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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 with Compassion: An Invitation to LGBTQIA Intercession

There is a giant in the Church and in our nation taunting believers in the Kingdom of God. Like Goliath, who claimed that no one could defeat him, this giant claims: "Nothing and no one can change those caught up in homosexuality and gender confusion."

We live in a time when the culture around us is getting darker and darker. Forces from the kingdom of darkness seek to destroy biblical morality, demanding what God has declared evil be embraced as good, courageous, and even righteous. Though blatant heresy for anyone with eyes to see, this deception has gained strength and fortified demonic strongholds, clouding the judgment and good conscience of many.

It should alarm us that churches are abandoning clear biblical teaching to bless what they once taught to be sin. Many nations have not only redefined marriage but are passing laws to enforce implementation of gay and transgender agendas that continue to permeate schools, churches, and governments. Any type of disagreement with these agendas is aggressively labeled as bigotry, prejudice, and hatred. The demonic forces behind this movement seek to shame and silence anything contrary to its acceptance—just as Goliath taunted the Israelites into believing they were defeated.

Here lies our choice: do we give in to the counsel of despair, or do we hold true to the Word of God and His prophetic promises? It is the power of God that can change a person! We know from biblical prophecy that at the end of the age sin will increase and thick darkness will cover the people (Matthew 24:12; Isaiah 60:2; Revelation 17:1-4; 18:2-3). More importantly, we also know that the gospel will be widespread, the glory of God will manifest, and the light of the Kingdom of God will get brighter and brighter (Matthew 24:14; Acts 2:17-21; Isaiah 60:1-2). It is not time to despair; it is time for concerted prayer!

Several years ago as I contemplated these developments and how they had affected me, the Church, my country (USA) and many of the people I knew, I felt God calling me to intercede over these issues. Having been gripped by and freed from the sin and darkness of same-sex attraction and gender confusion, I was filled with passion to see others come to know and experience healing and victory in their own journeys

through relationship with Jesus. When commissioned by the Lord for this task, I began to use my experiential knowledge to pray on behalf of the sexually and relationally broken. I embarked on this adventure with a small team of people, asking God for an outpouring of His Spirit to bring revival, transformation and breakthrough in individual lives, within the Church, in homosexual and transgender communities, and throughout this nation. We contended in prayer believing that those trapped in sexual confusion and immorality will be restored and redeemed into their true identities as they encounter the glory of God, the power of the Gospel, and a revelation of the Father's love for them.

When I began to pray into these things in a corporate setting, I prepared by journaling the Scriptures, prayers, and insights God gave me as I sought to understand His heart for these issues. Today, I am gathering all that the Lord has shown me and the prayers He led me to pray and I am compiling them into a book to call the Body of Christ into a mighty work of intercession to set the LGBTQIA captives free. Like Nehemiah, I feel it is time to release a call for the gathering of people to build up the wall of intercession in these areas. It is my desire that this book will be used as a ministry tool to ignite hope for the hopeless, increase levels of faith, and strengthen our love as we unite with God's heart. As the wall is built and the watchmen take their places, the gathering of prayer warriors will become a force multiplier to which God, in His goodness, will powerfully respond. Please join me in praying...

Almighty God, we unite together as Your Body and come before You to stand in the gap and intercede for ourselves, our families, our communities, our churches, and our nations. Jesus, we thank you for empathizing with our weaknesses and understanding the temptations we face (Hebrews 4:15). We come before Your throne to represent all who have given way to homosexual temptation and who have struggled in their gender identities as male and female.

You alone are Savior, Redeemer, Healer, and Deliverer. We ask for a movement of divine breakthrough. We ask for a wave of radical encounters with Jesus that would forever alter lives and catapult distorted identities into truth, transformation, and their God-given destinies. May this wave of conversion open eyes to see and receive Your truth and the revelation of Jesus Christ. May the captives You deliver from bondage raise their voices to speak Your Word and the testimony of Jesus with authority and power.

God, we thank you for Your deliverance. We give thanks in advance for every person that You will deliver out of darkness and into the Light of Christ—particularly for every person that has been gripped and manipulated by sexual brokenness. We are thankful that You will completely restore stolen identities, and false identities will be replaced with true identities. Thank you for Your mercy and the forgiveness of sin.

As intercessors, we unite our hearts to prophetically declare Isaiah 61 over all those who have been delivered from and are coming out of the darkness and deception of homosexual bondage and gender confusion. We unite with one voice, directing them into the LORD's healing Light. We call them forth as overcomers and image bearers of the True Light of Jesus Christ. Arise and shine, you overcomers, for your Light has come. The glory of the LORD will be seen upon you!

Amen.

By Lindsey Kiser

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

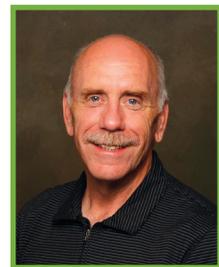
Matthew 24:12-14



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Isaiah 60:1-2

Rob Parker, Director of Canada's National House Of Prayer, taught us to pray for the LGBTQIA community at the ASK Network Continental Gathering in St Augustine, Florida, January 2018. (See cover email for a link to Rob's message.)



These are the abbreviated prayer points from his message. PRAY for ...

people as individuals, not as a group. Ask God that they will see their value apart from their perceived sexual orientation. *Psalm 139*

the high rate of depression and suicide, and the highest levels of STD's and HIV. *Psalm 143:7-8*

great compassion within the church. *Psalm 86:15*

Christian parents to maintain an open dialogue with their kids. *Ephesians 6:4*

the culture's false view of love and acceptance. Jesus always loved without compromising truth. *John 4:1-30*

fathers to cultivate warm, loving relationships with their sons and daughters. *1 John 3:1*

people to stay close to gay family or friends. *1 Corinthians 5:9-12*

counter-culture's views on sexual orientation. *Romans 1:21-22*

Jesus, not homosexuality, to be the main focus in evangelism. The priority isn't converting your non-Christian friend to heterosexuality but pointing them to Christ for salvation. *John 14:6-7*

preparation of families for the social costs of affirming biblical views. *John 15:18-20*

the many families impacted by homosexuality or transgenderism. *Psalm 71:20-24*

church leaders to have courage to stand biblically with great grace and wisdom to bring the transforming message of Jesus to society. *Acts 4:13*

ASK Network News

Many thanks to all who prayed for the ASK Gathering in India in March. About 80 women attended from three states. The literature had been translated into two main dialects. It was a rich time of worship, teaching, meditation and ASKing with the Word! Please pray that the work will grow, the right leaders will be set in place and plans for leadership training and further gatherings in other states will be led by the Lord. We thank STEP for their gracious welcome and hospitality.



Two opportunities to GATHER by phone to ASK!

ASK the Lord of the Harvest: Praying for the final frontier of Unreached People Groups. **Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 551830** International Dial-in Numbers: freeconferencecall.com/wall/nga1048/#international 7-9 am (PST), 10 am-12noon (EST) Those who have been on this call have been greatly blessed. We encourage you to join any week. Please email Nga Dang, nga231@yahoo.com for further information.

NEW OPPORTUNITY! ASK for the LGBTQIA Community: We are ASKing God to send a tsunami of His love and transforming power to the LGBTQIA community. **Gather by phone for one hour, the first Wednesday of the month, 7-8 am (PST,USA), 10-11 am (EST), beginning MAY 2nd, June 6th, etc ... Meditation on May 2nd, Isaiah 60.** Please join the call for the entire hour or whatever amount of time you have. It has been our joy to pray together for this community for several years. We sense God's pleasure in inviting you to join us. **Conference Dial-in Number: (641) 715-0863 Access Code: 822701** International Dial-in Numbers: freeconferencecall.com/wall/nga1048/#international (May we suggest you add this number to your contact list). You may also opt in for a once a week Scripture turned into prayer for this community God loves and gave Himself for. Just email fawn.parish@gmail.com and put in the subject line God's Heart and you will be added to the list.

Guatemala



The **Republic of Guatemala** is situated in Central America bordered by Mexico, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador. It is a beautiful land of mountains, and lakes with lovely beaches on both the Caribbean side and the Pacific Ocean. In contrast with the natural beauty, it has become a corridor between Honduras and Mexico for drug trafficking from South America.

Historically Guatemala has experienced chronic instability and civil strife with periods of “good” and bad dictators. After a long civil war, peace accords were signed in 1996. Since then, Guatemala has witnessed both economic growth and successful democratic elections, while continuing to struggle with high rates of poverty, crime, drug trade and instability. There has been a return to the “old” beliefs after a rediscovery of the ancient Mayan culture, but for others, there has been a blossoming of indigenous Christianity aided by the many new translations of the Bible into indigenous languages. Now it is estimated that 40% of Guatemalans are evangelicals with about 27,000 churches. There has been outreach to every tribe.

With this base of believers, Jimmy Morales, an evangelical with conservative values, was elected president in 2016 by 67% of the vote. He identifies as a nationalist who was raised in a very poor background selling bananas on the street, becoming a university professor and founder of several businesses. On taking office, Morales has had the huge task of dealing with crime and resulting insecurity that has been fueled by gangs, extortion and drug trafficking.

On December 6, 2017, US President Donald Trump announced the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel. In response to a coalition of Guatemalan Jews with the unusually charismatic and much-loved Rabbi Garmon at the head, 50 parliamentarians, the Mayor of Guatemala City and Christian pastors, President Morales lead his nation to become the second country to affirm Jerusalem as the capitol of Israel.

Let's ASK For:

- Believers will take seriously the command to pray for their leaders. *First of all, then, I urge that petitions (specific requests), prayers, intercessions (prayers for others) and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in [positions of] high authority.* 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Churches to become mature, effectively led, with a vital contribution to the nation. *He gave some... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man...* Ephesians 4:11-13
- God would give His wisdom to the leaders to know how to deal with the drug trade, crime and poverty. *For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright.* Proverbs 2:6-7

Unreached People Group:

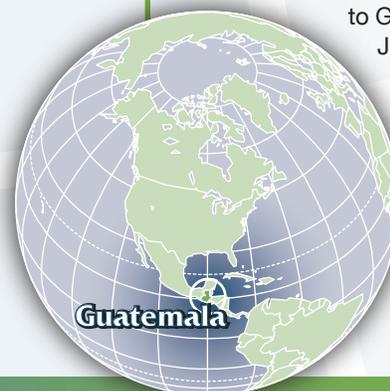
JEW OF GUATEMALA

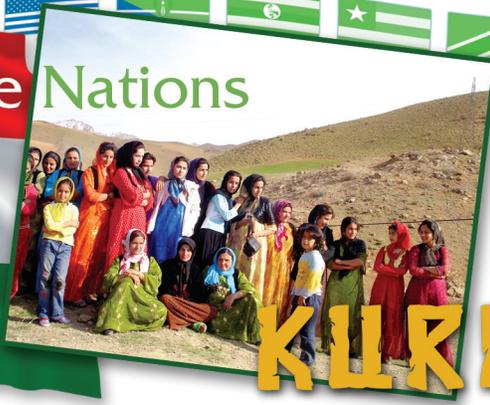
Population: **900**
 Primary Religion: **Judaism**
 Language: **Spanish**

Background

Jew began arriving in Guatemala as early as the 16th century, their migration likely the result of religious persecution in Spain and Portugal during the Inquisition. Another wave arrived from Germany and Eastern Europe during the 19th century, fleeing persecution during World War II. They lived in isolation from the rest of the Jewish world and their descendants no longer practice Judaism, having been assimilated into Guatemala's predominantly Christian society. In recent years, the Lev Tahor (a small and very controversial ultra-Orthodox sect of Judaism) lived briefly in an isolated community in Guatemala, but migrated to Mexico in 2016 following scrutiny over alleged child abuse. Most of the Jews in Guatemala today live in Guatemala City, Quezaltenango and San Marcos. There are no known Christians among the 900 Jews of Guatemala today.

ASK ... that Jesus would be made known as Yeshua to Guatemala's Jews through the witness of Guatemala's Christian population. (Psalm 27:7-9, Philippians 3:4b-14)





KURDISTAN



Kurdistan, 'homeland of the Kurds'. The Kurds are a people of Indo-European origin. They speak an Iranian language known as Kurdish. Most inhabitants are Muslim, but adherents to other religions are present as well—including syncretistic religions and Christians. The region came under Persian rule during the time of Esther, therefore, many Kurds are descendants of the Medes.

Kurdistan is a geo-cultural region where historically the Kurdish people have formed a majority population. Contemporary use of the term refers to the following areas: southeastern Turkey (Northern Kurdistan), northern Iraq (Southern Kurdistan), northwestern Iran (Eastern Kurdistan) and northern Syria (Western Kurdistan). There is ongoing debate among Kurds for either an independent state, or for greater autonomy within the existing national boundaries.

The Kurdish government solicited foreign companies to invest in 40 new oil sites, increasing regional oil production. Other mineral resources exist in significant quantities in this region including coal, copper, gold, iron, limestone (used to produce cement), marble, zinc and the world's largest deposit of rock sulfur.

Iranian Kurds have been a particular target of the Islamic Republic of Iran for social, political, cultural and economic repression. With nearly two-thirds of the population under age 30 and disillusionment at an all-time high because of frustrated desires for freedom, there is an opportunity to impact the youth with the liberating good news about Jesus.

- **ASK** God to send witnesses of Jesus who will proclaim ... *liberty to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and set at liberty those who are oppressed.* Luke 4:18

Iraqi Kurdistan: The successful 2014 Northern Iraq offensive of ISIL presented a golden opportunity for the Kurds to declare an independent Kurdish state. Now many are coming to the Lord from Muslim and even extremist backgrounds, touched by the peace, love and hope Christ offers.

- **ASK** for powerful witness to come forth that will endure despite the difficulties. *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.* 2 Timothy 4:5

Kurds in Syria: The Kurds are the largest ethnic minority in Syria and have faced routine discrimination and harassment by the government. Christians are finding housing and employment increasingly challenging due to discrimination. Their numbers are declining through emigration.

- **ASK** that these believers will stand strong and remain in Syria and that God would send those who will ... *strengthen, and encourage them in their faith and keep them from being shaken by the troubles they are going through.* 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3

Kurds in Turkey compose between 15% and 20% of the population. The government is seeking to resolve the complex issue of Kurdish discrimination, including poverty and high unemployment. The increasing Islamization of the government adds to the complexity of the Kurdish problem. ISIL is an enemy of Turkey, making Kurdistan useful for Turkey as a buffer state. The fighting in Syria has led tens of thousands of refugees to flee to Turkey (as well as Iraq). Over 30,000 have been killed, thousands of villages razed and millions displaced and impoverished.

- **ASK for peace and reconciliation** between the Kurds and the Turks through Jesus. *For He Himself is our peace who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity... so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross.* Ephesians 2:14-16

