

ASKING MATTERS.

Dear Friends, *all the saints in Christ Jesus in ASK,*

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

We write to you after what has been a long gap, with some news concerning ASK UK & EUROPE. After 10 years in post as the Directors of ASK UK & EUROPE, we know that it is time to lay down this leadership, and hand the baton to someone who we pray will go far beyond what we have been able to achieve since the inception of ASK in 2008.

We began to pray into this transition in 2018, as it had become clear by then that we would be retiring from St Aldates this year, after 18 years of ministry serving this extraordinary church. In the last two years it has become increasingly clear to us that we have not had the capacity to invest in ASK as we would want to, and as ASK deserves. This is due to two things in particular: first the ever-expanding ministry and ever-widening connections of the church, and second, the clear leading of God into a church planting movement in Europe that seeks to support young church planters in major European cities. The vision is to see ‘the empty cradles of Europe—her churches—light up with a new generation of believers.’

We anticipate increasing involvement with this movement after laying down the leadership of St Aldates, with a ‘pastoring the pastors’ role, that would obviously include all the elements of ASK. We hope and expect to remain connected with ASK, and to perhaps see some kind of partnership emerge in the course of time.

The death of my (Anita’s) sister in a brutal car crash in October 2019 is one of the contributing factors to the delay in this communication. But any such decision requires patient and thorough consideration and persistent prayer that we might hear God aright, so it is with a sense of great peace that we write to you.

At the same time, it’s with the knowledge that we owe an incalculable debt to ASK, and of course to our years of involvement and association with the Lydia Fellowship before that; and that we will miss the deep rivers of fellowship that are the hallmark of ASK. We especially want to pay tribute to Stuart & Celia McAlpine, the International Directors of ASK, and to Jenny Bailey, Liz Percival, Jane Askew & Jane Bradford who make up the UK/Europe team. Our deepest thanks go to you all; you are all held in our hearts and always will be. And our thanks go too to you, faithful intercessors on the mailing list. This continent is a different place because of your prayers.

Please pray for the UK/Europe team and for the International team, as together they seek the way forward. We believe the best is yet to come, and know that the deeper the darkness, the brighter the light will shine.



*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart ... And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

With our love, gratitude and blessings,



Charlie & Anita Cleverly