful to live the message we carry. Pray ASK Network will be:

- **Worshipful:** *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. Psalm 100:4*
- **Seeking:** *When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.” Psalm 27:8*
- **Waiting:** *Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD! Psalm 27:11*
- **Listening:** *So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Exodus 33:11*
- **ASKing:** *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. John 15:16*
- **Obedient:** *Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. I John 3:22*
- **Trusting:** *As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. 2 Samuel 22:31*
- **Thankful:** *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*

By **Celia McAlpine**
International Co-Director

Have you considered giving to ASK International on a monthly basis?

This is the testimony of one of our supporters in America who already gives \$25 a month: *I told the Lord I could not give any more. He said, “Yes you can, give another dollar a day.” I have done that and He was right!*

Let us all seed into the work in the nations from our “widow’s mite”.

ASK Network News

Please pray for these upcoming ASK Network events around the world:

- May 1, 2017 KENYA — National ASK day in Nairobi—Praying for the Elections
- June 5-10, 2017 CANADA — National ASK Gathering at National House of Prayer, Ottawa www.asknetwork.ca
- June 22-24, 2017 NIGERIA — Launch of ASK Network in Lagos
- September 26-29, 2017 EUROPE — ASK Continental Gathering, Nice, France <https://guestlist.co/events/449607>
- January 25-27, 2018 NORTH AMERICA — ASK Continental Gathering, St. Augustine, Florida, USA

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

SOMALI REFUGEES OF NORWAY

Population: 38,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Somali

Background

In 2016, Somalia was named the world's most fragile state following decades of tribal warfare, drought, famine, terrorism and governmental chaos. The Norwegian Refugee Council recently estimated that over 3,000 Somali people a day are fleeing Somalia's worst drought in 20 years. Over the years, many Somali refugees have been resettled in Norway. Today, following the recent election of Somalia's president, affectionately dubbed "Farmaajo" or "The Cheese," the Somali diaspora holds out the hope of being able to return home safely one day soon. Somali people practice Islam. There are very few known Christians among the Somali refugees in Norway.

ASK...that Somali people in Norway would find hope, peace and stability in Jesus. Ask that Norwegian Christians would be invigorated by God's Spirit to embrace the opportunity of extending the welcome and love of Christ to Somali refugees. Ask for lasting peace in Somalia so refugees can return home. (Psalm 23, Matthew 25:31-46)

This month we are encouraged to **pray for Norway**, and the timing for this urge for prayer could not be better. 2017 is a year where many changes are taking place in the Church of Norway, and 2017 is also an election year.

In January 2017, the Church of Norway became an independent church. It is a big change, a change that has been expected and planned for several years, but also a change with uncertain financial implications for the church and unknown implications for an increasingly secular nation. At the same time, homosexual marriages are celebrated for the first time in the Church of Norway. This decision has caused tensions both within the church and between the churches, so we should join Jesus' prayer for unity (John 17:21) as we pray for Norway.

Despite these challenges there are exciting things happening. New initiatives are taken across different churches, leading politicians are professing Christian faith, and the King wants to keep the paragraph of the Norwegian Constitution saying that he must profess the Evangelical-Lutheran religion. The Christian faith does, in other words, still play a crucial role in Norwegian society, and Christian values will hopefully also impact the upcoming election of a new government.

For the past four years, a right-wing coalition government has led the country under the leadership of Erna Solberg. This has led to changes in a country where social democratic politics have influenced most of the politics since World War II. The right-wing government won the election based on promises of tax cuts, better services and stricter rules on immigration. Especially the last of the three has been heavily debated over the past four years, and will probably also impact this coming election.

ASK Points:

James 1:5 says "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

- Let us pray that God will give wisdom to the church leaders in this challenging time, that the truth of the Gospel will be proclaimed, and that the Holy Spirit will fall afresh over the churches. And this is what He says to all humanity: *'The fear of the Lord is true wisdom; to forsake evil is real understanding.'* Job 28:28
- Let us also pray for wisdom for the Norwegian people as they decide who will lead the country in the four coming years, and for a peaceful campaign period. *How happy Your people must be! How happy Your officials, who continually stand before You and hear Your wisdom!* 1 Kings 10:8 



A Famine of Food and The Word

Heartbreaking news is now being released concerning the largest humanitarian crisis the world has faced since World War II according to Stephen O'Brien, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator. The UN lists these criteria for famine conditions: at least 20% of households in an area face extreme food shortages, acute malnutrition rates exceeding 30%, and a death rate that exceeds two persons per day per 10,000. Other factors include large-scale displacement, widespread destitution, disease outbreaks and social collapse. O'Brien states that only a political solution will ultimately end the human suffering and bring stability to many of these regions. These five African nations are facing famine mainly due to armed conflicts but they all meet these standards from one condition or another.

Yemen —14.1 million people face severe food insecurity. Continued fighting escalated by lawlessness, poor governance, under-development and a naval blockade imposed by the Saudi-led coalition are all factors that prevent aid from reaching the people.

Nigeria —14 million people need assistance across the region with 450,000 children affected. The Boko Haram's Islamic uprising will likely cause catastrophic famine-like conditions to continue.

South Sudan — 4.9 million are facing severe food shortages as the senseless tribal fighting increases. Samaritan's Purse leader, Franklin Graham, says a third of the population can't feed themselves due to fighting that has curtailed planting and grounded the relief air flights that are the only way to deliver food to this remote area. Suffering is most acute in the more than 30% of the children under five who are malnourished. At least four die every day (120 per month) in a typical community of 10,000.

Kenya — 2.7 million are facing food shortages, but that could soon increase to 4 million. Drought is a great factor with the ongoing El Niño weather phenomena. The inflow of refugees from Ethiopia and government incompetence also hinders aid. About \$1.5 billion is required to provide the assistance needed.

Somalia — Armed conflict is responsible for the severe food famine of 2.9 million people. BBC News reports people are so busy trying to survive that they are unable to earn a living by going to work, farming or looking after their animals. "The current indicators mirror the tragic picture of 2011, when Somalia last suffered a famine" said O'Brien, who added that a famine could be averted with "strong national leadership and immediate and concerted support by the international community."

ASK God:

- In most of these nations there is a tragic relationship between the lack of physical food and a famine of the Word of God because of limited access to the gospel. Amos 8:11 **ASK** the God of peace to bring His salvation to these nations through the witness of His people. *How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation...* Isaiah 52:7 NASB
- The world thinks that only a political resolution will solve this heart-rending situation, but we know that our God can come to the aid of those suffering with spiritual answers. **ASK** the Lord to do miracles of mercy and grace so that His name alone will be glorified. Matthew 15:32-38 NKJV (feeding 4,000 in the wilderness)
- ASK for the internally displaced people in these nations who are suffering physical hunger and persecution to find their place of refuge in the Lord. *You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall.* Isaiah 25:4 NIV

Resources: International Prayer Connections www.ipcprayer.org and Samaritan's Purse www.samaritanaspurse.org