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ASKing Point

is a bi-monthly communication on behalf of ASK Network International. It is an invitation to join the network of prayer throughout the nations, ASKing and agreeing regarding key issues on God's heart. It is a tool for prayer, a place for testimony to God's faithfulness in answering, and a gift of worship to the Living God.

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Thanksgiving ~ An Important Part of ASKing...

Of the ten lepers only one returned to give thanks....

"Thanks be to God for His Unspeakable Gift..." These words appear in Christmas cards and will be read aloud at carol services over the next several weeks. We are nearing Advent, Christmas is on the horizon and then suddenly another year will have come and gone. It is in line with biblical injunction that we pause, look back and remember. Throughout scripture there are numerous encouragements to recall the works, ways and blessings of the Lord. It is clear that this act of thanksgiving in remembrance brings glory to Him, but it actually seems there is power in this thanksgiving. It builds our faith of course. More importantly it is a proclamation of what God has done. It is an agreement with the glory of His power, and it reiterates the fact that God has acted on our behalf — most often in response to the asking of men. *"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."* 2 Corinthians 4:15

Not only is thanksgiving an obedience — *"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Ephesians 5:20) — it is also an act of intercession in itself. *"Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* Philippians 4:6

This scripture was given to us some months ago. Do we believe that the Great Answerer has indeed heard our ASKing and acted accordingly? Then it is time to give thanks to our faithful Father and give Him the glory for what He has done and is doing in all nations.

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— to God, alone wise, BE GLORY through Jesus Christ forever.
Amen! (Romans 16:25-27 NKJV)*

This scripture is the BASIS OF OUR THANKSGIVING. It is what He has ASKed us to ASK for: our establishment in His purposes, that the revelation of Jesus may be made manifest and known to all nations. *"Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."* 2 Corinthians 1:11

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Give thanks to our Gracious Heavenly Father —

- for His gracious answering of all of our asking
- for enabling our asking by the power of His Spirit
- for showing us through His Word what to ask for
- for establishing ASK network this year that we may ask more for all nations

Thanks be to God!

Giving thanks to God for these examples of God's gracious answering...

We praise God for His answers this past year in West Africa: for the establishing of ASK Network among the Ivorian Refugees during our February conference in Southeastern Liberia. Victoria had the time to take the women and men through the vision of ASK.

— *Pastor Jackson & Victoria Weah, Directors, ASK Network West Africa*

At the 9th Annual Next Generation UK Conference held in Oxford, February 22-23, ASK yet again had the joy of networking with others to share the joys of prayer with those who are younger and rising in their kingdom influence. What a privilege! On October 19 at the historic Coventry Cathedral in central England, UK ASK gathered from around the country for a National ASK Day. The call was to pray for a spirit of reconciliation in the nation. Men and women of all ages joined their voices in prayer in unity. Thanks be to our Gracious Father for this great occasion!

— *Jenny Bailey, Director, ASK Network United Kingdom*

We have criss-crossed our nation in travel this year holding ASK Days in six different states and seven cities. How thankful we are for the many new faces at our family table representing the cultures of Africa, Asia, Canada and Native America. These faces — young and old, male and female — gathered to join Jesus in praying His heart. Several responded to the call of leadership, and God gave us many new friendships as we networked with national and global ministries. We thank Him for the two precious families just home from Mu*lim nations who shared their experiences with us, and for the opportunity we were given to sow financially into the International work of ASK.

— *Cheryl Cannon, Director, ASK Network USA*

Faithful intercessors and pastors gathered from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ruanda, Congo, Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia and South Africa 24-26 October, in Karen, Nairobi, for the East Africa ASK Conference. Stuart and Celia McAlpine were there representing ASK International and share in the teaching with the African Directors, Charles and Miriam Kaloki, who had invited all these leaders and who had the joy of seeing these zealous saints embrace the principles of praying the Word of God, asking the Lord to fulfill His Word in Africa. We thank God for these mature leaders who are passionate to see their nations saturated in prayer. There have been many testimonies from the National Directors of the impact of this gathering. Glory to God!

— *ASK Network, East Africa*

We have been prayerwalking the massage parlors as they are full of trafficked women. We have prayed for our city of Ventura, California to wake up to the fact that there are 8 times more massage parlors here than in a nearby port city with twice the population. Recently a candidate running for office made the issue of massage parlors a major focus of his campaign. His mailers have gone out to every home. It's just the cloud the size of a man's hand, but it's a start.

— *Fawn Parish, ASK Prayer Group*

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen. Jude 1:24-25 

ASKing for the Nations



The Kingdom of Bhutan is a small, land-locked country located at the eastern end of the Himalayas between China and India. Its population of 756,000 is divided between 34 ethnic groups, the majority of whom practice Buddhism, the official religion of Bhutan. Other minority groups practice Hinduism and ethnic religions. The Bhutanese name for Bhutan, Druk Yul, means “Land of the Thunder Dragon,” so named for the violent Himalayan thunderstorms. Bhutan’s majority people group, the Bhotia, believe they have been Buddhists since 746 AD, when the Tibetan sage Padmasambhava flew across the Himalayas on the back of a tiger to introduce the religion to them.

Almost completely cut off for centuries, Bhutan is considered one of the most isolated and least developed nations in the world. Foreign influence and tourism are heavily regulated by the government in an effort to preserve the country’s traditional culture and national identity. Because the Bhutanese environment has been so heavily protected, the country was recently identified as one of the top ten “biodiversity hot spots” in the world. Its ecosystem, for example, harbors nearly 770 species of birds and over 50 species of rhododendron.

Bhutan slowly began to open to outsiders in the 1970s. The Wangchuck monarchy, having ruled since 1907, yielded power to a two-party parliamentary democracy after elections in March 2008. As Bhutan opened to the outside world, the message of Jesus and God’s kingdom slowly gained access. Still, Christianity is a minority religion. Of Bhutan’s 34 ethnic groups, 29 are considered “least reached.” Christianity is not recognized by the government, and the Christian practice of faith is forbidden publicly.

ASK God for:

- Greater access of the gospel message to the people of Bhutan. *“Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in...” Psalm 24:7-10*
- Laborers to carry the good news of Jesus and God’s kingdom to the people of Bhutan in a language that resonates with them. *“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field...” Luke 10:1-11*
- Strength and hope among Christians in Bhutan as they face discrimination and harassment. *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and he helps me...” Psalm 28:1-9 “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*
- Release for those captive to religious ideologies that are set against God’s kingdom...that the kingship of Christ would be known in Bhutan. *“He will bring down your high fortified walls and lay them low...to the very dust.” Isaiah 25:12 “...and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6* 

Unreached People Group:

NUPBI OF BHUTAN

Population: 2,700

Primary Religion: Buddhism

Language: Nupbikha

Background

The Nupbi people live in central Bhutan, mostly in and around the town of Trongsa. Their language is a dialect of the language spoken by their neighbors to the east. They are part of the Eastern Tibetan branch of the Tibeto-Burman family. As such, 100% of Nupbi people consider themselves Tibetan Buddhists, though only 65% practice the religion. One trademark practice of Tibetan Buddhism is sky burial, in which a dead person’s corpse is taken to the top of a hill, cut in pieces and left for birds of prey to devour. There has never been a Christian community among the Nupbi people, nor are there any printed or audio Christian materials in their language.

ASK...that God would open doors for the gospel to reach the Nupbi people, and that missionaries (particularly linguistic experts) would have opportunities to introduce Jesus and the good news of God’s kingdom to Nupbi people. (Psalm 119:97-112)

ASKing for the Nations



Central African Republic

Unreached People Group:

RUNGA OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Population: 29,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Runga

Background

The Runga people live on the border between Chad and the Central African Republic. Very little is known about them as a distinct people group. They began as an agricultural people group living along the headwaters of the Niger River. To this day, they live primarily in rural areas and work predominantly as farmers. Since the 17th century, Islam has been a way of life for the Runga people. Roughly 80% of Rungas are committed to following Allah as Sunni Muslims. The other 20% practice animism. There are no known Jesus followers among them, and no Christian resources in their own language.

ASK...that the Runga people would be remembered in the hearts and strategic plans of Christian missionaries and Bible translators. Ask that the Runga people would be readied to receive the good news of Jesus and God's kingdom in their heart language. (Psalm 139:1-6, Ezekiel 37:1-6)

Prior to becoming an independent nation in 1960, the **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)** was a French colony with a history of turmoil. Surrounded by Chad, Sudan, DRC, Congo and Cameroon, this territory known as the “arc of insecurity”, is now populated with Islamist fighters and Kony's LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) who have been in the CAR for six years.

Chaos has reigned in French speaking CAR since a rebel Muslim coalition called Seleka overthrew the regime of Francois Bozize in March 2013. The current president Michael Djotodia, who was supported by the Arabic speaking rebels, said in an earlier letter that he seeks to turn the CAR into an Islamic republic.

One eye-witness reports, “the CAR has regressed by a century since March.” Now about 200 police guard 4.6m people from the Seleka gangs that are estimated to be nearly 25,000. At least 400,000 people have fled their homes because of acts of violence and extortion in which property has been stolen, over 1,000 houses burned, women raped, men killed, and children, some as young as 13, recruited as soldiers against their will. Despite repeated warnings, the international community has done little, even as arms continue to flood into the country in spite of an embargo. Little has been said about the atrocities against the Christians who comprise 76% of the population as opposed to the 14% Muslim. There has been a planned desecration and destruction of Catholic and Protestant churches with priests and religious women attacked while mosques and Muslims have escape harm.

Disease and death are on the rise due to lack of food and medicine. In a nation that has the second-lowest life expectancy in the world, at just 48 years, the people are now even more at risk

Let us lift our voices to our merciful Father and ASK:

- For Catholic, Protestant and Muslim leaders to act together to find a solution to the growing conflict. That they would come together in the “*meekness of wisdom ...without envy and self-seeking, or confusion...but with wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, with good fruits, without partiality or hypocrisy.*” James 3:13-17.
- For revival, unity and prayer to fill the church. “*They all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication...*” Acts 1:14
- That God would bring down the rule of the ungodly and end the reign of terror. “*...his trouble shall return upon his own head...and his violent dealings shall come down on his own crown.*” Psalm 7:14-17
- That the Lord would protect His people. “*He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm and carry them...and gently lead.*” Isaiah 40:10-11 