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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](http://www.ASKnetwork.net)

## Have phone? Can ASK with others!

As you have read in earlier editions of this ASKing Point, nothing compares to the joy and purpose of meeting face to face over an open Bible, meditating together in the Word and hearing the Lord's voice, praying according to His will by revelation from His Word. However, in our busy world, and sometimes because of the distances between us, use of the phone has proved to be a great gift to ASK Network. Read these testimonies below and consider increasing your times of "gathering" by connecting with others on the phone.

### ASKing as Regional Leaders:

Having a weekly Skype call for **one hour each Wednesday morning** has really helped us to bond as a team and to keep a flow of consistent communication between us. It has also allowed us to maintain a rhythm of ASKing prayer over our region, the UK and Europe, and develop a strong and deep relationship amongst the team. We soon developed the skill of achieving good communication during the call. There is an unspoken etiquette that has developed to ensure everyone is able to take part and get the opportunity to speak. Listening to each other and learning to not speak over one-another is important. The structure is quite informal; we always meditate on a scripture and share together around this at the beginning of the call. We trust the Holy Spirit each week to bring a word to us on the day.

Generally we have a focus for our prayer time to move on to which may include topics from the latest ASKing Point and local, national, and international issues. If we are planning and preparing an ASK gathering, time is given during the hour to provide updates. We brainstorm through any issues, followed by prayer in a really focused and constructive way. We are disciplined in attending to prayer and sharing as the Holy Spirit is leading us on the day, as well as 'digging in' in prayer to support and encourage one another in our different roles. We always give consideration to the well-being of team members and their concerns, time is available to pray through situations at the end of the call.

Liz Percival is our 'anchor' person, she sets up the call, and helps to overcome technical problems if they occur. It is amazing to think we have been praying together in this way for so many years. Although our call takes place weekly it is not necessary or possible for everyone to take part each time. Usually two people are available each time and allowing for public holidays it is quite reasonable to say 48 out of 52 weeks of the year are covered. This is a remarkable commitment to the work of ASK and a celebration of the tremendous blessing we all receive in our journey of ASKing together. (Psalm 133)

*Submitted by Jenny Bailey, UK Director/European Team*

### ASKing for Your Nation:

"Gathering" is a biblical word but also a word that identifies ASK. Before we are a praying people we are a "gathered" people. And while we are most familiar with the 'gathered' people of God as in church, there are also many other settings in which we are 'gathered' to be God's people at prayer.

So it is that we in ASK Network USA have found **our monthly national prayer call** to be a place of 'gathering'. Our gathering begins each time with a remembrance and celebration of the Lord's table as we gather in our individual homes. The remainder of the hour is spent gathering around the Word as we share together the prayers generated from our earlier meditation on selected portions of Scripture. We have found these gatherings to be not only encouraging to each of us as we gather from coast to coast, but also a way to keep our relationships intact.

*Submitted by Art Rader, US ASK Co-Director*

### **ASKing in a Local Area:**

We gather on the phone with those who call from our prayer contact list. We have people who call in with us from California. It's usually 4-7 people and the conference call lines are so clear that we can hear each other perfectly. We have loved having the **two hours uninterruptedly going through half the ASKing Point the first month and then the next two pages the following month**. We have worship, using the psalms or some other passage of scripture which causes us to praise the Lord for Who He is; and then we cover half of the ASKing Point each time we pray. I have the email list of those who are interested in our USA Southwestern Zone. I put out an email in the week prior to our call. The highlight for me is to hear the voices of those who enjoy praying together like this and we are usually on the call from vast distances apart. It's always a sweet time. We take personal prayer requests at the end if people want to stay on for additional time.

*Submitted by Marsha Elliot, an ASK group leader in California, USA* 

## ASK Network News

### **THE ASK GATHERING IN LAGOS, NIGERIA, JULY 13-15 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!**

Attendees came from 20 of the 36 states. Many were bishops, apostles and pastors who are key in their states and were willing to receive and run with the ASK vision. There are many challenges in this nation and Apostle Franklin asks that we continue to join them in prayer for unity in Nigeria and the outright defeat of the terrorist group Boko Haram in the NE states of Nigeria. Delegates from Cameroon attended the Nigerian ASK gathering. One pastor connected with the vision and plans to start a cell group. Continue to ask that God opens ASK Network in this and other nations of West Africa.



### **NICE, FRANCE — SEPTEMBER 26-30, 2017**

In a month's time (September 26-30) some 45 people will gather at the A Rocha centre, Les Courmettes (arocha.org), perched high above Nice on the south coast of France, for the 2nd ASK EUROPE gathering. Delegates from 10 countries will join together to pray for our beleaguered continent which is wrestling with a plethora of challenges created by seismic changes in the culture, from migration to Brexit to wide ranging ethical upheavals.

On 14 July 2016, a terrible tragedy unfolded in Nice during the annual Bastille Day celebrations. 84 people were mown down and killed by a lorry driver on the Promenade Anglais in a terrorist attack. Bastille Day commemorates the start of the French Revolution in 1789, which signified liberation from oppression by the ruling classes and the royalty, and is France's annual national day of celebrations.

We will gather to hear reports from and pray for each nation represented to hear teaching, to pray, and to invest in friendships old and new. And to lengthen and strengthen ASK Network in Europe. Please pray:

- For an encounter with God which encourages and equips each delegate
- For prevailing prayer for France and for Europe
- For divine appointments and connections — *Isaiah 54* 



## Papua New Guinea

### Unreached People Group:

New Guinea is a rugged tropical island that is the second largest island in the world. **Papua New Guinea**, along with many smaller islands in the north and east Pacific Ocean, make up the eastern part of the island. The western part of New Guinea is the Muslim Indonesian territory of Irian Jaya. The island is an area of great biodiversity with snow in the high mountains, dense forests with heavy rainfall, swamps, numerous rivers and coral islands. The isolation that comes with this type of terrain, along with tribal clashes, often results in violent retaliations that can last for generations.

Papua New Guinea has more languages than any other country, with over 820 indigenous languages, but most have fewer than 1,000 speakers. The ministry of Wycliffe has long targeted this nation for Bible translation as they have sought to bring clarity to God's word for the many indigenous language groups.

Papua New Guinea is often ranked as one of the worst places in the world for violence against women. One report from a 2013 study of men on Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea stated that 41% admitted to having raped a non-partner, the majority of whom were under 15 years of age.

A large proportion of the population is illiterate with women making up the majority. Church institutions provide much of the education in PNG. There is an immense work of Biblical teaching needed in order to change the customs and mores of the population. Christians make up 95% of the population with about 25% being evangelicals, but many combine their Christian faith with some traditional indigenous religious practices.

#### ASKing:

- Churches are facing many challenges in moving this nation to a Biblical worldview. Nominalism, syncretism and pollution of Christianity with spiritism and the occult are sadly widespread. Culturally appropriate ways of building biblical faith, character, and lifestyle must be developed. **PRAY** for insightful ways for the church to achieve this objective. *The spirit of the gods (God's Spirit) is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom.* Daniel 5:14 NIV
- Lack of Scripture translations and widespread functional illiteracy generate both spiritual immaturity and theological error. **PRAY** for more Bible translations and discipleship materials for oral learners but in the meantime move the church to ... *devote yourself to [public and private] reading, to exhortation (preaching and personal appeals), and to teaching and instilling doctrine.* 1 Timothy 4:13 AMPC
- Strong tribal ties, ancient animosities and diversity of languages are barriers that hinder fellowship and the flow of spiritual blessing. **PRAY** for divisions to be removed and believers to set an example of unity. *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* 1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV
- Attempts to Islamize PNG are underway and will be an increasing challenge to the Church. **PRAY** for adequate preparation and equipping that will enable Christians to wisely face such infringement. *So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.* Colossians 1:28 NLT 

#### JEW OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Population: 1,000

Primary Religion: Judaism

Language: English

#### Background

Jewish history in Papua New Guinea (PNG) dates back to 1526 when Jorge de Menezes, a Portuguese explorer, is credited with Europe's discovery of this island nation near Indonesia. De Menezes hid his Jewish heritage during the Inquisition. Numerous other Jews fleeing the Inquisition made their way to PNG where they eventually encountered the Gospel message. The cruelties of the Inquisition blocked the Jews of PNG from receiving Jesus as Messiah. They did, however, receive the message of salvation and deepened their roots in the Jewish faith. There are no known Christians among the Jews of PNG.

**ASK ...** that God would heal the wounds of history and open the hearts and minds of Jews in Papua New Guinea to receive Jesus as Messiah (Psalm 147:1-6, Isaiah 56:1-8).



# Venezuela

## Unreached People Group:



**Venezuela** is a federal republic located on the northern coast of South America. Venezuela covers 353,841 square miles and has over 31 million people. The country has extremely high biodiversity (ranked 7th in the world's list of nations with the most number of species). Its capital is Caracas, and while Spanish is the predominant language, there are also 47 indigenous languages spoken as well. Ethnically, Venezuelans are mostly Mestizo (mixed European and Indigenous ancestry), with a large white population and some descendants from the African diaspora. Catholics make up 71% of the population, Protestants 17% and Agnostics 8%. Oil accounts for about 95% of Venezuela's export revenues.

There has been a wave of anti-government protests and dozens of people have been killed in protest-related violence since April. Venezuela is split into Chavistas, the name given to the followers of the socialist policies of the late President Hugo Chavez, and those who cannot wait to see an end to the 18 years in power of his United Socialist Party (PSUV). After the socialist leader died in 2013, Nicolas Maduro, also of the PSUV, was elected president on a promise to continue Mr Chavez's policies. A series of events has further heightened tensions between the government and the opposition and led to renewed street protests.

### ASK:

- **Caracas**, the capital, is one of the least-reached areas. Over one million live in the ranchos (slums), and gangs or drug barons control entire areas — but there are fewer than 300 churches in the city. **PRAY** that the spirit of desolation be lifted from the city, that it will no longer ... *be termed Forsaken and your land shall no more be termed Desolate but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her and your land Married for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.* Isaiah 62:4 ESV
- **Students, young people and children** need more focused outreach. Fewer than 20 Christian student groups exist for 100 universities, despite over 40 years of campus ministry. Many children live in poverty and have little opportunity to encounter the genuine gospel. **PRAY** for insightful ways for the church to reach out to the next generation. *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"* Romans 8:15 ESV
- **Prisoners** live with severe overcrowding, inhumane conditions, frequent violence, torture of detainees, lengthy pre-trial detention and seemingly untouchable criminals operating within the government, police and armed forces. VOCEP and others share Christ in these dangerous places, and significant numbers are coming to faith. **PRAY** for the safety of believing prisoners, for their spiritual growth and for their integration into society and the Church upon release; *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.* Matthew 25:35-36 ESV 

### CUIBA OF VENEZUELA

Population:  
**200**

Primary Religion:  
**Ethnic Religions**

Language:  
**Cuiba**

#### Background

The Cuiba (or Cuiva) are a grouping of six nomadic communities living near the border between Colombia and Venezuela. They are hunter-gatherers and each community sees itself as distinct from the other five, though they share a common language. The relatively peaceful and isolated life of the Cuiba has been disrupted throughout history by European invaders, Jesuit missionaries and — most recently — cattle herders. As more land is settled, the Cuiba find themselves increasingly marginalized, often through violent means. Future survival of the Cuiba may depend upon their ability to integrate into the majority culture. There are few known followers of Jesus among the Cuiba.

**ASK ...** that God would preserve the identity of the Cuiba and give them hope for the future (Philippians 2:3-4, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 18:16-19).