

ASKING POINT

Network

*He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. Deut. 32:4*

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Gathering All Generations (pg 1)
Hope of the Nations: Egypt (pg 2)

Gathering All Generations

As we look through television screens and at news media around the whole world, we see a world that is changing profoundly and at great speed. The next generation, those who will inherit the leadership of the world from those who are older, see things very differently. Their perspectives on politics, culture, national identity, sexuality, and communications, to name a few, are shaped by the world in which they have grown up. They care passionately about justice for the poor, the environment, and authenticity.

Many of these perspectives and passions create a subtle separation between the generations. In ASK our call is to invest ourselves in preserving the love and communication between the generations, which has always been under threat and still is today. Pharaoh attempted to wipe out the next generation in his fear of the Israelites, and centuries later Herod did likewise. Our beloved Bible is a tri-generational book: "... *Have you not read what God said to you, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?" Matthew 22: 31, 32*

The world is awash with opinions and many nations are pushing God out of government, education, ethics, and many other areas as well. Let's take time this month to pray with fasting for a sure transmission of the word and ways of God to the next generation.

ASK for:

- **The next generation in your family and among your friends.** Pray you have opportunities to be with them and listen to them, love them, and feed them. *1 Timothy 4: 11, 12*
- **The next generation in your church.** Ask that there would be those who are gifted with creative initiative who can offer prayer and other events that will connect with young people. *Exodus 35:30-35*
- **The next generation in your nation.** Ask for Christians and churches to reach out to the millions of lost and lonely young people. Ask for Christians to be called to work in the media. *Numbers 10:1-10; Psalm 68:6*
- **The next generation in the nations.** Ask for a deep conviction and call among church and other leaders to build a tri-generational church. *Deuteronomy 6:1-9*
- **The next generation at the ASK gathering in Jerusalem in May.** Ask that they receive revelation about God's blueprint for the generations and that a passion to see it realized in their time would be ignited. *Psalm 78:1-8*

...receive from Him
anything we ask, because we obey
His commands and do what pleases Him...

1 John 3:22



Hope of the Nations:
'Blessed is Egypt, MY People' ISAIAH 19:25

"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21



*"And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking but healing;
so they will return to the Lord, and He will respond to them and will heal them." Isaiah 19: 22*

After eighteen days of protests in January and February, President Mubarak's 30-year rule in Egypt came to an end. God is shaking Egypt and there is a great need for prayer. The revolution begun by the youth, who called for an end to oppression, has succeeded in toppling a dictator, but now the work of dismantling the old regime of corruption and brutality begins. Only God Himself can establish the righteous government that Egyptians need and want.

A PRAYER FOCUS ON THE EGYPTIAN CHURCH

The church in Egypt has the key to the deep changes that are needed in the spiritual, political, and social systems that will transform the society. Unless hearts and attitudes are changed, people's hopes for a free and democratic country will be dashed. The danger is that after centuries of persecution and discrimination, Christians will retreat in fear and sit on the sidelines of nation building.

Christianity has deep roots in Egypt. Soon after the time of Christ, the church was established in Egypt and, in spite of centuries of persecution, it has stood strong in faith. Even before Christ, the Old Testament was translated into Greek in Alexandria and became accessible to the world. Great thinkers of the early church came from Egypt: Athanasius, Origen, and Augustine. The monastic movement can be traced to the desert fathers of Egypt who called for a life of purity and simplicity away from worldly temptations. As Isaiah 19:24 promises, Egypt is called to be a blessing in the midst of the earth and it has fulfilled that promise at times. We pray that this will be one of those times.

At present, the majority of Egypt's 82 million people are Muslim, but approximately 15 million people call themselves Christian. Most of these are Coptic Orthodox but there are active congregations of mostly Protestant and Catholic denominations. For at least 50 years, Egyptian intercessors have been crying out to the Lord to come and heal their land. They believe that the present shaking is an answer to their prayers and that it is the prelude to a great revival. The enemy will work to stop it; much prayer is needed to keep the church unified in love and purpose.

It is remarkable how the spiritual strongholds mentioned in Isaiah 19 are still evidenced in Egypt today. The spirit of Pharaoh (control and intimidation), slavery, strife, confusion, hopelessness, and fear have all been challenged through much prayer. In the first weeks after the revolution, people sensed that there was a fresh breath of freedom from these old oppressors. However, too many Egyptians have lived in a kind of spiritual slavery and it will take time and revelation from the Holy Spirit to learn to live as sons.

ASK for:

- **Church leaders** to be good shepherds in Christ; to seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken, and strengthen the sick. *Ezekiel 34:16*
- **The Body of Christ in Egypt** to know God's true character and invoke His holy presence to melt the spirits of Pharaoh, pride, control, and death that have prevailed in Egypt. *Isaiah 19:1*
- **The power of Jesus' shed blood to bring peace and defeat the old curses** of strife, jealousy, and envy, first in the Church and then in the government and other institutions. *Isaiah 19: 2, Ephesians 2:14-17*
- **All those in authority** to move in the Spirit of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge, and the fear of the Lord. We ask this to replace the curses of confusion and foolishness of Isaiah 19:11. *Isaiah 11:2*