

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*

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ASKing for the Youth

Youth are a significant group in the world. The number of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 is 1.1 billion worldwide and they constitute 18 percent of the global population. About 85 percent of the world's population of youth lives in developing countries.

Many young people are impoverished and face difficulty accessing education and employment. Experts estimate that, in the 49 countries classified as having a high proportion of undernourished people, 110 million youth live in hunger. About 133 million youth in the world are illiterate. 41 percent of the world's unemployed people are youth.

Political instability and conflict leave young people especially vulnerable to violence. Boys and young men make up a large proportion of those recruited or forced to fight in conflicts and wars, including more than 300,000 child soldiers around the world. Girls and young women are forced into sex slavery for older military commanders. Experts estimate that between 700,000 and two million women and female children were victims of sex trafficking in 2001 alone. Violence and conflict affect young people by interrupting schooling, disrupting basic health services, and inflicting psychological trauma.

Source: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org>

When you pray, you may want to begin by addressing concerns associated with your own children, friends, and/or colleagues, and then allow God to bring your focus consecutively outward to the youth of your community, your city, your nation, and the nations of the world. In addition to possible prayer points above-

ASK for

Salvation—that young people turn their hearts to Jesus. *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 ESV*

Productive lives—that they lead whole, meaningful and productive lives, as God intended, invested in their communities and knowledgeable of the love Jesus Christ has for them. *“We pray for you all the time--pray that our God will make you fit for what he's called you to be, pray that he'll fill your good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something.”*

2 Thessalonians 1:11 The Message

Reconciled relationships—with God and others, established through humility, forgiveness, intentionality, and transparency. *“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ... so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.” Ephesians 2:14-16 ESV*

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

1 John 3:22



Hope of the nations: ASKing for Nepal

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



FAST FACTS ABOUT NEPAL

Area: 56,827 sq. mi. **Peoples:** 339 (317 unreached) **Capital:** Kathmandu
Religion: 75% Hinduism; 2.8% Christian
Official language: Nepali
Population: 30,725,000

The South Asian nation of Nepal has an ancient Hindu culture in a beautiful setting of the Himalayan Mountains. For many years it was ruled by monarchs but in 2008 it became a republic after Maoist (Communist) rebels waged a 10-year campaign against the monarchy leaving more than 12,000 people dead and 100,000 people displaced, according to UN figures. Many human rights abuses during this period have not been brought to justice and will continue to be used as a means to a political end if left unprosecuted.

The Nepal Defense Army, an extremist Hindu group that wants to reinstate the country's Hindu monarchy, detonated a bomb beside a Christian mission agency in Kathmandu, blown up a church in Lalitpur and killed a pastor and attacked other Christians.

Just recently police have arrested and charged two members of an extortion racket with attempted kidnapping and blackmail. They have been threatening to blow up pastors' churches and kill their families if they failed to pay. According to Barnabas Aid, these two tried to intimidate a church pastor who is the chairman of the Federation of Nepali Christians into paying \$22,500 in U.S. dollars.

As one of the world's poorest countries, with 40% of Nepalis living in poverty, they are currently trying to recover from the Maoist insurrection and the resulting devastation.

On May 27, 2012, the country's Constituent Assembly failed to meet the deadline for writing a new constitution for the country. Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai announced new elections to be held on November 22. Many Hindus want Nepal to once again become a Hindu state with restrictions on other religions.

The Christian church has grown tremendously since its beginning in 1952 with only 29 Christians. By 2010 there were as many as 850,000 Christ-followers. The churches that have been planted were successful because of a willingness to suffer for the gospel, an emphasis on prayer and a commitment to evangelism.

ASKing Points:

Pray for justice and righteousness to be upheld by the government. *"He who walks righteously and speaks what is right who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes... who shuts his eyes against contemplating evil- this is the man who will dwell on the heights." Isaiah 33:15-16*

Pray for God to defend the poor and needy. *"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." Psalm 82:4-5*

Pray the hearts of those working on the constitution would desire to grant freedom of religion to all citizens that Christians may serve God with a clear conscious. *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1*

Pray that the churches would continue to grow strong in the Lord in spite of the persecution. *"...I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ...I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. ...when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10*