

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. 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

One Obedient Person

A young evangelist stood before a group of Sunday school children in Nelson, New Zealand and shared the gospel. "How many of you want to ask Jesus into your life?" was his enthusiastic question. One scruffy eight year old boy shot his hand up but pulled it down when no one else raised theirs. It was too late, his hand had been seen. "Anyone else?" the obviously disappointed man asked. No response. He invited the shy boy up front and led him to Jesus. That boy was Graeme Coad, my late husband, and a pastor whom God used to bring hundreds into the Kingdom.

On a recent trip to the Philippines I told this story to a group of pastors and Christian leaders. The interpreter and several others shed tears. I didn't understand the tears until I realized they were relating the story to themselves and how God might use them in spite of their difficulties and discouragements. 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 was the Scripture used, "your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Graeme always said, "When I get to heaven, the first person I want to meet after Jesus, is that young man who introduced me to Jesus. Because of his obedience God changed the eternal destination of many, me included." This has been true throughout the ages. God calls people to change lives and nations through obedience. Because of the obedience of Jesus we have eternal life.

In the 1970s, one young man (formerly a Hare Krishna) went to the Philippines with his wife. He discipled Cora Carter, now an ASKer and founder of the Resources for Philippine Rural Communities Corporation (www.rprcc.org). It was through Cora that God opened the door for ASK Network in the Philippines. Cora turned up at an ASK gathering in my home in St. Augustine, Florida, and told me her story.

ASK in the Philippines:

I recently traveled to the Philippines, prompted to follow up on an ASK trip there last July. "Finish the work you started," was God's word to me. Luke 14:28-35. Thank you to all who faithfully prayed for me. God prepared the way through your prayers

I traveled with a team of eight from RPRCC. They embraced ASK and wanted to pray at every opportunity. Our first meditation was short but powerful, "In God we trust," Ephesians 6:10. Since my return to the USA, one of the team members has shared

with me how spending time ASKing on our trip changed her whole perspective. For the rest of the trip God gave her supernatural peace as she continually put her trust in Him.

We had soldiers protecting us for the first week of the trip who became friends and also heard the gospel. Our new ASK contact, Sylvia, led a Muslim woman to the Lord on my birthday. Since then, her husband and other family members have also received Jesus. Still other family members and friends are interested. A church is needed in that area. A pastor I'm in contact with visits each week to follow up. This is an expensive and hard trip, please pray for them all. The second week was a highlight as neighborhood children filled the church after meetings. Around 20 children gave their hearts to Jesus. Please agree with me for the increase. John 4:34-38.

The trip was strenuous with many challenges but God was with us. This was illustrated to me when we went to visit a pastor's garden. He said it wasn't far, but we slipped and slid over wet, unstable ground for almost a kilometer until we reached the garden. On the way back a pastor held his arm out to steady me. I held onto his arm the whole way and every time I started to slip, his hand was there, unwavering. When we got back another pastor instructed a young man to draw water from a well and the pastor washed my feet. This so vividly illustrated to me God's servant heart and the way He leads us with firm, unwavering support. I felt His presence so strongly throughout that challenging walk. Joshua 1:7-9.

Obedience and the Nations:

ASK Network has a call to the nations. The people God uses to reach nations are individuals who obey His call. What is He speaking to you about the nations? Recently a friend reminded of this prophetic word delivered by my husband Graeme Coad at a gathering in 2003:

"I desire to send my people to the nations. Yet how can I when my people align themselves with the prince of this world? My people do not take the time to come apart and listen for My call to them. When they do come apart they are filled with the cares of this world and cannot hear. They come apart to fulfill their own desires instead of listening to what My desires are. I desire a people who have cleansed their hands and hearts. A people who will speak and desire My will above all else. A people who have not lifted up their hearts unto vanity, who follow not the careless and ungodly pursuits and lusts of this world. A people who harbor not bitterness against others and walk not in the lusts of the flesh. A people who have cleansed their hearts and hands before they come to me. It is to such a people that I will speak. These are the holy set apart ones that I will call. These are the ones who will hear and obey My voice.

"My heart is for those who walk in darkness on this earth. Oh My people, will you not repent? Will you not forsake the things of this world that cause you to sin and hold unforgiveness toward each other in your hearts? Oh My people, if you will cleanse yourselves and come before Me with pure hearts, then you will see and know My glory. Then you will hear Me speak of the deep things on My heart. Come unto Me this day and I will cause you to walk in holiness and truth, and you will see My desires and callings fulfilled in your lives as you intercede on behalf of those who walk in darkness. And My people who have walked in darkness will walk from the darkness into the light of My Presence when they take the time to heed and obey My voice, when they have My heart for the nations and the lost of this world.

"Will you not hear? Will you not come? Come, hear and take hold of the horns of the altar and you will receive such a blessing that you can hardly contain it."

God's call is to individuals. In Luke 5:1, many people were 'listening to the Word of God,' spoken by Jesus. Simon Peter, James and John all listened and followed the call of Jesus. 'They left everything and followed him,' (verse 11). Later in the same chapter (v. 27-28), Jesus saw Levi and said, "Follow me." Levi left everything and followed Him.



Bev & Graeme Coad served together for several years as North America Directors until Graeme went home to be with the Lord 29 September 2015. Beverly has continued to serve ASK faithfully.

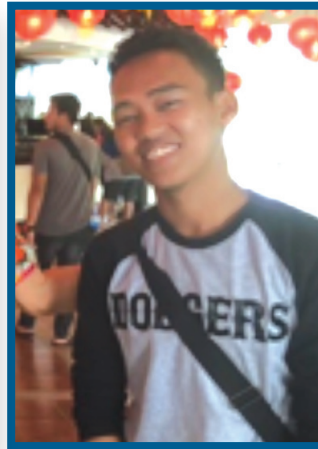
Meet new members of the ASK family



Junn and Karen dela Rama, Davao City, electrical engineers, youth/worship leaders, mentors



Sylvia Octura, recently retired university professor, with a heart for the next generation



Jhonbert Tongco, Philippines ASK Youth Contact



Beverly Coad with young friends in the Philippines

Jesus Himself would not be stopped from walking in obedience even though Herod wanted to kill him and the Pharisees offered advice that would lead him away from the path of obedience. His response in Luke 13:32 shows his heart of obedience. “Go tell that fox (v. 31), I will keep driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach My goal. In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day....”

Abraham responded to an impossible situation in the birth of Isaac with obedient faith. *“He did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. This is why, ‘it was credited to him as righteousness.’”* The words, ‘it was credited to him,’ were written not for him alone, BUT FOR US, to whom God will credit righteousness if we believe in Him. Romans 4:18-24.

Romans 10:17 speaks of “hearing faith” that comes through reading God’s Word. He finds a way to reach the nations in spite of a stubborn, rebellious people to whom He keeps stretching out His hands. Philippians 4:9 says, “ Whatever, you have learned or received or heard in me — DO (or put into practice). And the God of peace will be with you.”

What is God speaking to you in this season of your life? Have you ASKed Him? God always has more for us and it requires faith and obedience as He constantly reveals His purposes for us through His Word. He will do the impossible in your life and use you to fulfill His purposes for the nations. Are you willing to put aside your agenda and ASK God for His plan? Whether it is to go, give, intercede, etc; one thing is certain, God will use you if you are willing.

Please join us in this season of ASKing God to reveal His will for ASK Network. Remember, He starts with us as individuals. *“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things from your law.” Psalm 119:18.*

Let’s ASK together:

- Are we listening? *The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Then Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’* 1 Samuel 3:10 **ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU HEAR.**
- Are we willing to do whatever pleases Him? *The one who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him.* John 8:29 **ASK THAT PLEASING HIM WILL BE ALL YOU WANT.**
- Are we ready to obey? *But if anyone obeys His word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.* 1 John 2:5-6 **ASK HIM TO HELP YOU OBEY FULLY.**

By Beverley Coad, ASK Network Ambassador to the nations

... I realized they were relating the story to themselves and how God might use them in spite of their difficulties and discouragements.



THE GAMBIA

Unreached People Group:

JAHANKA OF GAMBIA

Population: **5,300**
 Primary Religion: **Islam**
 Language: **Jahanka**

Background

The Jahanka are an ethnic group historically comprised of a special caste of professional Muslim clerics and teachers. They live in West Africa, primarily in Senegal and Guinea, with smaller populations in Gambia, Mali and Guinea-Bissau. Jahanka men are highly revered in their communities as holy men, and consequently are highly influential among Muslim populations throughout West Africa. Jahanka religious tradition favors pacifism over the notion of holy war. While there are a few known followers of Jesus among the Jahanka, this people group remains one of the world's least-reached with the Gospel.

ASK ... that Jahanka clerics and teachers would encounter Isa al-Masih (Jesus the Messiah) in dreams, visions and God's Word. Ask Jesus to captivate their hearts and lead them to the Father. Ask God to use their influence among West African Muslims to turn many more hearts toward the Kingdom of God. (John 1:35-50)

What do you wish people knew about your country — and the current political situation? The Gambia is called "The Smiling Coast." That name says it all. It is filled with friendly and peaceful people. Gambian people are also very hard working and deserve so much more than the struggles they face. President Adama Barrow was elected in December 2016. This was a miraculously momentous event for our nation because he overthrew a dictator who had been in power for 22 years. There was no freedom of speech during those years. Corruption on every level held the country back from progress and held people back in fear. President Barrow is working to end corruption and build up the country, but some people are betraying him and trying to feed an undercurrent of dissent and distrust of his leadership. Please pray for wisdom for him and for good leaders who will care about the people and not their own gain.

Tell us about the transformation you most long to see in your nation. First, transformation in healthcare, especially maternity care. Hospitals are often seen as places of death instead of healing. Healthcare workers are understaffed and underpaid and lack training on even basic hygiene. They don't know what it looks like to treat patients with dignity and respect. It breaks my heart that women in childbirth are often abused and yelled at in labor and not treated with the kindness they deserve. One of my cousins died in childbirth because of hemorrhage. No one had the resources or training to help. She was only 19. This happens too often in The Gambia and must change.

Also, hope for the youth. Unemployment is very high. Even those who are able to get education, have little hope of jobs that can provide a living wage. Therefore, many young people try to leave The Gambia via "the back way," meaning illegal entry into other countries where they think they can find good work. But it is very dangerous and many die or become victims of human trafficking on the journey. They need hope for meaningful work and creative job markets so that they can stay and help build the future of the nation.

Please ASK for:

- God's blessing on the Gambian people who work hard and yet struggle. *Give a bonus to leaders who do a good job, especially the ones who work hard at preaching and teaching. Scripture tells us... 'a worker deserves his pay.'*
1 Timothy 5:18 (The Message)
- President Barrow and all leaders to care about the people and not their own gain. *Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation.*
1 Timothy 2:2 (The Message)
- Maternity healthcare in the Gambia. *May God transform the bitterness of 'Marah' to springs of living water of 'Elim', and that He would show Himself as 'I am GOD your healer.'* Exodus 15:22-27
- Hope for the youth in the Gambia. *Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young.*
1 Timothy 4:12 (The Message)

An interview with my Gambian sister Isatou Njie. Upon hearing about our network of intercessors desiring to pray for her country, she willingly agreed to share her heart with us. Jenny Rose Wilson (ASKer) and Isatou Njie at right.



PANAMA



Unreached People Group:

JAPANESE OF PANAMA

Population: **2,100**
 Primary Religion: **Buddhism**
 Language: **Japanese**

Background

In the late 19th century, Japan wanted to establish trade with the Western hemisphere. They sent ambassadors first to Panama and that team used Panama's international railroad system to establish contacts throughout Latin America and North America. The need for laborers to build the Panama Canal in the early 20th century might have seemed a natural opportunity for Japanese immigrants to settle there. An inspection team from Japan, however, deemed the isthmus unsafe and discouraged any organized efforts to send workers. The few who did travel to Panama and settle there did so on their own. Most Japanese practice Buddhism and Shintoism, an ancient religion indigenous to Japan. There are a few hundred known Christians among the Japanese of Panama.

ASK ... that Christians in Panama would find culturally meaningful ways to introduce their Japanese neighbors to Jesus. Ask God to give Japanese Christians in Panama courage to share their faith with their families. (1 John 1:5, 1 Peter 3:15)

Panama is a country linking Central and South America. The Panama Canal, a famous feat of human engineering, cuts through at its most narrow part, linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to create an essential shipping route. Completion of the 51-mile (82 km) canal in 1914, afforded a long-sought shortcut for shipping. This assured Panama's standing as one of the most strategic transportation hubs in the world. Along with lawful commerce has come the illegal money generated from drug trafficking that is headed for the United States and Europe. The sex slave train that goes from South America to North America, obviously coming through Panama, adds to the criminal coffers. Corruption is the norm within the highest government positions, the local police, and filters down to the people.

Panama is a very open and free society. There is liberty to preach the gospel. Catholicism is the religion of about three-fourths of Panamanians. The number of Protestants grew rapidly in the late 20th century, especially among Pentecostal churches. Some Panamanians practice the religion Santeria, a combination of Roman Catholic and traditional West African beliefs and customs. Panama's constitution guarantees freedom of worship, but witchcraft is very strong among many government leaders and the police force. The last chief of police had two Santeria altars in the police station. Thankfully they have now been removed.

New laws are being introduced to sanction gay marriage and last year, 10,000 people came from all over the world to march in a gay parade in Panama City.

The educational system is suffering and many teachers do not even show up for their classes.

ASK FOR:

- the government to pursue drug and sex traffickers, and for corruption in leaders to give way to God's wisdom and integrity, that they may boast as Paul did. *For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world.* 2 Corinthians 1:12
- the educational system to function with wisdom and reliability, so they would teach with excellence and not just for the income. *If you are uniquely gifted in your work, you will rise and be promoted. You won't be held back, you'll stand before kings!* Proverbs 22:29
- churches to be renewed by His Holy Spirit and families to turn their faces toward Him and away from the sinful practices of syncretism. *Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.* Ephesians 4:22-24. *For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!* Ephesians 5:8

