



Gathering ASK Network to pray for all nations in this global crisis of COVID-19

Dear ASKers,

Greetings to you all in the name of the Risen Jesus who ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25)! His ASKing is always 24/7. Hallelujah! As the coronavirus has gone global and the world's stock markets have gone into the ground, it would seem that the false hopes and idolatries of health and wealth have been judged and found wanting. The nations that we are asking for are currently like those described in Scripture: in turmoil, in uproar, languishing and defiled, shaken, in anguish, in perplexity, quaking, trembling (Psalm 65:7, 46:6; Isaiah 24:4-5, 30:28, 64:2; Luke 21:25, Psalm 99:1). As death tolls rise, tens of thousands go into isolated quarantine, and as nations close their borders, I am reminded of the words of Isaiah as he describes a curse that *"consumes the earth": "The joyful timbrels are stilled ... the ruined city lies desolate; the entrance to every door is barred ... so will it be on the earth and among the nations"* (Isaiah 24:8-13). Indeed, there is *"a shroud and sheet over nations"* (Isaiah 25:6).

However, we are writing to encourage you to take hold as never before, with boldness and certainty, with faith and hope, of our call as ASKers according to Psalm 2:8. This is the time to amplify our ASKing for the nations as our inheritance, only because all the nations are first God's inheritance (Psalm 82:8). Our God is the God of the nations: He rebukes them, He disciplines them, He judges them, He strikes them down, He stretches His hand over them, He makes nations great and He destroys them, enlarges them and disperses them, He brings justice to them (Psalm 9:5, 94:10, 110:6, 135:10; Isaiah 14:26; Job 12:23; Isaiah 42:1). But this same God who said through the prophet that He would *"once more shake the heavens and the earth"* and *"shake all nations"* immediately said *"the desire of all nations will come"* (Haggai 2:7). Who is the *"desire of all nations"*? He is none other than our risen, reigning Christ. He is *"the Root of Jesse ... who will arise to rule the nations; in Him the Gentiles will hope"* (Romans 15:12). He is the Christ who is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1); He is the Christ who dwells in us by His Spirit as *"the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27). Therefore, amidst hopelessness, we *"hope in Christ"* (Ephesians 1:12).

God's heavenly purposes still include *"every tribe and language and people and nation"* (Revelation 5:9). As Paul reminded the Galatians, God *"announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: All nations will be blessed through you"* (Galatians 3:8). The Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4) has not been rescinded. Matthew identified Jesus by quoting Isaiah: *"In His name the nations will put their hope"* (Matthew 12:21). At a time of global hopelessness, this is the Hope for which we are ASKing for the nations. We are ASKing for the gospel of hope to reach all nations like a holy tsunami (Matthew 28:19). Jesus prophesied that *"this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come"* (Matthew 24:14). He spoke this in the very same context in which he prophesied that there would be *"pestilences"* on the earth,

and people would *"faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world"* (Luke 21:11,26). As Christians, we do not fear or grieve at this moment as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Like the psalmist, despite the fact that the *"nations are in an uproar"*, we know that *"God is our refuge and strength ... We will not fear, though the earth gives way"* (Psalm 46:1-2,6). David expresses one of His great revelations of God's nature in Psalm 65:2-5, a key scripture for ASKers at this time: *"O you who answers asking, to you all people will come ... You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth."*

We are ASKing for an unprecedented time of witness and mission as believers in every nation are asked to *"give the reason of the hope that you have"* (1 Peter 3:15). We are not just ASKing for survival but for revival. The coronavirus is invisible and its break-outs cannot be predicted, bringing fear and death. But equally invisible, is the work of the Holy Spirit that is drawing millions into the *"living hope"*, bringing faith and life. We are ASKing that the *"nations will fear the name of the Lord"* (Psalm 102:15) and that *"the families of the nations will bow down"* (Psalm 22:27).

As ASKers of God, we are also adorers of God. In Revelation, even when the plagues and bowls of God's wrath are being poured out on the earth, worship breaks out in heaven: *"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations"* (Revelation 15:3). Likewise, even as we engage plague and pestilence, ASK Network will say with the Psalmist: *"Let them say among the nations the Lord reigns ... I will praise you among the nations ... You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations ... You are exalted over all the nations"* (1 Chronicles 16:31, 18:49, 22:28, 99:2).

Let us close with a scripture that has been impressed upon us from the breakout of the corona virus: *"My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness"* (Isaiah 26:9). We commend this to your meditation. It is rich. The night is usually a metaphor for fear. Nothing can be seen and it is threatening. But with God, the place of intimidation becomes the place of intimacy, and the prophet gets a revelation about the purposes of the judgments of God. We are going to ASK for the world to learn righteousness, the *"righteousness from God"* that only comes *"through faith in Jesus Christ"* (Romans 3:22). As ASKers, the present night is the place where we are going to rest in the shadow of the Almighty. We *"will not fear ... the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday."* At the end of this Psalm the Lord gives every ASKer a promise. God says to you: *"You will call on Me, and I will answer you"* (Psalm 91). Receive it!

We are asking and adoring with you. Keep ASKing for your nation and the nations as your *"inheritance."* We ask you to also ASK for the nation of Israel at this time and the Jewish people that there will be a mighty revelation of Yeshua Hamashiach (Romans 11:15). We bless you in the words of Paul: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15:13).

With much love and esteem,
Stuart and Celia
International Directors
ASK Network

PRAYING TOGETHER IN UNISON

Our God reigns (Palms 146:10) so we can be confident in asking Him to exercise His sovereignty at this key moment in history. We need to wait on Him to hear what is on His heart, what He desires to see happen in this hour, so we can pray in accordance with His will. We need to prepare ourselves so we can be in a position to ask having heard the Holy Spirit reveal to us through the Word.

Prepare by ASKing for the Church & ourselves as ASK Network

ARE WE WILLING TO BE THOSE WHO WILL BE CLOSE TO HIM? Jeremiah 30:21 “for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?” declares the Lord”.

PREPARE YOUR HEART — Psalm 27

⁴ One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.
⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.
⁶ Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

TAKE TIME TO BE QUIET IN HIS PRESENCE — Psalm 46

¹⁰ He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”
¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

WALK WITHOUT FEAR — Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way ...

ASKing for Nations

RIGHTEOUSNESS COMING AFTER JUDGMENT — Isaiah 26

⁹ My soul yearns for you in the night;
in the morning my spirit longs for you.
When your judgments come upon the earth,
the people of the world learn righteousness.

CRYING OUT TO GOD — Jeremiah 4

⁷ A lion has come out of his lair;
a destroyer of nations has set out.
He has left his place
to lay waste your land.
Your towns will lie in ruins
without inhabitant.
⁸ So put on sackcloth,
lament and wail.

WITNESSING HEALINGS AND MIRACLES — Psalm 77

¹ I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me ...
¹² I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds."
¹³ Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?
¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles.

OPENING OF HEARTS — 2 Corinthians 4

⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

MANY WILL MAKE DECISIONS TO FOLLOW THE LORD — Joel 2

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes
in the valley of decision!
For the day of the Lord is near
in the valley of decision.

**GOD IS OUR DELIVERER, REDEEMER, HEALER, SAVIOR AND LORD.
TO HIM BE ALL GLORY!**