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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.

Why Meditate on the Word of God for ASKing Prayer?

Biblical meditation is a way to meet with God, to develop your fellowship. It becomes a way of life where God speaks through His Word individually into your life. He speaks through your thoughts and impressions. You learn to recognize His voice.

Meditation on the Word was practiced in both the Old and New Testament. There are blessings attached to this spiritual discipline.

Joshua 1:8, "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous."

Psalm 1:2,3, "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper."

Mediation on the Word before prayer is especially helpful in prayer gatherings. Beginning with worship brings you into the presence of God. This same attitude is maintained as you meditate, Psalm 100:2.

In meditation, you are using Scripture in context that gives additional insight and balance to your prayers.

Scriptural reasons why we meditate on the Word before ASKing prayer~

- makes for an effective prayer time, as everyone is equipped to participate, Psalm 119:105. (The Word is lamp and a path.)
- is where you learn to hear God speak through the Word as Mary did as she sat at His feet and heard (understood, and was obedient to) His Word, Luke 10:39,42. Jesus called this the good part.
- is seeking God for the prayers on His heart rather than your own ideas and/or prayer list, Psalm 27:8, Jeremiah 33:3. (Seek God's face for inaccessible revelation.)
- brings life because the Word is alive and speaks to each person in each circumstance and is new every day, John 6:63.
- is cleansing for clean hands and a pure heart for prayer as the Word will show any sin you need to repent of, Psalm 24:4, Hebrews 4:12,13
- gives wisdom for prayer, James 1:5.
- gives revelation of Jesus as the bread of the Word is broken, Luke 24: 31-32.

- strengthens, refreshes the intercessor as you receive revelation and are washed by the Word, Ephesians 5:26, Isaiah 55:10.
- is praying according to God's will and in His delegated authority as these prayer originated from Him, 1John 5:14-15, Jeremiah 1:9, Isaiah 55:11.
- gives assurance of answered prayer. You are praying according to God's will. You have submitted yourself to hear from God and seek Him. Why would He give you something He is not going to answer? Matthew 7:7,11.
- is pleasant, satisfies and delights the soul, Psalm 19:10, Psalm 119:103,104.
- stirs faith for answered prayer through hearing/understanding the Word Romans, 10:17
- is daily necessary spiritual food, Matthew 6:11, Exodus 16:15,16.
- converts your soul (mind, emotions, will). Provides opportunity to bring your thinking in line with what God says for spiritual growth, Psalm 19:7
- brings spiritual maturity as your personal response to the Word in meditation leads to future obedience to the Word and makes you a doer of the Word, James 1:27, Romans 12:2
- your response to the Word brings you into the process of saving your soul, i.e. transforming your soul by the renewing of your mind, James 1:22, Romans 12:2.
- ends in thanksgiving to God which releases more faith and joy, Philippians 4:6
- And if you pray for the Church you are personally blessed because you are the church, plus there is a blessing in being a doer of the word, 1 Corinthians 12:27, James 1:22-25.

Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer."

Use these Scriptures for a fuller teaching.

By Tryna Bahl

Tryna Bahl has been well known by many of us in the ASK family for decades. She is an outstanding teacher on how to Meditate on the Word of God, hear His voice and discern how He is directing us to pray. She serves ASK Network International by preparing both sample and in-depth teachings on Biblical Meditation. Please visit www.asknetwork.net, and select Teaching Resources. Tryna posts new teachings often. Download and print off any lesson and use it in your ASK group, or introduce new folk to ASK through these lessons.

Thank you Tryna!



ASK Network News

Abortion is epidemic in Israel. If you are not able to be with us at the upcoming ASK International Conference in Israel, there is an **opportunity to both intercede AND intervene**. Read this prayerfully ...

40 to 50,000 abortions are performed every year in Israel—a land of 7 million people. Each Israeli young woman does two-year military service. During those two years, she is permitted to have two free abortions. Two million babies have been aborted in Israel since 1948. One and a half million children were killed in the Holocaust. One of our speakers at the ASK International Conference helped found Be'ad Chaim, a national network of pregnancy centers in Israel (www.beadchaim.com).

While in Jerusalem, following the ASK International Conference, Lisa Jacobsen will lead a visit to a pregnancy crisis clinic. (Lisa herself is a faithful ASKer and CEO of such a clinic here in the USA.) If you would like to send a gift to encourage this important work, **please send a check or international money order** to: Lisa Jacobson, 19974 Presidents Cup Terrace, Ashburn, VA 20147, USA. Postmark your gifts no later than April 10th. Thank you!

"Do whatever He tells you." John 2:5 

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

AFAR OF ERITREA

Population: 359,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Afar

Background

The Afar claim to be descendants of Ham, the son of Noah, and are a proud people. They value a man's strength and bravery, and prestige is gained from killing one's enemies. Most Afar are nomads who herd livestock, though some coastal-living Afar are fishermen. The Afar were heavily influenced by Islam, and today practice a mixture of Islam and folk religion. Most Afar marriages are monogamous, and girls are allowed to marry as early as ten. The Afar and their herds have suffered in recent years due to significant drought and famine in the region. There are very few known Afar believers.

ASK...that Afar nomads would meet passionate followers of Jesus in their wanderings around East Africa. Ask that Afar people would experience an increasing hunger and thirst for God's "straight path" to the kingdom through Christ, and that they would be overwhelmingly influenced to follow Him. (Psalm 107, Isaiah 41:17-20)

ERITREA



Eritrea, located on the Horn of Africa, was established as an independent state in 1993 after 30 years of civil war with Ethiopia. Continuing conflict with Ethiopia resulted in 80,000 deaths, thousands of refugees and a devastated economy. Eritreans indeed face formidable adversities—wars, poverty and abuse by their own government.

Under the leadership of President Isaias Afwerki, Eritrea has been characterized as one of the most repressive states. The Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the UN special investigator cited excessive government abuse and gross violation of human rights causing thousands to flee every month, many of them unaccompanied children. Subjected to restriction of speech, movement and worship, indefinite forced conscription, arbitrary arrest, detentions, "disappearances", tortures, forced labors, and imprisonment in underground pits or in metal shipping containers, many tragically fall into the hands of traffickers as they seek escape. Others languish in Egypt and Sudan refugee camps. The Eritrean government regards all who leave without visas as traitors.

Sunni Islam (50%), Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic (47%) and Evangelical Lutheran groups are recognized as official religions. All non-official groups are severely persecuted. An Eritrean Christian shares, "The threat of arrest is daily... it's a matter of when." He also states, "I believe that many people from this small nation will be missionaries to reach out to the surrounding Arab nations."

ASK for revelation of Jesus as the Reconciler and the Redeemer:

- May Eritrea be a nation of His inheritance (Psalm 2:8) by revelation of "God reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them."
2 Corinthians 5:14-19
- To reconcile means to exchange (katallasso, Strong's Concordance 2644). May the Lord exchange fear for peace, John 16:33 and 1 John 5:1-5; fiery trials for fierce intercessions, Mark 11:24-25; asylum seekers to Christ's ambassadors,
2 Corinthians 5:18-21.
- Redeemer-Avenger or vindicators of violated rights, ASK for the helpless. Psalm 107:1-9
- Redeemer-Closest Relative, ASK for the Lord to buy back those who have been enslaved, and the orphans. Psalm 68:5-8; Romans 8:14-18
- Against the backdrop of insurmountable human grief and suffering, Job declares, "I know that my Redeemer lives..." Job 19:25-27. ASK for this resolve to be in the hearts of those suffered. 🌐

ASKing for the Nations



Unreached People Group:

LAK OF UKRAINE

Population: 1,000

Primary Religion: Islam

Language: Lak

Background

While most Lak live in southern Russia, a small group has emigrated to the mountain valleys of Ukraine where they live in tukhums (extended family units). Traditionally, Lak are sheep and goat herders. While Lak men are away seeking grazing pastures for their herds, Lak women manage the household and participate in community farming activities as well as various types of crafts. The Lak people, devoutly Muslim, were the first in their region to embrace Islam in the seventh century. Lak are the most multilingual ethnic group of all the people groups of the former USSR. There are no known Lak believers.

ASK...that Lak people would encounter Jesus in dreams and visions, and that entire tukhums (families) would know Him and embrace Him as the Messiah. Ask that God would use the language gifting of the Lak people to spread the good news of His kingdom broadly within Muslim people groups of the former USSR. (Psalm 16)

UKRAINE

The Ukraine is Europe's second largest country. It gained independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Some factions have been looking toward a closer relationship with Western Europe since that time. However, Russian economic ties are strong as they supply most of the energy for Ukraine's heavy industry. With at least half of the population speaking Russian and belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church, the nation is in a bitter struggle for unity.

Protest erupted last November when pro-Russian (former) President Viktor Yanukovich, denied a free trade agreement with the EU, opting in favor of closer economic ties with Russia. Anti-Russian protests, sponsored by the right wing, neo-Nazi, Anti-Semitic Svoboda Party, have turned violent. The capitol of Kiev and other cities have seen the take-over of government buildings in this bloody and deadly conflict. With Anti-Semitic hatred, representatives from some churches have begun to distribute leaflets calling people to take up arms and punish Jews for alleged atrocities.

The Ukrainian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptist is calling for urgent prayer and fasting, and appealing for calm and reconciliation in the nation that is facing civil war. The All-Ukrainian Council of Church leaders are taking up the role of peacemakers between the state and the people. These leaders are ASKing for:

- Pastors to call for prayer and fasting in their churches, ASKing for an end to hatred and violence. 2 Chronicles 7:14 *"If My people shall humble themselves, pray, seek My face, and turn from their wicked way: then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."*
- Wisdom and the fear of the Lord for the all government and political forces, that they may make the right decisions to peacefully overcome the political crisis that continues while new leadership is put in place. Ecclesiastes 9:16-18 *"Wisdom is better than strength... words of the wise, spoken quietly should be heard rather than shouts... wisdom is better than weapons of war."*
- The Ukrainian people to search for God, and seek for His blessings for their nation. Proverbs 8:17-19 *"Those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me. Enduring riches and righteousness... better than gold and silver."* 