



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.

www.ASKnetwork.net

ASKing for Israel and Beyond

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light". Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

Miraculous answers to your prayers: While ASK was in Israel just 3 months ago for the International Gathering, we ASKed on behalf of Israel: for the body of believers in the land, for the restoration of signs and wonders, that the teachings of Jesus would be heard throughout the land, and for the supernatural protection of Israel's borders. Little did we know that just 9 weeks later, Israel would be dragged into war.

As I write these lines, Israel is 35 days into a war with the terrorist group Hamas in the Gaza strip. This was not a war that Israel sought, but as you will read in the following paragraphs, God has been able to work His Good through these grueling weeks where both Gazans and Israeli have suffered profound devastation and loss.

You prayed for 'miraculous signs and wonders': A young member of our congregation currently serving in the IDF recounted the story of a fellow soldier: Their unit was working inside Gaza just a few days ago. *They identified the home of a Hamas terrorist and arrived at the house early in the morning. As they were about to enter the house, they saw a dove hovering overhead (a startling site to see in a war zone). They momentarily stopped to watch the dove land on a tiny little string. A second later, the entire house blew up. The home had been booby-trapped, and the string was connected to a bomb. If the soldiers had entered the house, they would have been killed!*

You prayed for the 'supernatural protection of Israel's borders': Israel shares a border with six different territories/nations that all challenge Israel's statehood and have all been at war with us. Though the fighting has been intense in Gaza and cities surrounding Gaza during this war, no other country has engaged or joined in on the attack of Israel!

We just found out that the very days that ASK was meeting in Ginosaur in April, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) received intelligence that Hamas in Gaza was planning to start a war with Israel this summer. This key information was truly the Lord's hand of protection over Israel! Our army was then able to use the following two months to prepare.

Within the first two weeks of this war, the IDF confiscated documents and computers that contained alarming details of Hamas' plans to carry out a wide-spread surprise attack on Israel on the High Holy Day of Rosh HaShanah this September. Hamas had apparently spent 12 years in the planning of the surprise attack where thousands of terrorists would have infiltrated towns and cities in Israel through dozens of hidden, underground tunnels Hamas has dug under the border into Israel. (These tunnels were 100 feet below ground and reached 1 to 3 kilometers inside Israel, with exit holes inside Israeli neighborhoods.) Hamas terrorists would have been disguised in IDF uniforms and would have killed and kidnapped masses of people. The terrorist group at Israel's northern border, Hezbollah, may have also been planning to join in, simultaneously attacking from the north on the same day. This current unplanned war was a miraculous opportunity enabling the IDF to find and destroy Hamas' maze of hidden tunnels and thwart what would have been a catastrophic assault. Hamas terrorists captured during

the fighting confirmed these reports further, stating that this surprise attack was intended to “begin the ultimate defeat of their Zionist enemy”.

God’s merciful hand of protection is so evident. Thank you for your prayers!

Please continue to pray for Israel and Gaza: As you know, there are still many significant needs to bring before the Father. Please continue to ASK for:

- the hearts of the Israeli and Palestinian people. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*
- the families of all Gazans and Israels who are mourning the loss of loved ones. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
- the thousands of wounded Gazans and hundreds of wounded IDF soldiers still in the hospital. *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.*
- divine guidance for Israeli and Palestinian leaders. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

Thank you for standing (and kneeling) with us!

Anna
Israel, August 12, 2014 

A must listen!
The teachings from ASK’s International gathering at Ginosar, April 2014. These teachings from key spiritual leaders in Israel will both inform and inspire you for your ASKing for Israel and the Middle East. Find these messages at ww.asknetwork.net under Teaching Resources.

ASK Network News

Leadership in Israel:

Anna is a Messianic Jew (a person of Jewish heritage who has made Jesus their Lord, Yeshua HaMashiach). She and her family made ‘aliyah’ two years ago from California. Aliyah is the fulfillment of dozens of Old Testament prophecies, where Jews that have been scattered among the nations are gathered from every corner of the world back into the Promise Land (Ezek. 36:24; Ezek. 37:21). We are blessed to see these prophecies being fulfilled in our lifetime, as the modern state of Israel only recently became a nation in 1948. Another modern day miracle and fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy is the revival of the ancient Hebrew language into the state language of Israel. One hundred and fifty years ago Hebrew was a language only used in prayer by Orthodox Jews — no one spoke it conversationally. Today Modern Hebrew is spoken by nine million people. It is the only dead language to be successfully revived!

Anna will be representing ASK in Israel. Please pray for her, her husband and their four children. Pray that the Lord will open doors for them in their ministry and that He will greatly bless their learning of Hebrew!

Current Financial Need:

We are putting forth a very real financial need in this season to those in ASK Network, for you who pray for and love the nations so faithfully. There are immediate needs to gather the leaders of African nations at an ASK Continental Conference in South Africa, October 22-26. Also, the first Australasia ASK Conference will be held in Sydney, November 14-16. In addition to these two significant gatherings, we would also like to continue developing the international Website.

WHETHER IT IS A WIDOW’S MITE OR MORE, MONTHLY OR A ONE-OFF GIFT, YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE. PLEASE PRAY ABOUT THIS, THANK YOU! You can go to the International Web Site and give by clicking on the donate button at the bottom of the home page (www.asknetwork.net).

Thanks be to God! 



Bangladesh



Unreached People Group:

Bangladesh is the world's most densely populated large country. Most of the country is a delta region traversed by the many branches and tributaries of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers. Tropical monsoons and cyclones inflict heavy destruction of lives and property, and have contributed to its being one of the poorest nations.

Bangladesh is a secular country whose constitution gives religious freedom, but the majority Muslim population is pushing to make it an Islamic state with shari'a law. Religious liberty is being steadily eroded. Bordering the Bay of Bengal, and adjacent to the most populous Hindu nations of India and Nepal, Bangladesh understandably has the third highest percentage of Hindus in the world.

Most of the Hindus in this area of South Asia will be participating in the festival of Navratri, 25 September to 4 October. Three major festivals are a part of Navratri with differing customs depending on the region. Some observe the festival with fasting, and others with special dances or wild celebrations. Navratri is the most important time of worship throughout the year- particularly for women. During this time, nine different forms of the female divinity known as "Shakti" (female power), Devi (Goddess) or "Durga" (name of a goddess) are worshipped. On the 10th day the god Ram (a form of Vishnu) is worshipped. This time of celebration can be ideal for Christians to share with Hindus about the amazing love of Jesus.

You can download this excellent electronic version of the guide from which the above information was taken at www.hindustudy.com/resources — Hindu World Prayer Focus 10 Day Guide for Praying for Hindus.

Christians make up less than a million of the 150+ million population, and are a persecuted minority. However there has been a people-movement among the tribal groups toward Christianity and the church, having an increasing impact on society.

Let's ASK...

- That the government will find ways to combat the extreme poverty. *Proverbs 21:13; 8:14-21.*
- For political stability and a government that is courageous to stand against Islamist demands and corruption. *Psalms 94:16-23*
- For Hindus to come to know the tender love of the Father during the Navratir celebration. May they see that Jesus is the Supreme God, not one of many incarnations, but the true and complete God. *Colossians 1:15-20*
- For a multiplication of leaders in the church. Pray that the churches will become fervent, mature and full of vision even in persecution. Pray for religious freedom to continue. *Philippians 1:27-30; John 8:36* 

MANIPURI (MEITEI) OF BANGLADESH

Population: 25,000

Primary Religion: Hinduism

Language: Meitei

Background

Most of the world's Manipuri live in northeastern India, however a large group migrated to Bangladesh in the late 1700's, and now reside primarily in the northeastern district of Sylhet. Also known as the Meitei people, the Manipuri practice farming. They are well-known for their beautiful dancing, which often takes the form of a drama based on the life of the god Krishna. Manipuri originally practiced animism, but were forcefully converted to Hinduism in the sixteenth century. Today they practice a blend of both religions. There is a small group of Manipuri Christians in India, but no known believers among the Manipuri of Bangladesh. The Bible and other Christians resources are available in their language.

ASK...that God would raise up laborers to bring the gospel to the Manipuri of Bangladesh. Ask that, in their dancing, they would encounter the beauty and creativity of a God who loves them. (Psalm 150)

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

CAPE MALAY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Population: 288,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Afrikaans

Background

In 1652, Dutch settlers arrived in South Africa's Cape region. This area became a prime trade route, and required a huge labor force to keep up with growing traffic. To meet the need, slaves were imported from Indonesia, and later came from numerous other nations between East Africa and Malaysia. These slaves, mostly artisans in their home countries, became known as the Cape Malay. Because Islam had been introduced in Indonesia as a form of protest against colonial powers, it also became the predominant religion of the Cape Malay. When slavery was abolished in 1829, the BoKaa neighborhood of Cape Town became home for the Cape Malay.

ASK...that God would restore and strengthen the identity of the Cape Malay, that they would understand their precious value in His eyes. Ask that the Cape Malay would encounter Jesus as the One who truly sets captives free.

(Psalm 124, Hosea 2:16-23)

South Africa is a country full of possibilities and with great challenges. In 1994 it experienced a transition from being an oppressed nation to a democratic nation. Through the election of our former president Nelson Mandela processes were set in place to bring about reconciliation, democracy and equality. Even though the country has experienced great change in Economical Social Development there still remains a great challenge. Poverty, Health, Security and Corruption are some of the challenges the nation faces on a day-to-day bases.

The church has a big challenge in addressing some of these issues in our country. There is a need for strong Christian leadership amongst religious organizations and as long as disunity is present in our country it will forfeit the purpose of advancement of the Kingdom. The good news is that the new generation is being converted to Christianity and is eager to see change.

PRAYER POINTS...

- We pray for inspired and Godly leadership in government and churches.
1 Peter 5: 2-3; Psalm 78:72
- We pray for citizens to obey the government as instituted by God. *Romans 13:1-5*
- We pray for peace and reject crime and violence, particularly against women and children. *Psalm 72:12-14, 1 Timothy 2:1-4*
- We pray for true evangelism and the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 2:4,8-9
- May God raise prayer warriors to ask and intercede for our country.
1 Samuel 12:22-24
- We pray for God's intervention for our youth for employment (a lot of our youth are unemployed even after tertiary education). *Matthew 6:31-34; Psalm 34:8-10*
- We pray that Ebola have no effect on our country, or at the ASK conference.
Psalm 33:20-22
- We pray that men will take their rightful place according to God's plan. *Isaiah 9:6-7*
- Success of ASK PRAYER CONFERENCE October 22-26 Johannesburg.
Proverbs 16:3

Provided by ASK leaders in South Africa 