



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.

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ASKing for the Holy Spirit in order to ASK in the Spirit. Part Two: Spirit-filled ASKing

Go to Jesus if you want to learn about asking and the Holy Spirit — He is a Trinity insider. In John chapters 14-17, Jesus tells us how the Holy Spirit will be involved in our asking. The following points will characterize the “*Spirit of grace and asking*” that we can expect to experience when we are asking in Jesus’ name.

1. The Holy Spirit will help us to ask. Jesus said, “I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper...to be with you.” Until now, Jesus had been the disciples’ “paraclete”, the one who was physically and intimately alongside them, helping them, especially by answering their asking. But all this was about to change. Jesus promises that He would send them “another paraclete” who would be the equivalent of his presence. Our ability to ask will be effected now by the Holy Spirit. If there was no Holy Spirit, there could be no asking. Our asking is an evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence! Let’s not forget two things:

- It is the work of the Spirit to do whatever it takes **to help us get to the place where we ask**, prompting, prodding, inviting, inspiring, preparing and propelling us. It is always the work of the helping Spirit, whether our asking comes out of conviction of sin, confidence in supplication, or out of a sense of unholy despair, or holy desperation. It is the Spirit of God that has drawn us near to ask.
- It is the work of the Spirit **to help us to stay there**. If our asking began in weakness and we needed the Spirit’s help, then strength has to come from somewhere not just to pursue it and practice it, but also to persist and to persevere in it. Our asking can only be “without ceasing” because of the Spirit’s empowering and fortifying help.

2. The Holy Spirit will teach us what to ask for. Jesus said, “The Spirit of Truth... the counselor will teach you all things... All that belongs to the Father is mine... the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you... He will testify about me... what he hears he will tell you.” The Holy Spirit is not our advocate in a redemptive sense (Jesus is the only mediator) but when it comes to asking, he 1) gives you the words so that you can ask and plead effectively for yourself, and 2) asks and pleads for you himself on your behalf. The Holy Spirit reveals the counsels of God and will inform us of the ‘what’s’ and instruct us in the ‘how’s’. As Paul put it, he is a “*Spirit of wisdom and revelation*” (Ephesians 1:17-18). When you are asking, expect the Holy Spirit to be manifested in three ways that Jesus described:

- **The Holy Spirit will “remind” you.** He will teach you by not only reminding you of what you should be asking about, but also by bringing to your remembrance the things that you need in order to ask aright: key scriptures that will influence and inform your asking; the names of people who should be asked for; situations that need to be asked about; precedents of God’s actions in the past through works and wonders (Deuteronomy 8:2, Psalm

77:11) that embolden your asking and give further grounds for it. (Psalm 77:6)

- **The Holy Spirit will “convict” you.** He will teach you by bringing conviction as you ask. First, the conviction of sin, both our sins and the sins of others and of nations. He will convict us if there are hindrances to our asking. He will convict us of God’s righteousness and what we need to be asking to be established in the lives and circumstances that we are asking about. He will also bring us the kind of conviction that convinces us about the need to ask, the need to persevere in it.
 - **The Holy Spirit will “guide” you.** Those who are asking as sons will be led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14). So those who ask ‘Abba’ will be guided in their asking. Having given us traction in our asking, the Spirit will now keep us on track, away from distractions. This guidance will be experienced as directed asking, both to specific needs as well as to specific requests for those needs.
- 3. The Holy Spirit will assure us we can ask as sons and daughters.** *Jesus said, “I will not leave you as orphans... you will realize that I am in the Father and you are in me and I am in you.”* Jesus is addressing the disciples feelings of bereavement. He would no longer be there to be asked about, or for, anything. Orphans do not ask in the way that sons do. Essential to the Holy Spirit’s role in our asking is the truth that the Spirit is the “*Spirit of sonship*” (Romans 8:15). The Spirit relates us to our Father and why would we be surprised that as his sons we speak his language? ‘Abba’ is our natural and native tongue. Doesn’t it make sense that the Spirit would help sons to relate to their Father and ask of Him?
- 4. The Holy Spirit will seek God’s glory in our asking.** *Jesus said, “He will bring glory to me.”* The Holy Spirit’s relationship with our asking will always ensure that the outcome is God’s glory. Asking that is helped, instructed and guided by the Holy Spirit will bring glory to the Father. Jesus asked, “*Father, glorify your name ... glorify your Son that your Son may glorify you.*” Was this not the prominent and pre-eminent thing that Jesus taught us to ask for too? All our asking is for the glory of God, that His glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. We “*do it all for the glory of God.*” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Go back though the article and pray the scriptures for yourself, your church, The Church, and for ASK Network in the nations. Let this possibility of the glory of the Father and the Son being effected through your Holy Spirit assisted asking motivate you and move you to ask! And again I say, Ask! Pray for the Spirit that you may pray *in* the Spirit!

By Stuart McAlpine

ASK Network News

Hundreds of Zambians recently gathered to launch ASK Network in Lusaka. For four days, Zambians came out in great numbers (at one point there were 700) to ASK for their nation from Isaiah 61. Prayers were lifted for their president, the generations, spiritual growth, the explosion and expansion of the Church of Jesus Christ, the spirit of evangelism to be unleashed and for the development of this nation. A number of bishops and pastors were present along with many participants from other nations. Pray for the spread of ASK into all their churches and nations. Psalm 90:16-17



ASK Network was blessed to have Lace Fang (Thailand) represent us at a gathering of the Religious Liberty Partners in Bangkok in March. Lace, John and their children now live in Bangkok. Lace was grateful for the opportunity to hear of all God is doing in the nations. Through Lace, ASK Network potentially has new friends and partners in India and Myanmar. Please pray the Lord will lead accordingly. Psalm 90:17 

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

PERSIANS OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Population: 455,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Persian, Iranian

Background

Persia lies just across the Persian Gulf from UAE. Persians migrate to UAE for a number of reasons including tourism, investment opportunities, and work in the oil industry. Another reason is emerging. A growing dissatisfaction with the Ayatollah's regime, along with a sharp rise in clinical depression and drug addiction among Persians, is pointing many Muslims to the healing power of Jesus. Despite persecution, the Persian Church is said to be one of the fastest growing churches in the world today. Discipleship programs, leadership training centers and "healing houses" for Persians coming out of Islam are being established in UAE to serve the needs of God's kingdom among Persians.

ASK...that more and more Persian Muslims would find healing and wholeness in Jesus. Ask that God would establish and protect ministries in UAE serving Persian background believers. (Isaiah 61, Colossians 1:3-14)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), located in the southeastern part of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, was established in 1971 as a federation of seven emirates. Each emirate is governed by its own monarch. These seven emirs jointly form the Federal Supreme Council. The current president is Sheikh Khalifa. Islam is the official religion.

Since its inception, UAE has grown from a quiet backwater to one of the Middle East's most important economic centers. Its oil reserves are the fourth largest in the world. Oil revenues were wisely invested into healthcare, education and infrastructure. Today, UAE is the primary financial gateway between the Middle East and the rest of the world.

Attracted by booming business, UAE's population has grown exponentially over the last fifty years, from 95,000 people in 1963 to over 9.3 million people in 2013. Approximately 85% of UAE's population are expatriates from other Middle Eastern nations, Asia, and the West. These foreigners form the primary workforce for UAE's construction, oil and trade businesses.

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The Arab Spring has sprung — Muslims are thinking critically about life, politics and faith. The havoc wreaked by ISIS in the name of Islam has driven many Muslims to seek another way — and many are turning to Jesus. Churches and training centers are springing up across UAE to respond to an increasing hunger to know Jesus. Expatriates have an opportunity to encounter Jesus in UAE's relative security before returning to their home nations, carrying seeds of the gospel with them. The wave of God's Spirit is moving mightily through UAE today. How far might the ripple effect reach into the Muslim world?

ASK for:

- Increased attraction to Jesus as Light in the midst of radical Islam's darkness. (Isaiah 60, John 8:12)
- Deep discipleship and a far-reaching impact of the gospel as expatriates in UAE encounter Jesus and return home with Him. (Mark 1:14-20)
- Wisdom, provision and strength for leaders of God's kingdom movement in UAE. (Ephesians 3:14-19)
- Thank God for the incredible ways He is accessing the hearts of many nations through UAE. (Ephesians 3:20) 



Unreached People Group:

SOCOTRAN OF YEMEN

Population: 118,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Soqotri

Background

The Socotran live on a small archipelago of islands in the Indian Ocean. They are fishermen, herders and farmers. Converted to Christianity by the Apostle Thomas in 52 AD, they were later influenced by Nestorianism. The islands came under control of Mahra sultans in 1511 and transferred to Yemeni control in 1967. Due to oppression by Arabs and isolation from their Nestorian patriarchs, Christianity among the Socotran was nearly extinct by 1680. While some Christians remain, most Socotran today belong to the Shi'ite Zaydi (fundamentalist) sect of Islam. Extreme isolation, governmental restrictions and harsh living conditions make it very difficult for outsiders desiring to reintroduce the gospel to the Socotran.

ASK...that God's Word planted among the Socotran would not return void. Ask that God would renew, and complete, the good work He began among the Socotran. Ask that Jesus would prove Himself to the Socotran as He did with Thomas. (Isaiah 55:10-13, Habakkuk 3:2, Philipians 1:6, John 20:24-29)

The Republic of Yemen, located in Southwest Asia, is the second largest Arab nation in the Arabian Peninsula, bordered by Saudi Arabia, Oman and the Indian Ocean. It boasts more than 200 islands, the largest of which is called Socotra. Yemen is also the poorest Middle Eastern country with a history of turbulence and crisis. Its current political situation is fragile as Houthis, a rebel movement from northern Yemen, seeks to violently overthrow the present government that has a history of corruption. Its president was ousted in September 2014, and Saudi Arabia has led military airstrikes in an effort to stabilize the government that remains.

Christianity arrived here in the 4th century, but Islam is the dominant religion today and there is little religious freedom. Converting to Christianity here is illegal. The small percentage of Christians are mostly Ethiopian refugees and others in secular jobs.

Let's ASK:

- El Shalom, the God of peace, for His peace that would bring stability and national unity. *Proverbs 28:2b "...but wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability."* *2 Thessalonians 3:16 "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation..."*
- El Shaddai, the all-powerful and all-sufficient God, for deliverance and salvation for the Yemini people, as they suffer oppression and lack religious freedom. *Psalms 146:7-8 "He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down..."* *Isaiah 12:2 "See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song; he has given me victory."*
- Adonai Shammah, the Lord who is present, to give hope and a sense of purpose to the Yemini people who face death & severe injury amidst bombings and fierce fighting from the civil war. *Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."* *Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster to give you a future and a hope."*
- El Elyon, the Most High God, for protection of the humanitarian workers as they deliver medical supplies and equipment to assist the injured. *Psalms 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation — so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger..."* 