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Please find below an outline of a lesson prepared for our website by Tryna Bahl. You may be familiar with her excellent teaching tools on the website at www.asknetwork.net under "Teaching Resources". If you have not seen them we encourage you to give them time. The first 8 Basic Lessons are great for training in the foundational principles of hearing God's voice by meditating on His Word and ASKing with that understanding.

This lesson is about God's protection. Although the lesson is written primarily for seeking the Lord's covering over our own lives the principles can be applied to any situation. You are invited to meditate through Psalm 121 and then pray the truths you glean for yourselves, your family, your church, community and nation. This has particular application in the world we live in, where terrorism is a real and present threat. God can protect us from what we cannot even see. Be blessed as you take time to marinate in God's Word.

Divine Protection Psalm 121

If you have not gone through the Introductory Basis Lessons (featured on this website under Teaching Resources) teaching on the different facets of Biblical Meditation, please consider this first to get the most out of the following lessons.

Meditating on the Word makes you aware of God's faithfulness to protect you.

A concordance can be helpful to gain insight for prayer. Use a concordance much like a dictionary looking up a word, seeing the root meaning of that word and where else it appears in the Bible. The Bible itself is always the best help in interpreting other scriptures.

Prepare to meditate: Read the lesson first, and then meditate on the Scripture. ASK the Holy Spirit to lead you; respond to what you receive from the Word. Read the Word as if God is speaking to you personally and respond the same way. The basis of your prayer will be what you received from the Word.

Group: A brief sharing before prayer makes you aware of what others received from the Word and helps you pray with them, adding on to their prayers. Finish each prayer before going on to another.

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

Context: This is a Psalm of Ascent that was sung by pilgrims on their way up to Jerusalem to celebrate the three required feasts, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. They were proclaiming God's faithful care for them. New King James Version is used here.

Study Tool: A concordance will show the same word is used six times in 8 verses. Verses 1-5, it translates keeps, keeps, keeps, keeper. Verses 7 and 8 use preserve three times in the NKJ translation. It is a primary root meaning to hedge about (as with thorns), to guard, to protect, to attend to with the idea of watching over. Synonyms might be alphabetized which means the first word is not always the best. Not every word is applicable, you must consider the context. Some synonyms here are: keep, keeps, keeper, observe, preserve, watch (man).

These become meaningful in prayer as seeing God as Keeper, Preserver, the One who watches over you night and day, The One who preserves your soul, your life. Adam was to be the keeper of the Garden of Eden so that gives the understanding of being tended or taken care of. Genesis 2:15. Job's life was preserved by God when He allowed Satan to tempt him. Job 1:10. Here the sense of "is" being kept even in a dangerous place.

Psalm 121:1 "I will lift up my eyes to the hills — from whence comes my help?"

v2 "My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth."

v3 "He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who *keeps* you will not slumber."

v4 "Behold, He who *keeps* Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

v5 "The LORD is your *keeper*; the LORD is your shade at your right hand."

v6 "The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night."

v7 "The LORD shall *preserve* you from all evil; He shall *preserve* your soul." (mind, emotion, will)

v8 "The LORD shall *preserve* your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore."

Application: Pray the insights you receive. Pray for fellow believers in the Body of Christ. Your prayers will touch others and benefit you as well.

If you are able and would like to support this very important work in Africa please go to www.asknetwork.net and give by touching the Donate button and designate it as for "AFRICA", or send to your National Treasurer and ask them to mail it to Ask Network Int'l at: ASK Network, PO Box 12351, Mill Creek, WA 98082 USA

ASK Network News

ASK in West Africa

Evarist and Rose, our leaders in Togo, were able to present the importance of ASKing at a church in Lome, the capitol city, on August 26th, and will also be sharing about ASK Network during a September 5-7th gathering. Please join them in praying for God-empowered words and for His understanding to be given to the listeners. Isaiah 51:16; Ephesians 1:17

Another meeting will take place in Ghana for West African ASK leaders on September 25th followed by an ASK gathering in Cameroon. Please pray also for the nations surrounding Cameroon — Gabon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo. We would be delighted to have representatives from these countries attend. This region is critical, lacking stability, and our prayer groups could be a significant aid to peace in these nations. Malachi 1:11; Luke 1:79

The Zambia ASK gathering is October 24-27th. They are trusting God to gather teams from South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Lesotho and Malawi — all nations of the ASK South African Region. ASK directors from Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda have also been invited and afterwards will give updates on their nations and pray for their countries. Finances are needed for their fares to attend. Please pray for the funds to be supplied by our gracious God! Psalm 23:1

As you can see, God is on the move in Africa. Thank you for your continued prayers that are making a huge difference in this continent.



Angola is the seventh-largest country in Africa. An ancient country, Angola was molded by Portuguese colonization. It began with coastal settlements and trading posts established starting in the 16th century. In the 19th century, European settlers slowly and hesitantly began to establish themselves in the interior. The Portuguese colony that became Angola did not have its present borders until the early 20th century.

After a protracted anti-colonial struggle, independence was achieved in 1975 only to be followed by a deadly civil war that lasted until 2002. Forty years of almost constant war have devastated Angola. Innocent civilians suffered the most with 90% being casualties. Millions were uprooted, homes and churches destroyed and hunger used as a bargaining chip in the power play for aid. One in 350 Angolans is a victim of landmines, 70-90% of the population live in poverty and the length of roads destroyed or damaged amounts to nearly twice the circumference of the planet. It is estimated that some hundred thousand people have to live with mutilations from landmines. Greater than the physical damage are the psychological, social and spiritual wounds, which will require years to overcome.

After the war, the capitol Luanda and other major cities attracted a large proportion of the displaced rural population who fled to urban areas because of food shortages and lack of security. There remain large numbers of orphaned and abandoned children, many who have been falsely accused of witchcraft by relatives as a pretext for getting rid of them. Others are forced or sold into prostitution to feed themselves.

LET'S ASK GOD to use His church that comprises 94% (22.5% Evangelicals) of the population to:

- Alleviate physical suffering by helping to clear the 6 million landmines, rebuild infrastructure, homes, hospitals, and schools. *The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,* Isaiah 32:17-18
- Heal the invisible wounds. Reconciliation is a painstaking process, and the sheer number of those hurting means that more counselling support and God's intervention are long-term needs. May the church faithfully declare, *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds [healing their pain and comforting their sorrow].*" Psalm 147:3
- Minister to the urban poor and the children at risk. *Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was Me —you did it to Me.'* Matthew 25:39-40 The Message

Unreached People Group:

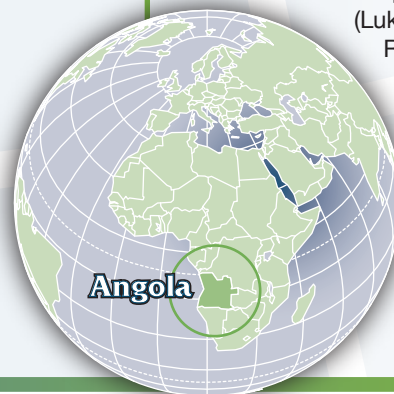
CHINESE OF ANGOLA

Population: **367,000**
 Primary Religion: **Non-religious**
 Language: **Mandarin**

Background

Over the last two decades, thousands of skilled workers from China have migrated to Angola to develop its infrastructure following a nearly 30-year civil war. Others are relocating there to extract oil (Angola is currently China's largest oil supplier). Their presence is not always welcome—Chinese migrants tend to live in isolation from Angolans and take jobs that may have otherwise been available to locals. There have been numerous acts of violence against the Chinese because of this. Most Chinese in Angola are non-religious and there are few known Christians among them.

Pray ... that Christians of Angola would find ways to share the love of Jesus with their Chinese visitors through acts of hospitality. Ask that God would use the Angolan Church as a witness to Chinese people, many of whom come from contexts in China that are very closed to the Gospel message. (Luke 6:27-36, Romans 1:16)



Namibia



Namibia is a large and sparsely populated country on Africa's south-west coast. Governed as a German colony called German South-West Africa from 1884 until the end of World War I, it then became a territory of South Africa and apartheid was applied in 1948. In 1990 following the Namibian War of Independence, Namibia gained its independence and has since made the transition from white minority apartheid rule to a stable multi-party parliamentary democracy.

Namibia's coastal desert has resulted in it being one of the least densely populated countries in the world with just a little over 2 million people. The sand dunes created by the strong onshore winds are the highest on earth. It is the driest country in Sub-Saharan Africa and suffers with severe water shortages making it dependant mainly on ground water from bored wells.

Namibia has one of the highest rates of income discrepancy in the world, fueled mostly by a strong urban economy alongside subsistence farming based on a cash-less economy. One of the fastest growing areas of trade and industry development in Namibia is the wildlife conservancies/tourism business. The Etosha National Park is one of world's greatest conservation areas. Namibia has specifically addressed conservation and protection of natural resources in its constitution. Monies generated from conservancies are particularly important in sustaining the rural, generally unemployed, population with new jobs.

Christianity is the most widespread religion in Namibia making up 80-90 percent of the population. The largest Christian denomination is Lutheran first established during the German period of colonization. The Lutheran Church has about half of the Christian population while Roman Catholics make up about a fifth. 10%-20% of the population hold indigenous beliefs.

ASK For:

- The growth of missions, and that all would minister in the power of the gospel, and with sensitivity. *For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.*" 1 Thessalonians 1:5
- Clean water: even though a new aquifer has been discovered the infrastructure for pumping and delivering the water is not available. Pray they can be put in place quickly and that the Lord will be praised for His provision. *For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children.*" Isaiah 44:3
- Ecological efforts would continue as they assume the roll of caretaking the land and become an example to other nations. *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* Genesis 1:26

Unreached People Group:

!KUNG OF NAMIBIA

Population: **10,000**
 Primary Religion: **Traditional**
 Language: **!Kung**

Background

The !Kung are a nomadic people group living in the desert regions of northeast Namibia. They were among the first people groups Europeans encountered in Africa's Great Rift Valley and are descendants of the Angola's original inhabitants. They were traditionally gentle hunter-gatherers, but over the years many !Kung were kidnapped and forced into slavery in Southern Africa. Those who have adopted the Christian religion of Namibia's dominant people groups mix their practice of faith with the traditional religion of the !Kung's history. Portions of Scripture are available in the "click" language of the !Kung people.

Pray ... that the !Kung would know their value and dignity as children of God. Ask God to liberate those who are still held captive by poverty and domination. Ask that Namibian Christians would learn to tell !Kung people in their own language about the freedom that is available to them through Christ. (Psalm 18:16-19, Psalm 139:13-16, John 8:34-36)

