



ASKing Point

Jul/Aug 2016

ASKing in Jesus' Name

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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

"Everything in prayer depends upon our apprehending this — IN MY NAME."
— Andrew Murray

"Asking in Jesus' Name — that is our passport!" — E.M.Bounds

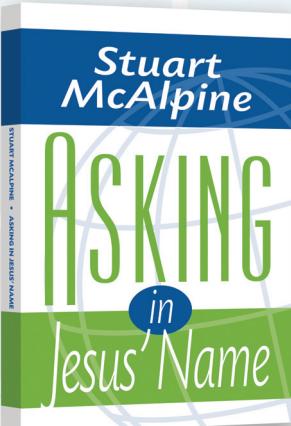
"Ask in my name." Of all that Jesus taught about asking, this is one of the most important things to understand and do. It would seem that we have registered this, given the high percentage of prayers that end: "...in Jesus' name. Amen." But what does this mean? Surely it is not just a liturgical ending that politely but religiously lets everyone know we are done, and they are now free to pray. It is not a rubber stamp or a hopeful affirmation that makes up for the lack of faith that might be latent in what has just been asked for. It is not a spiritual sounding 'abracadabra'. What we can say is that this truth cannot be complicated or difficult to comprehend if God is so eager that we ask of Him. If He paid the highest price in the sacrifice of His son, Jesus, so that we could ask of Him as a son and daughter asks of their father, then He is not going to make it unduly difficult or impossible to do so, for His sake, not just ours. Asking is not the obstacle course that some have made it out to be. He really wants us to ask.

There are no less than six occurrences of this idea of "asking in His name" in the upper room conversation on the eve of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion. Jesus does not give any explanations about what this means, perhaps because a Jew would be familiar with what was represented by "the name." In His last recorded asking before Gethsemane, Jesus tells His Father that He has "revealed your name" (John 17:6). Earlier, Jesus had made the equation between believing "in the name" (John 3:18) and believing in Himself, the Christ. A Jew understood that "the name" was the concise compendium of all that a person was: their character, personality, work, reputation — anything and everything about them. There are over 150 other ways that Jesus is named in the New Testament alone, so there is no end to what is "in the name."

Why the repetition? Clearly, Jesus' insistence is pointing to its importance. Some, like Andrew Murray, see it as an evidence of "how slow our hearts would be to take it in." It is puzzling, given this repeated emphasis on asking at the Last Supper, that so many commentaries on the text say so little about it. The context is important for our understanding of its meaning. Jesus is celebrating the Last Supper; He is about to go to the cross and finish the work the Father gave Him to do, and the main thing He seems to want to talk about is asking. The entire backdrop to the asking that Jesus is talking about is the work of redemption that He is going to complete through His death, resurrection, ascension and glorification. We should not be surprised to discover, therefore, that this asking has perhaps got something to do with asking for what Jesus died for.

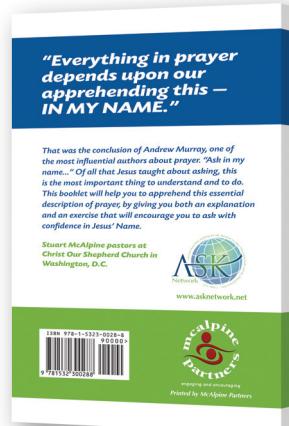
The new ASK publication, 'Asking in Jesus' Name', (see order details next page) will encourage your understanding and embolden your asking.

Stuart McAlpine



Asking in Jesus' Name,
a new booklet by Stuart McAlpine and written for
ASK Network International, is now available ...
a suggested donation of \$5 (+\$2 S/H within USA) or in
packets of ten for \$45 (+\$5 S/H within USA).
S/H for orders outside the USA will be handled
on an individual basis.

You may order this by visiting www.ASKnetwork.net and
clicking on the donate button, adding your address in the
message box. Buy a pack and you can give copies to your
church's pastoral staff and those in your ASK group.
(Only a limited number of copies will be available,
requests will be honored in the order received.)



ASK Network News

ASK in Russia! We can joyfully report that the recent ASK gathering in Kaliningrad, Russia was a very special time, well attended and with evident fruit. Pray for an ongoing response to the teaching and that many may catch the vision. Sasha and Ksoosha Nikiforov were consecrated as the new ASK Directors for Russia. We are privileged to have such choice servants of the Lord as part of the ASK family. Pray for them and their family as they wait on the Lord for His leading, and also remember their Project 1 program working with children from several orphanages. International team members in attendance were blessed to see this important work first hand. "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on (them); establish the work of (their) hands for (them)—yes, establish the work of (their) hands." Psalm 90:17



ASK IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. Please pray for an all important gathering and the launch of ASK Botswana, July 6-10. Several of our ASK Directors will be attending from surrounding nations, including Bishop Flemings Mtonga (Zambia), Eliot Borchardt (Southern Africa), Charles and Miriam Kaloki (Africa) and Stuart McAlpine (International).

USA National Prayer Gathering: September 15-17, Kansas City, Missouri. Please pray for this gathering in the nation's heartland to "remember the LORD" (Nehemiah 4:14), to ASK for the Bride of Christ to be "awakened, strengthened and readied for the Bridegroom's return" (Luke 12:35-36), and for a heart of intercession to be imparted. Visit www.asknetworkusa.net and choose "events" for more information.



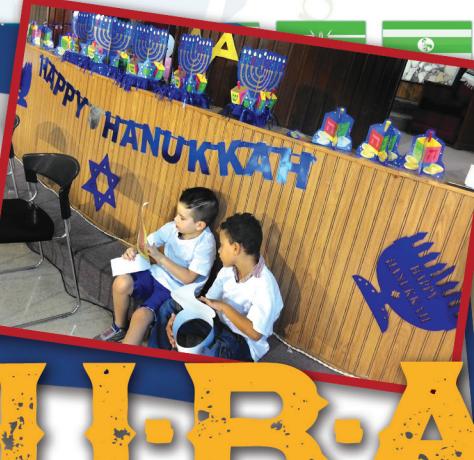
2017 ASK ISRAEL CONFERENCE

January 24-27, 2017
the ASK Network
National and Continental
Leadership and intercessors
will be gathering
in the Negev Desert

This will be the third trip in which we will be able to complete our border patrol, praying on the Egyptian border. Plan to join us if the Lord leads but also pray about helping the many leaders hoping to come from other nations who might otherwise not be able to attend.

Please visit
www.asknetwork.net for conference and registration information.

ASKing for the Nations



C-U-B-A

Over eleven million people live in the **Republic of Cuba**, the largest island in the Caribbean, just 90 miles from United States territory. Culturally, Cuba is considered part of Latin America and is a multi-ethnic nation made up of Spanish (who colonized Cuba in the late 1400s), aboriginal Indians and African slaves. The 1959 communist revolution brought Fidel Castro into power which led to a long season of isolation as relations broke down between Cuba and most of the western world. Today, it is one of the last remaining socialist countries following Marxist-Leninist ideology. Human Rights Watch has stated that the government “represses nearly all forms of political dissent” and that “Cubans are systematically denied basic rights to free expression, association, assembly, privacy, movement, and due process of law.”

Fidel Castro, now retired and almost 90, was very effective influencing many Latin American nations to follow his revolutionary left-wing policies. Now, with the leaders of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, and Venezuela in serious battles for their political lives, and the last of the center-left leaders in Peru and Uruguay being removed, the coalition he has worked so hard to build is fading. Raul, Castro’s brother, at age 85 is now in leadership and is seen as a cautious reformer who may be able to lead Cuba out of the corruption and poverty that has plagued daily life. At his invitation, US President Barack Obama recently visited Cuba after lifting trade embargoes. US flights are also being restored to Havana.

Another recent visitor, Pope Francis was well received by Raul, who was quoted saying he might even return to the faith of his youth. Hopefully the long closed Cuban doors will open.

Are Cuba and her leaders ready for a change? Let's ASK that:

- The true gospel will be preached to all Cubans resulting in rapid growth of the church. *“They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God’s Spirit... (they would) fully present the Good News of Christ”... (and) follow the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, “Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand.” Romans 15:19-21*
- God would put righteous governmental leadership in place and would bring peace to an unsettled and needy Latin America. *“For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one and exalts another. All the horns (strength) of the wicked I will also cut off. But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.” Psalm 75:5,6,10.*
- The Cuban people will find peace in Jesus. Micah 5:4-5

Unreached People Group:

JEWS OF CUBA

Population:	500
Primary Religion:	Judaism
Language:	Spanish

Background

During the early 20th century, Jews immigrated to Cuba from Turkey, parts of Europe and Russia. Most came to Cuba to escape poverty, persecution or governmental instability. They spent long days peddling or working in clothing workshops, but many eventually assimilated and found prosperity through land ownership. A huge exodus occurred during the latter half of the 20th century, when Fidel Castro implemented a communist government in Cuba. During that time 95% of Cuba’s Jews left for the United States or Israel. Today only about 500 Jews remain — many are elderly, and most are Jewish converts. They are fiercely devoted to the preservation of their faith and traditions.

ASK... that the God of Abraham would reveal Jesus Christ as the long-awaited Messiah to Cuba’s Jews. Ask that Jesus-loving Cuban Catholics would bear a strong witness for Christ in their mixed-faith communities. (Acts 22:1-16)



ASKing for the Nations



USA MUSLIMS

Staggering events and situations bombard the Bride of Christ daily in the **United States of America**. Our culture and communities are increasingly becoming unrecognizable for many believers. The current political landscape, along with alarming shifts in judicial authority, have resulted in decisions and debates concerning marriage and gender association few could have anticipated. As a result, persecution is on the rise against businesses (livelihoods) that take a stand not considered "Politically Correct" according to the agenda pervading our country.

Living in this climate can breed increased anxiety and fear but, our hope is not in the government, our wealth, education, skill set, progressive society or ability to sustain ourselves and our communities. Our ONLY HOPE is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you **may abound in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hope **does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts. For **God has not given us a spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed. But if we **hope for what we do not see**, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us ... according to the will of God."*

– Romans 15:13; 5:5, 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:18, 25-27NKJV

Ask with us that the Bride of Christ in the United States of America, would be:

- Awakened, "Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and the angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, 'Quick! Get up!' And the chains fell off his wrist." — Acts 12:7-8NLT
- Strengthened, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, Who is Great and Glorious" — Nehemiah 4:14 "We keep on asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of His call. May He give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the Name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live." — 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- Readied, "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their Master. That when He comes and knocks they may open to Him immediately." — Luke 12: 35-37NKJV

Unreached People Group:

MUSLIMS OF THE U.S.A.

Population: 3,300,000
Primary Religion: Islam
Language: Varies

Background

Muslims comprise 1% of the total US population. Some are immigrants and refugees from the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Some are American-born children of immigrants and refugees. Still others are high-identity Americans whose Muslim ancestors arrived as slaves in the 17th century. Whatever the reason, Muslims in America face difficult scrutiny in an age of terrorism, extremism and political rhetoric. As a result, many find strength in more deeply identifying with their faith. Others, disenfranchised with Islam, find America's religious freedom liberating. A small number become radicalized. Most Muslims in America are considered "least reached," having no access to Christian witness in their heart language. Most say that they have never been invited into the home of a Christian.

ASK... that God's perfect love would cast out any fear that prevents American Christians from reaching out to their Muslim neighbors with the love of Christ. (I Corinthians 13, 2 Timothy 1:7, I John 4:7-21)